**Executive Council Annual Meeting**

**Online through Zoom**

**October 8, 2020**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Welcome & Introductions** – Dean Alberty welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the following were in attendance: Kristi Werdenhause, Jacob McMains, Russell Hinnah, Robbie Doerhoff, Martha Clark, Daniel Moncheski, Doug Seely, Hank Stelzer, Helene Miller, Woody Wells, David Vance, Jordan Odom, John Lewis, Meredith Perkins, Ann Koenig, Michael Renner, Travis Stokes, John Skinner, and Ben Kellner.

**Minutes Read and Approved** – Dean asked if anyone had changes to the minutes from August 2020 meeting. Jacob McMains made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Martha seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer Report** – Jacob McMains submitted the following Treasurer Report:

* 01 Regular share (savings)- $11,138.50
* 02 Northwest- $0.01
* 03 Northeast- $0.01
* 04 Central- $3,283.81
* 05 St. Louis (Christmas club)- $1,539.99
* 07 Southwest- $279.58
* 77 East Central- $2,182.02
* 76 Square CC- $0.02
* 75 Regular checking- $50,670.61
* 78 Money market- $25,095.48
* PayPal- $164.69

**Current total in all accounts = $94,354.72.** – per online banking on 10/07/2020

**Processed Transactions:**

* Zoom Subscription: $14.99 X2 ($29.98)
* Constant Contact Payment x2: $85.50
* Weebly Website Fee: $192.00 (need receipt from Martha)

**Upcoming Transactions:**

* Conference and/or workshop expenses.

**Special Report**: Robbie Doerhoff-Forest Health

* Robbie Doerhoff reported on the forest health update.
* EAB: 27 counties left to confirm. Please contact me or the local MDC forester if you would like to report a location. Larvae are needed for official USDA confirmation.
* Please report dying sassafras! We are actively looking for Laurel Wilt in MO. Click [here for a pest alert](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd673152.pdf).
* Keep an eye out for [Spotted Lanternfly](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly), particularly around tree of heaven after the first big freeze.
* Armillaria root rot has been very prominent this summer and fall.
* Herbicide injury on trees is increasingly common in urban settings. While some of this injury can be blamed on nearby applications of agricultural chemicals, most of it is the result of homeowner and lawn care company applications.
	+ **Dicamba and 2,4-D** typically affect the leaves, causing them to look cupped and/or elongated. Most of this leaf injury is probably related to volatility and not direct drift. While it is not well-understood how trees deal with these two growth regulating chemicals, residue testing in Missouri suggests that trees quickly metabolize dicamba and 2,4-D that has come in contact with their leaves. Trees potentially don’t absorb or store these herbicides long-term. Research is ongoing.
	+ **Glyphosate**, on the other hand, is probably more likely to enter a tree through the bark or wounds/exposed roots at ground-level. Dr. Hannah Mathers has researched this issue over the last 20+ years. Many current glyphosate products contain surfactants that allow them to pass through plant cuticle layers faster and more effectively than the original patented RoundUp product. While glyphosate breaks down quickly within soil, it may take years to break down in the phloem of a tree. Non-metabolized glyphosate gets moved into the roots along with sugars during the growing season. The following spring, it is taken up to the meristematic regions of the tree, causing the stunted, witches-broom, overall yucky growth of leaves. Bark-splitting can also occur.
* Glyphosate is still a necessary herbicide in our toolbox, but using it correctly and understanding the risks to trees is important. Read these articles when you get a chance:
	+ This [popular article, written in 2008](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/splitbark_and_glyphosate_is_there_a_relationship), was based on research done by Dr. Mathers. About midway down the article, you’ll find this text: "When glyphosate use is necessary, use a glyphosate product around woody plants that has no adjuvant load," said Mathers. "Products that have a full adjuvant load are the worst around ornamental plants because of the increased potential for uptake of the glyphosate by the surfactant into the bark."
	Fourteen registered glyphosate products contain no adjuvant load. They include: Backdraft, Campaign, Expert, Extreme, Fallowmaster, Fallow Star, FieldMaster, Glypro, Landmaster BW, Land Star, ReadyMaster ATZ, Rodeo, Roundup Custom and RU SoluGran. [NOTE:Since this article is now 12 years old, you may consider looking at the labels for those listed products to determine if they indeed do or do not have an adjuvant load in the current formulation. You can also check each product’s registration status in MO by visiting <http://www.kellysolutions.com/MO/> I have not confirmed that all products are currently registered in our state.]
	+ Here is a link to a short Purdue article on glyphosate injury: <https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/Pages/POTW2016/potw02082016.aspx>
	+ Here is a link to more information on herbicide injury on landscape plants/trees by Mathers, **particularly check out the info starting at the bottom of page 6—it explains why glyphosate is so damaging to trees**: <https://www.mathersenvironmental.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Long-term15reNMPro.pdf>

**Special Report**: TCIA John Lewis updates on TCIA-

* Their industry has been pretty insulated, most companies didn’t go through an extensive shutdown due to COVID. They are pushing some innovation through the pipeline. Interactive meetings and trainings as resulted in a huge savings to our members. They will have a virtual expo this coming January. They will still provide an opportunity for members to do virtual trainings.

# Old Business

* Update: City Scape – Brett O’Brien
* Update: 2020 Conference – Southwest Region

# New Business

* Code of Conduct-Dean Alberty
	+ We as a professional organization have to have this code of conduct in our program. This is a protection for our group. Dean would like to move forward with this document. Need to re-word part of the document but will move forward with it.
* Financial Oversite Committee
* Doug Seely-Scholarship Program
	+ Doug discussed a scholarship program called Tree Resource Education and Engagement Scholarship (TREES). This will provide financial assistance to interested individuals such as students, city leaders, alderperson, municipal tree board members and industry professionals, to advance their community forestry program, knowledge, and expertise. Applications may be submitted any time throughout the year and will be judged by a sub-committee of the Missouri Community Forestry Council. Awards will be based on the following criteria: financial need, educational merit, and benefit to the community at large or the MCFC and the Arboriculture industry in Missouri.
* December Meeting

# Committee Reports

* **Communications Committee** – Ann Koenig, Meridith Perkins, Brett O’Brien, Gene Brunk, Martha Clark
	+ They did not have a group meeting since last call. Brett is skipping the “summer issue” for City Scape and will go straight to the fall issue. If the regions have something special going on, they need to relay that info to Brett to put in City Scape before Thanksgiving.
* **Strategic Plan Current Action Items Review**: Dean Alberty
	+ Looking at a lot of data to make the Strategic Plan current again. Trying to make this more relevant to our modern time now. Strategic Plan will be left as is for the moment but Dean will provide a detailed map moving forward within the next two weeks.
* **Poster Contest & Education/Outreach Committee**: Kristi Werdenhause, Jacob McMains, Casey Jo Kellner, Troy Powell
	+ Poster contest material has been finalized and posted live this last month. The contest is currently up and live. Troy said that the November 13th posters from Springfield region will be posted in Ag center and 11/17 voting will happen. They may follow up with local regions to see how this is being handled due to virtual learning. Discussed possible issues and whether posters could be submitted online or needed to have paper copies. Martha said that since it went live there have been a lot more hits on the website.
* **Financial Oversite Committee** – Kristi Werdenhause, Martha Clark, Scott Skopec, Brett O’Brien, Jacob McMains
	+ Discussed the need for some new and relevant policies for the committee. There is also a need for two more active members in this committee. They will need to meet and report to Jacob on spending and how things are progressing. We need to have an independent review to make sure we are accomplishing the tasks at hand and following protocol correctly. This is an action item.

# Liaison/At-Large Membership Reports

* **Utility Arborist Association and Missouri Cooperative Right-A-Way Management Association** – Jordan Odem
	+ National Conference was virtual. The attendance was way down due to this. The utility world has been hit greatly with weather issues such as hurricanes. Very busy time now. Ann was contacted by a co-op that was concerned by not meeting the tree line requirements. Russell suggested that they don’t have an arbor day celebration. If anyone hears about a virtual training that they could do that would be very helpful. Jordan will contact Scott on this.
* **Forest ReLeaf** – Meridith Perkins-
	+ They have had a busy fall. There is a limited amount of trees in the nursery right now but have had a lot of interest in fall planting. They have been able to fill most of their orders. Will allow up to 8 volunteers at a time in the nursery which is working well. Come spring they will have limited staff available. Ordered about 18,000 seedlings. There is a new partnership with Spire Gas. Priority ReLeaf program is giving 15 gallon trees to communities with recovery, flood relief and low income areas. Some community tree planting projects in St Louis for October. Hired a new nursery manager. Two weeks ago, Mark Halpin was hired as the forestry manager. Ultimately trying to figure out where they are headed as an organization.
* **Society of Municipal Arborists**
	+ No report
* **MDC Report**-Russell Hinnah**-**
	+ All the TRIM grants have been awarded, total of 41 projects. Went through a process improvement event involving TRIM grants, community conservation grants. Details are still to be worked out. There will be changes to these processes in the future. We will keep you updated as this goes on. Kristi’s involvement with MCFC will be changing in the future.
* **Midwestern Chapter of ISA**-Ann
	+ MWISA plans to hold the winter conference this year, however it will be a virtual event. The dates for this are Jan 27-29. Application for annual MWISA awards are requested if anyone wats to submit a deserving project or person. Note that some awards such as the Gold Leaf awards, and authors awards are not limited to MWISA members. To see the list of awards categories, see- [https://mwisa.org/awards](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmwisa.org%2Fawards&data=02%7C01%7CKristi.Werdenhause%40mdc.mo.gov%7C9a119f3ca79e4af481c608d86ba2f264%7C5e016b8a23ed43f5a521168c5e91bb13%7C1%7C0%7C637377694878500244&sdata=mgFtfP2fQ1BmLWsTLG0g4UnHCAjaTZitsvMv6xIbX0w%3D&reserved=0).
* **Mo. Forest Resources Advisory Council** – Gene Brunk-
	+ No report
* **Mo. Dept. of Transportation** – Chuck Wills
	+ No report
* **Mo. Forest Products Association** - Mark McCarthy mark@moforest.org
	+ No report
* **University/Extension -** Hank Stelzer
	+ No report
* **Missouri Parks & Recreation Association**
	+ No report
* **Federated Garden Clubs** – Gayle Fry
	+ No report
* **NRCS State Forester** – Joe Alley
	+ NRCS now has an Office of Urban Agriculture.  While not directed specifically at community forestry, there may be opportunities for grants, etc., that do connect with community forestry.  [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/urbanagriculture/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fwps%2Fportal%2Fnrcs%2Fmain%2Fnational%2Flanduse%2Furbanagriculture%2F&data=02%7C01%7CKristi.Werdenhause%40mdc.mo.gov%7C277ac1ce0d6e483c4ed208d86b989014%7C5e016b8a23ed43f5a521168c5e91bb13%7C1%7C0%7C637377650282297422&sdata=CXGsk8ikRgmI3UOtbvFz2iIUEAQz%2B9h5h6NKC3xJEp8%3D&reserved=0)
	+ NRCS State Biologist positions has been filled by Jason Sykes.  Jason will start in late October.  He has been employed as the MDC/NRCS Area Biologist in Palmyra for several years and worked in Nebraska prior to that.  NRCS has been without a State Biologist for two years and we are excited to have Jason on staff.
	+ NRCS Farm Bill Program signup deadlines for FY21 have not been confirmed yet, but will likely be in November.
* **Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force** – Ann Koenig
	+ Group is working specifically on ceasing the sale of Calvary Pear trees. Trying to work on a new legislation on ceasing the sale. Looking for all partners to provide support for this.

# Region Reports & Volunteer Hours – Region Representatives

* **Kansas City**
	+ Sarah Crowder reported that they are starting their fall planting season. They are slowly getting back into the swing of things with small volunteer workdays of no more than 10 people, masked and open air only. Just completed a forestry merit badge workshop last weekend for 120 scouts and a Tree Badge workshop for the girl scouts. They hosted their second TreeKeepers workshop via zoom with great success. They hope that they can do a socially distanced OrchardKeepers in February followed by a TreeKeepers in April but will make that decision after the first of the year. Everyone is ready to be back face to face and with their friends again!
* **Northwest**
	+ Martha Clark reported that they had 43 hours. St Joe was able to pick up trees that were ordered and they are now in the ground.
* **Central**
	+ Todd Bock and Dave Dittmer reported that a workshop was held in Fulton where they have a stream that has issues with low oxygen content. There were 30 attendees at this workshop. They were able to show them what are natives and how to take care of their trees. This was covered by the local newspaper. Volunteer hours for treasurer commitments.
* **Northeast**
	+ David Vance reported that three weeks ago they planted 12 Bald Cyprus trees and did some tree pruning. Total of 4 hours.
* **East Central/St. Louis**
	+ John Ebeling, Ben Voss, Adam Graham, Doug Seely reported that a meeting was held at Vinita Park where the mayor was in attendance. Taught sidewalk and tree mitigation. Volunteer hours were 30.
* **Southwest**
	+ Woody Wells and Ben Kellner gave total hours of 29. Jon addressed the conference and shared agenda. Most of the speakers are not willing to come in person unless there is a vaccine. It is looking very poorly to have the conference in March. Approached by city governments that they aren’t allowed to go to the conference. Conference may need to be postponed again. Not sure if an online version would be very beneficial.

**Adjournment**