

## WVMNSAC MEETING MINUTES

Stonewall Jackson Army Corps of Engineers Visitors Center, Weston, WV

Date: April 11, 2023

Present, on site- Rebecca Linger-Chairman, Carol Nix- Treasurer, Tommy Zietz, Kay Hart, Kir Scott Warner-DNR, Michelle Fonda-DNR, Kieran O'Malley-DNR.

On Zoom- Mike Vernon- Vice chairman, Lewis A. Cook-Secretary, Rich Brager, Sam Muncy, Molly Check, Jessica Chambers

Time: Meeting opened by Chair- 10:13 AM

1. Minutes from Fall meeting, November 30, 2022, were approved. Motion- Kay Hart, Second- Mike Vernon. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's report- CAROL NIX.

Account Balance	\$ 7,085.29
Website Fee	\$ 132.20
Rooms Glade Springs for presenters	\$799.72
Donation to DNR for Clark Dixon	100.00
Retirement gift Jim Fregonara	\$85.00
Taxes paid, as required.	

3. DNR Update- Scott Warner, UPDATE

- Jim Fregonara retired. Replaced by Michelle Fonda. Redesignation as liaison with DNR, a new concept, responding to all chapters, private landowners, the Wild Yard program, and district diversity efforts. Michelle explained that her primary focus was as Wildlife Biologist concentrating central W. Va. She would be working out of Elkins. She also described her educational and experience background. Rich Brager invited her to his chapter for a visit.
- Scott Warner offered educational materials stored at DNR for outreach purposes and local events. Michelle is to provide local chapters a list of materials available.
- Pollinator workshop, June 7, Toyota Manufacturing. Deadline for registration is May 5, 2023.
- State wildlife Action Plan: Result of Operational Manual Stakeholder's meeting resulted in offer to assist in obtaining grants for various projects.
- Greg to work on manuals. Considerable discussion took place on continued use of thumb drives or printed manuals. Most of the concern was over the cost of each. A clear decision was not made on that issue. It was also noted that the revision of the contends of the manual was not progressing as hoped, so the older manual would continue, for now, as "in effect." Tommy Zeitz indicated that he is continuing to chair the efforts to update the Manual sections and will be sending the Chair a list of sections and who is revising each one. The chair has not received any revised sections to date.

4. Nomination Committee Report

- At large members make up the committee. Most, present committee officers and members "are willing to stay" in office. The only need to elect new members includes a secretary and one member at large. The member at large, Sam Muncy, agreed to stay if re-elected.

Discussion about make-up of the nominating committee, advisory committee and nominating committee took place. A committee to review the nomination protocol for officers of the state advisory committee was created. Motion by Tommy Zeitz; seconded by

Andy Dalton and passed unanimously. The members are: Tommy Zeitz, Andy Dalton, Sam Muncy, Rich Brager and Mike Vernon.

5. Chapter Reports

- Andy Dalton, Canaan Valley Chapter. Chapter returning to normal. 16 to 18 people per class.
- Kay Hart, Tygart Valley Chapter. Dues are the same, \$50. Up to 10 attendees per class. Four new members and 6 classes, so far this year: Moved to new meeting site; book club doing well; Earth Day sponsor; use of social media appears to influence increase in membership.
- Molly Haywood, Ohio Valley Chapter. Classes and membership increasing.
- Rich Brager-Potomac Valley Chapter. New co-chair, Lou Scavnicki (?sp.). Recognition of Clark Dixon to take place this summer; classes full.
- Lewis Cook (for Keith Richardson, absent), New River Gorge Chapter. New meeting place and commitment to take on volunteer park naturalist at Hawks Nest State Park, large class schedule and many new members.
- Rebecca Linger-Kanawha Valley Chapter. Doing well with outreach to schools; volunteering at Kanawha State Forest; summer camp for schools; 330 members in chapter.
- Greenbrier Chapter- no response
- Pendleton County- Status unknown.

6. Biodiversity Weekend

- Andy Dalton and Sam Muncy, no report currently.

7. Elk River Trail State Park Clean-up

- Request made by Coordinator of the clean up was made to the WVMN to assist in the clean-up efforts as a volunteer opportunity. That was announced.

8. Presidential Volunteer Award

- An attempt was made to present a PowerPoint presentation by Gerry Stover but failed due to technical problems. The proposal was to establish a reward system for volunteer efforts by master naturalists in W. Va.

9. Volunteer Hours Tracking at State Level

- A proposal was made by Rebecca Linger to track volunteer hours at the state level. At this time, it appears there is little or no effort to turn in volunteer hours to the state Master Naturalist administrators. No action taken.

10. State Conference Committee Report

- Mike Vernon, chairman of that committee reported. The committee meets on a regular basis. All speakers are chosen, and time slots are filled. Awaiting, now, formatting of registration and distribution of that information. The meeting is at Glade Springs, Daniels, W. Va. Jessica Chambers reported that the schedule will be out by the end of the week. The option to pay by check will be allowed but the standard method will be through Eventbrite.

11. Shirt, Hat, etc orders by chapter

- Master Naturalist's attire was discussed. Another order form will be sent to chapter coordinators.

Adjournment: 1:30 PM Motion- Unknown, seconded, Rich Brager.

Lewis A. Cook  
Secretary