

Annual Great Plains Society of American Foresters Meeting Minutes
McCook, NE
October 16, 2019

The Annual GPSAF business meeting opened at 1:45 with the location being at the Cobblestone hotel in McCook, Nebraska. Those in attendance were: Les Pinkerton, Ryan Armbrust, Dennis Carlson, Keith Lynch, Thad Rhodes, Chris Mullins, David Bruton, Kim Slezak and Jim Strine.

This annual meeting was held the day before the Bur Oak Canyon Symposium (10/17-10/18). No GPSAF meeting registration was taken.

An agenda was passed out to all those in attendance.

Dennis Carlson presented the 2018 annual GPSAF minutes. A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the 2018 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Treasury Report: Dennis Carlson provided a summary of the GPSAF treasury. A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the treasury report. A summary of the treasury is below:

Beginning balance as of 1/1/2019: \$4915.06.

Payments from January 2019 to November 2019 include:

KACEE (Dues to Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education): \$50.00

Shane Neel, ½ First year SAF dues: \$59.50

PC Nuts (Web Hosting): \$118.50

Morgan Greene (1/2 First year dues, student): \$20.00

Steve Rasmussen (NE Walk in the Woods, payment on 10/30): \$112.54. Of that, \$37.54 was for postage.

Kim Slezak (For travel / Registration to National SAF Convention, payment on 11/11): \$500.00

Thad Rhodes (For membership pins, payment on 11/11): \$20.10

Income from January 2019 to November 2019 includes:

Society Dues: \$112.00

Dues Donation: \$99.00

2019 Annual Meeting Silent Auction: \$133.00

The question about auditing the treasury books was brought up. Jim Strine and Les Pinkerton volunteered to audit the treasury. They did so the afternoon of 10/16/2019 and found the treasury to be in order.

Membership: Katy Dhungel:

Katy is no longer the membership chair and has been temporarily filled in by Thad Rhodes.

Thad reported there are currently 38 members in GPSAF. There were 4 new members. Three

from Kansas: Shane Neel, Morgan Greene, Bailey Olvera and one from Nebraska: Grace

Schuster. Thad reported there are some discrepancies with the national SAF database on number

of years individuals have been a member of SAF. Thad handed out an excel sheet showing when members joined. Those in attendance reviewed the sheet and made some corrections if needed. Thad emailed the list to the entire membership through the GPSAF listserv and requested any updates to be sent to him on November 1st.

It was discussed extra effort is needed for reaching out to the new members to invite them to meetings and GPSAF functions.

Membership recognition included: Steve Rasmussen: 30 years, Keith Lynch: 50 years, Larry Biles: 50 years, Ryan Armbrust: 5 years.

Nominations:

There are many SAF awards each year. They can be found on the SAF web site and nominations are encouraged by everyone. A continuing nomination for fellow (Dennis Carlson) was put forth.

Communications: Kim Slezak

Please look at our GPSAF web site and if you have any updates, please send them to Kim. Things such as GPSAF success stories and happenings are needed.

Education: Jim Strine:

There was a Walk in the Woods held in Nebraska with the lead being Steve Rasmussen. 84 students were involved. As for Kansas, there was not a Walk in the Woods for 2018.

There was discussion about putting together a GPSAF success story for the Walk in the Woods program over the years. Dennis stated he can put together a summary of the Walk in the Woods program in Kansas. Success stories such as this could be presented at the 2020 National Convention.

History: Les Pinkerton: Les has updated the history (now at 35 years) and would like everyone to look at it. It can be found at: <https://www.gpsaf.org/2017/35-year-history/>
If you see any corrections / additions, please let Les know. Les said it would be good to get current photos of all the trees GPSAF has planted at annual meetings over the years. The tradition started in 1995 and is still done at each annual meeting. Attempts over the years to get photos of all the GPSAF annual meeting trees planted have been made. Some photos have been submitted. After some discussion, Dennis Carlson volunteered to send out a reminder (about monthly) of what trees / approximate location we need to get photos of. Along with this, GPS coordinates are needed for a story map. This will be further explained when Dennis sends out the first "take photos of Annual meeting tree" reminder to GPSAF members.

For super-achievers, a listing of Annual tree locations can be found at:

<https://www.gpsaf.org/2017/35-year-history/> on page 37 of the history. The first person to send Dennis (dcarlson@ksu.edu) a photo of the tree and GPS location (degrees, minutes, seconds) will get a gold star.

Habitat for Humanity: Pam Bergstrom had moved and no longer the chair. Each state still needs to look for opportunities plant trees at Habitat for Humanity sites. Each state has been allocated

up to \$100 for two trees. Ryan Armbrust stated he would reach out to Steve Rasmussen to see if he would be willing to be the acting HH contact for Nebraska.

A discussion about bios / description for each committee chair was discussed. It would be good to have bios for each position so everyone can know what each committee chair does for the purposes of serving as the chair for each committee. Ryan Armbrust stated he would investigate a standard form for the bios.

Eastern red cedar policy paper: There was discussion about resurrecting the GPSAF Eastern Red Cedar policy paper. Those on the committee for this (from the 2018 Annual Meeting) included: Bob Atchison, Kim Slezak and Steve Rasmussen. This will also involve the State Foresters and other GPSAF members contributing.

It was reported the next Leadership Academy will take place in 2020 (appears to be in Colorado).

National SAF Meeting travel / expenses:

A question about helping cover travel / convention expenses for either the GPSAF Chair or Chair elect to attend the National SAF meeting (HSD meeting at National Convention) was made. In many cases, the employer (Kansas or Nebraska) had covered most of the travel expenses. However, there can be cases where the Chair or Chair elect needs to attend the SAF National Convention but is self-employed, employer will not help with costs or due to budgets, the employer will cover less of the cost. Therefore, a motion was made and properly seconded that GPSAF would pay up to \$500.00 for travel and registration expenses for either the Chair or Chair elect to attend the National SAF meeting / HSD to represent GPSAF. This amount can be adjusted in the future as needed. Motion passed.

Nominations:

Nominations are needed for:

Chair-Elect (from Kansas)

Secretary / Treasurer (either state)

Thad Rhodes was nominated for Chair-elect at the Annual meeting. If anyone else would like to nominate a person (from Kansas) please let Kim Slezak (kim@slezakag.com) know.

Dennis Carlson was nominated to serve another term as Secretary / Treasurer. If anyone else would like to nominate a person (from either Kansas or Nebraska) please let Kim Slezak know.

Voting Ballots will be sent out on November 21st and will be due December 6th.

As for the chairs of GPSAF committees, they are:
Awards (incumbent: Rich Straight)
Communications/Website (incumbent: Kim Slezak)
CFE (incumbent: Kim Slezak)
Education (incumbent: Jim Strine)
Historian (incumbent: Les Pinkerton)
Membership (acting, Thad Rhodes)
Habitat for Humanity (vacant:)
Policy (vacant:)
Science/Technology (incumbent: Rachel Allison)

Upcoming meetings: Kansas Natural Resources Conference: Jan 30-31, Manhattan, KS. -We will have a GPSAF meeting held in the afternoon of 1/30/2020 at the conference. Watch for further updates on this.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40.

The GPSAF annual meeting Bur oak tree (Relict propagation from Bur oak Canyon) was planted at Kelly Park in McCook on 10/17/2019.