

# Botanical Club of Wisconsin Board Meeting Agenda (10/09/2024)

Attendees: Kevin Doyle, Sarah Johnson, David Eagan, Chris Noll, Mary Ann Feist, Amanda Weise, James Riser, Mike Krellwitz

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Approve meeting minutes from April 1 and 24, 2024.
  - a) Kevin noted that in the minutes Randy pointed out that the at large members are appointed positions not elected even though we went through electing them in 2024. Mary Ann suggested changing the by laws so that at large members run on two year terms even if they are not elected. It was decided that we would put the proposed amendment to the by laws on the 2025 ballot with other board position elections.
  - b) Kevin also noted that the website has an old (2018) version of the by laws and that the meeting minutes page is broken. Chris will look into it.
- 3) Old business
  - a) Annual meeting recap (Johnson) – 10mins
  - b) Vegetation of Southern WI recap (Doyle) – 10mins
  - c) Peatlands of Northern WI recap (Feist) – 10mins
- 4) New business
  - a) Treasurer's report (Eagan) – 10mins
    - i) Not much to report. Chris and David will meet soon to finish transferring responsibilities, including going into Summit Credit Union. The club has about \$6000 in liquid funds, which is an increase from recent years. This is likely due to taking the disbursement from our NRF fund, increased membership, and revenue from summer events.
    - ii) There was discussion about sending a survey to membership about how the club should spend down these funds.
  - b) Open board meetings to general membership (Noll) – 5mins
    - i) Discussion over whether or not to open board meetings to the general membership. Overall, everyone thought it would be a good idea but we would have to clarify that non board members can't vote during the meetings. It was decided to open the next board meeting to the general membership hopefully as a way to encourage new people to get involved. An email will go out to everyone saying when the next meeting will be and that a Zoom link will be sent to the membership a few days before the meeting.
  - c) New BCW emails (Doyle and Eide) – 5mins
    - i) Minimal discussion. Kevin just alerted everyone that if they want their BCW email forwarded to their personal address to talk to Randy.

- d) Fall newsletter (Doyle) – 20mins
  - i) Discussion about potential topics for fall newsletter. Many ideas were suggested including
    - (1) TNC Field Crew Leader article
    - (2) Review of handheld chainsaws and other mgmt. techniques/stories by Chris Noll
    - (3) Recap of Peatlands of Northern WI class by Mary Ann Feist
    - (4) Overview of Minnesota PlantWatch by the program leader.
    - (5) Interview of Nic Tippery
    - (6) Crossword/riddle
    - (7) Review of fern guide by Emily Sessa
    - (8) Articles/interviews with Tom Givnish and Ken Sytsma

- e) Monthly meetings (all) – 20mins
  - i) Discussion of monthly Madison socials
    - (1) First event will be Wednesday 10/23 at Working Draft in Madison. Kevin will confirm that there are no other events there that night and create a Facebook and email post to publicize.
  - ii) Discussion of topics for monthly Zoom presentations
    - (1) Thomson award winner
    - (2) Brandon Corder
    - (3) Grad student from Chicago Botanic Gardens/Northwestern studying kittentails
    - (4) Foray verification workshop

- f) 2025 annual meeting (all) – 20mins
  - i) Discussion about location of 2025 annual meeting
    - (1) Sarah will create a spreadsheet that members can use to suggest location ideas as well as facilities.
    - (2) In terms of time of year, the location might dictate the time. If the location is in hardwood forests, the best timing would be May- early June while if it is near wetlands mid June-August might be better and July to September might be best for prairies.
    - (3) Sarah emphasized the importance of nailing down a location ASAP because facilities book up quickly.
    - (4) David agreed to help plan since he has a background in environmental education and is familiar with facilities around the state.

## 5) General Discussion

- a) Discussion about potential 2025 events
  - i) Foray
    - (1) May be led by Chris Tyrrell. Mary Ann will follow up
  - ii) Lake Superior Ecology
    - (1) Sarah is in early talks with Ryan O'Connor
  - iii) Sphagnum workshop

- (1) Mary Ann said John Shaw (Duke University) may be able to come to WI to give a multi day workshop. BCW would likely need to cover his travel costs plus an honorarium.
- iv) Southern WI course
  - (1) Kevin will likely lead some kind of class again in southern WI. In the past he has led a 3 part class/field trip series focused on prairies, savannas, and sugar maple forests. He is considered changing this to a class focused on learning to use plant keys and identify plants. A lot needs to be figured out.
- 6) Schedule next board meeting
  - a) The group discussed having board meetings every other month to stay on top of planning the 2025 events especially. It was decided to have our next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> for one hour. The main point of the meeting will be to continue planning the annual meeting.
- 7) Adjournment