

July 2021 EMG Excom minutes

Present Excom members: Ken, Diana, Glenn, Tim, John, Robert, Caitlin (Caitlin left early)

Non Excom members present: Caroline Pufalt, Jim Rhodes, Louise Bullock

1. Approved minutes from June. Thanks to Caitlin for filling in and taking minutes in June.
2. Treasurer's report from Robert. Balance largely unchanged since paying SierraScape costs. We received \$91. misc. contributions. We have ample funds for current costs but without lemonade sales our balance has dropped. We will not have lemonade sales at August St Charles festival due to Covid concerns. Per earlier email discussions, Excom has decided not to pursue this in 2021. Our main costs are contributions toward chapter staff help to EMG and newsletter costs. We discussed briefly what might happen with future Sierra Club restructuring. If implemented SC Groups would have help with treasurer responsibilities which is often burdensome for smaller groups.
3. We discussed the new SC policies on chapter and group reopening requirements. This is separate from the guidance for SC Outings. Reminder that there is a chapter Zoom call tomorrow at 5:30 pm central to introduce and discuss these new policies. The rules seem somewhat byzantine, with different tiers, etc. But the Club includes a variety of entities and activities across the country so it's a lot to cover. The changing circumstances with the Delta variant may change our opportunities to start in person gatherings.
4. Planning for EMG Excom election: Ken, Robert and Caitlin's terms on Excom are up at the end of the year. Terms are for 2 years with 3 vacancies one year and 4 another. We need a nominating committee to gather candidates, to set schedule and place notice on website, and the e-newsletter. Caroline, Tim and John F volunteered to be on the nominating committee.
5. E- Newsletter will be a bit late this month, deadline for content and photos is July 26. Send ideas to Tim.
6. Conservation issues: We briefly discussed the proposal Stephanie submitted to Excom at last meeting. The proposal is:

Proposal: The Missouri Sierra Club promotes outreach efforts to educate the public on mosquito fogging.

Objective: Help sustain pollinators and insects by educating the public on fogging with the end goal of eliminating fogging except in situations of mosquito-transmitted disease outbreaks (e.g. known clusters of West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, Zika Virus)

Reason: Pollinators and insects are severely threatened by loss of habitat, use of pesticides and other environmental factors. Fogging is not only a least-effective protocol for mosquito control, it is indiscriminate, killing most other insects and pollinators.

At best, fogging works for a couple of days, less if it is windy. Fogging only kills adult (flying) mosquitoes the chemical contacts and does nothing to interrupt mosquito breeding, as it does not affect mosquitos in their aquatic development stages (eggs, larvae, pupae). However, fogging chemicals kill other flying insects causing considerable harm to our ecosystem.

Public health agencies already focus their primary attention on mosquito surveillance (identifying species present, to prevent disease spread from the VERY few species that are human disease vectors) and application of Larvicide in public areas, using treatments that effectively and safely target only mosquitoes.

Need: There is a need to educate the public on methods that work to prevent mosquito bites, as a first line of "chemical defense," and as sound ecological foundation toward ceasing fogging. Our public health departments know chemical fogging does not interrupt mosquito breeding but they are responding to the expectations of tax-paying citizens. In addition, pest control ads touting the use of "eco-products" help perpetuate assumptions that aerial sprayed chemicals only target insect "pests" and a Google search finds mostly misinformation from companies that spray/fog.

Supporting Groups: St. Louis is a growing center for promoting native plants. Native landscapes specifically aim to restore food and shelter for butterflies, bees and other wildlife. Fogging negates the benefits of native plants to pollinators, therefore the native plant organizations are natural educational and advocacy allies in moves to halt fogging. These groups include:

- Earth Ways Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden
 - Jean Ponzi, Green Resources Manager, regularly speaks, writes and advocates about ecological options to protect human and pollinator health while controlling insect pests.
- Wild Ones, St. Louis Chapter
- Grow Native!
- Audubon Society, St. Louis Chap

Robert moved and Diana seconded that EMG adopt this position on mosquito fogging. The motion passed 5 yes and one abstention. (Caitlin had left the meeting earlier) Thanks to Stephanie for her work on this. We will also need to share the press alert Stephanie developed and we reviewed last month. A link in the e-newsletter would be helpful.

7. The Ozark National Scenic Riverways has released its' second proposal for a new Roads and Trails plan. This is an important issue as unauthorized road and trails and

especially the use by horseback riders and ATVs have caused resource damage and diminished the recreation experience for others. We will put together a brief alert for the e-newsletter and a longer automatic- alert for email. But we also need individuals to write their own personalized letters.

Caroline and John (Feldman) will share information for Excom members and other leaders encouraging folks to submit individual comments.

Tim will read and report back on the MS river plastic pollution study. This was put together by the MS River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI). Tim has also requested information on the Nurdle patrol.

8. Outings and Trails report: The Outings committee needs to get current and new outings leaders updated on First Aid and CPR training. Costs for this include \$20 for updated book for each leader and charge for location (outside) to do the training. Alpine Shop contact is willing to do First Aid training for free. But we will probably need to pay for the CPR training. Jim says that he already has 9 volunteers, may have 15 total. John moved and Glenn seconded to approved up to \$500. for the First Aid training. Diana and Jim are getting more information on the CPR training and we will consider that next month.

The Outings committee will need a new chair in 2022. Lynn Anthony has expressed interest and Jim will follow-up with her. John has agreed to continue as lead on the Trails component of outings.

9. Next meeting Aug 10