

Dec 12 2017

Excom members present : John Feldmann, Caitlin Zera Paul Ohlendorf, Rob Polzin, Henry Robertson, Doug Mehlville, Ken Schechtman,
Secretary – Caroline Pufalt

1. Approved Nov Minutes. With amendment to clarify that chapter help with trail outing funding depends on future grants.
2. Budget report accepted
3. General meeting planning. Caitlin has contacted Sylvester Brown who will speak in Feb. John is checking with TNC for Jan speaker. March is joint meeting with Audubon which we will hold at SC office. Speaker will likely be photographer Matt Miles. We will check with John Hickey and Michael Berg about April meeting as we usually have some legislative focus then.
4. Newsletter delayed but in the works. Caroline will ask Mary to post notice on website and notify others.
5. Outing leadership workshop Jan 20. Will include outings recertification training. Can EMG support refreshments for the event? Last year's cost was \$60 something. JF, CZ motion to reimburse outings up to \$100. Passed unanimously.
6. Staff time report time for e newsletter, turn out for state park events, calls for holiday event. Process is going well.
7. Conservation. EMG received award from Open Space Council for our work on Creve Coeur – also recognized were GRELC, MCE, Greenway Network, Audubon and others. Thanks to all our volunteers.
Two MS river issues up and coming. One ACE is restarting a “flood risk reduction and mitigation plan” authorized by congress in 2016. Two open house meetings this week, on 14th and 19th. Caroline and Caitlin plan to attend. We will look for way to get more volunteers interested.
The other MS river issue is that group of regional SC volunteers is planning to put together a grassroots network team to work on MS river issues, primarily on

nutrient pollution impacting the dead zone. This is for 2018. We should try to find new volunteers who are interested. The group of volunteers is good to work with.

We got letter from volunteer re housing development in Fenton. Caroline has spoken to him and he seems well organized. He has asked for public hearing, but has not hear back. If he gets a hearing we should help with email to boost turnout.

Henry mentioned the unfortunate housing development along MO Bluffs which would mar view from KATY Trail. GRELC is looking into that. It is private development which we could review when permits are requested etc.

We talked a bit about state parks. Doug attended the meeting in Branson about Ozark Mountain state park. A good turnout and interesting feedback. State Park Director was asking public how to fund the parks.

We also discussed the ONSR roads and trails plan in particular our position that mountain bike trails should not be combined with hiking trails. We do not want to be anti- mountain bike but the user conflict issues in a park as small as ONSR are important. John suggested little used hiking trails could be a solution, that depends also on land ownership.

We will plan a EMG conservation “gala” in Feb to try to attract new volunteers and cover a variety of conservation topics.

Can we give Councilman Page a calendar gift in recognition of his work on Creve Coeur Park? Caroline will check.

8. Next meeting Jan 9.

Post meeting report – we had a great time celebrating Rob’s upcoming wedding!

