

Minutes
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
May 11, 2020, 6:00pm | Conference call
Governing Board Meeting

Attending: Joe Armstrong, Bo Dziadyk, cassi saari, Chris Benda, Susanne Masi, Jeff Nelson, Floyd Catchpole, Gretel Kiefer, Emily Dangremond, Jean Sellar, Trish Quintenz, and Angela Kerber

Meeting Begins: 6:05pm

Review and approve the [Minutes](#) from April governing board meeting.

- Joe moves to approve minutes as revised, Susanne seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Website Report (Jeff)

- [LINK](#) to web report
- ~half as many visitors as same month in 2019; most likely from plant sale decrease and Annual Gathering cancellation due to Covid-19.

New Board Member Discussion

- Connie Cunningham (Forest Glen Chapter past president) At-Large member nomination
- Jean moves to add Connie for next at-large member nomination, Trish seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Plant Watchlist Discussion (Chris Benda)

- Recap: In past INPS created a list of plant species not currently on Threatened and Endangered Species List to publicize for people to report findings. Location data would not be made public. INPS could publish an annual report with abundance and state distribution of findings.
- Data management would be necessary, type of management would have to be decided - GIS, excel, etc.
- Could look at iNaturalist data - get student help in searching iNaturalist and (scanned) herbarium species? Could potentially request INHS data <https://www.inhs.illinois.edu/data/plantdb/> and ask for a query from their dataset.
- Potentially form a subcommittee to work on? Searching current herbarium databases may also be a good research grant submission.
- Angela to ask Anna for species list and email to group or add to Drive if ready
- **Include as a discussion in future meeting**

2021 & 2022 Grant Budget Discussion/Approval (Susanne)

- \$2500 for Research Grants and \$5000 for Survey Grants. Payment split over two years. Up to \$7500 from general fund and rest supplemental from Grant Donation
- Need to approve in advance from November, September at the latest. Could advertise the amount (if voted now) and determine amount of awardees at a later date.

- Currently a good amount has built up in budget (\$80K), and discussed at Board Annual Meeting that grants is a could way to spend the money while supporting INPS mission. Could change amount in future, after 2022.
- **Trish moves to approve offering research grants up to \$2500 and survey grants up to \$5000 for the 2021 cycle, and moves to approve committing from the general fund up to \$10,000 for each 2021 & 2022, Gretel seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.**
- Even though not having an Annual Gathering this year, in which awardees typically give a presentation, could a report be added to website? Currently a report is required and INPS publicizing a summary of their research in Harbinger, and encourages submission for publication to Erigenia. They would be invited to give presentation to the following Annual Gathering.

Change Membership Amount to Chapter (tabled from last month)

- Potentially change the \$3.50 per member fee to a percentage amount?
- **Table to June 8th meeting**

Review & Approve 2020 Budget (tabled from last month)

- [LINK](#) to treasury report from April
- **Table to June 8th meeting**

Tax Accountant Hire Discussion (follow-up from last month)

- **Table to June 8th meeting**

New Business:

- Request for 2021 Budget: Chicago Wilderness Membership (cassi)
 - Northeast and Kankakee Torrent Chapters fall within the zone of Chicago Wilderness. Sliding scale membership fee, depends on org's budget but usually only \$50/year for small budget orgs
 - Northeast Chapter paid for 2020 membership
 - Does a membership support the INPS mission? What has their organization been involved in for the last couple of years? Did have a list of critical plant species (12), hasn't been started up again yet. Has an award system for restoration site recognition. Past organization meetings have been plant focused. Since we already have 2020 membership, can investigate as a whole; currently have 250 memberships. Chicagowilderness.org
 - Table for a future meeting.

Meeting ends: 7:00pm