

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

MDC Agent Training Building Classroom (and online via Zoom)

April 11th, 2024

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

(Minutes recorded by Administrator, Andy Berg)



Members Present: Sarah Crowder, Jacob McMains, Russell Hinnah, Gene Brunk, Brett O'Brien, Ron Lumb, Woody Wells, Troy Powell, Justin Holmes, Joe Oelke, Chuck Conner, Jon Skinner, Meridith Perkins, Evan Parker, and Andy Berg

Meeting called to order by Sarah Crowder at 10:00am

Welcome & Introductions: Sarah Crowder (chair)

Treasurer Report: Jacob McMains – *A physical treasurer report was provided to all in attendance and is attached to these minutes. A list of transaction since the last meeting are as follows (but not limited to):*

- 2024 Conference venue (Tiger Hotel) deposit check - \$1,000
- St. Louis region CA prep course instructor and food reimbursement
- April 11 meeting meal
- Poster contest gift cards
- State Historic Society of Missouri (SHSMO) deposit has been approved and the check is being dropped off this week
- MDC cost-share check (reimbursement) for Chris Rippey workshop was deposited today

The money market account continues to accrue and Jacob suggests that a decision should be made on when to cap the limit and what to do with any money thereafter.

A motion was made to approve said future expenses by Troy. Woody seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Admin position filled, intro Andy Berg – Sarah had Andy introduce himself to the group and explained some of the upcoming tasks that are outlined per his 30-60-90-day plan (such as a Google for Nonprofit Workspace, website improvements, and communication-related tasks).
- 2024 Conference Update: Jacob McMains
 - The Tiger Hotel in downtown Columbia is the venue for the Conference in which the deposit has been paid. There will be a Thursday night social event at the State Historic Society of Missouri (SHSMO) which the current plan is to hold the awards banquet and silent auction there that evening. The Ozark Mountain Biscuit Company will donate all of the food for the evening and there will also be a bar, which the hope is to have it sponsored to an extent. SHSMO will be looking through their archives to see if they can create a “forestry exhibit” for us.

- Currently working on developing the program. The Committee would like to send out a save the date but would like some more content prior to (such as the keynote speaker and/or other activities).
- Forest ReLeaf agreed to handle registration in exchange for a booth. Eventbrite will be the platform used for registration.
- Sponsorship levels, exhibitor, and registration costs need to be worked out. It was suggested that registration costs may need to be bumped a bit compared to prior years. Also need to consider other registration levels for students, Tree Board Members, etc.
- Dates, a lodging link, and other resources will need to be added onto the website.
- Some of the “bigger name” speakers have been reached out to so far (which may help determine registration costs).
- Considering a pre-conference workshop focused on technology – sonic tomography, smart inventory (which the equipment may be in the area), battery chainsaws, drones, etc.
- There are 62 rooms for that Wednesday night and 62 rooms for that Thursday night at the Tiger Hotel. We need to determine if Tuesday night rooms will be necessary if there is going to be a pre-conference workshop.
- Jacob listed off other potential speakers/topics. He suggested to go back to your local groups to see if there are any good candidates for a lightning round, showcasing what it is we do (new projects and other items).
- We would like to encourage folks to attend the Thursday evening social (via marketing the arbor award of excellence, etc.).
- Hank Steltzer is to do a tour on the quad (campus).
- We need to consider rolling out the scholarship program for registrants. The latest scholarship is to be located and considered for this idea.
- Official registration rolled out before Memorial Day.

New Business

None

Committee Reports

- **Communications Committee:** Meridith Perkins, Brett O’Brien, Jacob McMains
 - Excitement was expressed having Andy on board and Meridith thanked the other members for their work in the process of hiring Andy as Administrator.
 - They will plan a meeting in May to go over some expectations with Andy and discuss Constant Contact and the website
 - CityScape – Next issue will be early summer or late spring (likely in May). Brett suggested having an article welcoming Andy as Administrator. He needs ideas to highlight projects (with pictures and short blurbs, about 250 words). Deadline for submitting content is at the end of April.
- **Poster Contest & Education/Outreach Committee:** Troy Powell, Jacob McMains
 - There are 22 different events related to the contest, many of which are already underway. They will be every Friday until about the second week of May. Troy will get Brett some content for the newsletter.

- **Financial Oversight Committee:** Brett O'Brien, Jacob McMains
 - Jacob mentioned that he'd like to see increased financial transparency and would like to develop an annual budget in the future. Our credit union redid their online banking system so there is a bit of a learning curve with it. It was suggested that the financials are verified by somebody else so that Jacob can't be accused of anything (perhaps comparing the bank statement(s) with the spreadsheet during the reconciliation process).

Liaison/At-Large Membership Reports

- **Forest ReLeaf:** Meridith Perkins
 - The CommuniTree applications are open until the end of April. They are shipping a truckload to KC this spring, though statewide shipping is typically done in the fall (there is opportunity for fall delivery for 2024). A 50 tree minimum is preferred for shipping. There are many Arbor Day outreach events in the St. Louis region currently happening. The nursery in Creve Coeur Park has expanded to accommodate another 2,000 #15 trees for their priority ReLeaf projects (for underserved, low income, disaster stricken, etc.)
- **MDC Report:** Russell Hinnah
 - The current Director is retiring and they are in search for a new one – few internal people are interested so they have opened it up externally. The current Director will be in place through July. Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line applications are coming in, which there are fewer than last year.
- **Midwestern Chapter of ISA:** Brett O'Brien, Andy Berg
 - The TCC is being held June 7-9 at Owen Park in Tulsa, OK. Registration for volunteers is to open soon and registration for competitors will open in May. The Annual Conference will be held in Overland Park, KS the last week of January 2025. Sarah had offered some of her staff to help out with local arrangements for the Conference.
- **TCIA:** National Conference review – N/A
- **Mo. Forest Resources Advisory Council:** Gene Brunk – N/A. **Meridith made a motion to remove this group from future agendas. Woody seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Mo. Dept. of Transportation:** Chuck Wills – N/A
- **Mo. Forest Products Association:** Mark McCarthy – N/A
- **Federated Garden Clubs:** Woody Wells – Their Convention is May 6-9 in Columbia. There is a plant sale in Springfield on April 27 by the Japanese Garden at the Botanical Center. There is a flower show on June 15 at the Botanical Center.
- **NRCS State Forester:** Joe Alley (new forester?) – Joe has moved on and they hired a new forester – Angela George.
- **Missouri Invasive Plant Council** – Sarah has appointed her staff member, Hunter Moore, to provide this group information on MIPC. He will report any and all information to Sarah. They only meet quarterly so Sarah will report accordingly. The callery pear buyback program goes until April 23 (Jon displayed a map of all locations and Meridith shared which locations are sold out and which locations still have availability).
- **MU Urban Forestry:** Hank Stelzer – N/A

Region Reports & Volunteer Hours – Region Representatives

- **Kansas City:** Chuck Conner, Sarah Crowder – The Heartland Tree Alliance is having their Tree Keepers course in 2 weeks. Chuck explained how dry it is in their region and the concerns for tree longevity. Bridging the Gap has positions available this spring and summer. They just gave away 2,000 #3 trees through the Arbor Day Canopy Cover program, which KC funded. It's a 3-year planting initiative with a million-dollar budget.
- **Northwest:** Ron Lumb – Timothy Wolf is the new forester who will be a good asset. He will contact Ron.
- **Central:** Brett O'Brien, Jacob McMains – The Conference Committee is meeting monthly and will meet bimonthly starting in May.
- **Northeast:** David Vance – N/A
- **East Central/St. Louis:** Joe Oelke – Started the 2025 Conference planning. The tentative dates are September 24-26, 2025 (with a pre-conference workshop on September 23). Working on getting Frank Rinn and Chris Luley for the pre-conference workshop and keynote session(s). Joe Oelke made a motion to put down a \$1,000 deposit on the event space. Jacob seconded. Motion carried. 48.5 volunteer hours.
- **Southwest:** Woody Wells, Troy Powell – They are in discussion of having a "Remarkable Trees" website developed (which focuses on trees growing in MO but shouldn't). They had a tree health workshop in February at the Nature Center and there was about 90 people in attendance. On February 22 they had a small tree and shrub seminar which brought in about 60 attendees. An alternative school in Springfield is having a "career in forestry" day the second week of May with different sessions from local experts. There were 13 people at their last meeting.

Adjournment – Jacob made a motion to adjourn. Justin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.