



**Illinois
Native
Plant
Society**

Illinois Native Plant Society

PO Box 9245
Springfield, IL 62791

**Minutes
State Governing Board Meeting
December 9, 2024**

Call to order

Board President Emily Dangremond called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Board Members and Guests Present

Board Members Present: Emily Dangremond, Susanne Masi, Nancy Smith, Becky Croteau, Kelsay Shaw, Eric Ulaszek, Daniel Pohl, Brian Charles, Floyd Catchpole, Trish Quintenz, Nick Seaton

Guests: Daniel Lara-Newman, Kate Ahrens

Quorum

The Board achieved a quorum of 65% attendance.

Minutes

Treasurer Becky Croteau moved to approve the minutes of the IPNS Governing Board for November 11, 2024 as emended. Board Member Eric Ulaszek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

November minutes are finalized and posted [here](#).

President's report

Bylaws Update The Board established a Bylaws Committee of Secretary Smith and Board Members Quinterez and Catchpole.

Board Elections Board President Emily Dangremond and the Board established a Nominating Committee composed of President Dangremond and Board Members Trish Quintenz and Nick Seaton.

Code of Conduct Board President Emily Dangremond and the Board established a Code of Conduct Committee composed of President Dangremond, Vice President Masi, Board Members Villa, Quintenz, Catchpole, and outgoing Board Member Pohl.

The Code of Conduct Committee would review questions around who is to sign a code of conduct and other what conditions. It would consider including guidelines around rare plants and collecting seeds or samples. The Board noted that the Northeast Chapter has a Code of Conduct on the INPS website [here](#).

Treasurer's report

2023 Chapter Payments Treasurer Croteau reported that the meeting to finalize the amounts for 2023 payments to the chapters is December 12. The baseline to determine the percentage each chapter receives will be the total amount of money paid in dues from January to December of each year. Some care is required to account for lifetime members.

Grants Treasurer Croteau reported the successful creation of a grant disbursement account, which earns 4% interest on the balance.

It was noted that INPS need to add \$2,000 to the grants account for the final payments on grants from 2023 and 2024. The Board agreed to keep an extra \$600 as a cushion, moving funds when the Board authorizes the funds for the next year's grants, or at the end of the year as warranted.

Current Account Balances Treasurer Croteau presented a report on INPS account balances, noting the following
\$32,625.84 in the checking account,
\$12,637 in the new Grants Money Market account, and
\$25,595.28 in the certificate of deposit.

Budget The Board will review and approve the annual budget. Treasurer Croteau was tasked with drafting one for 2025.

Website and Membership Report

Website Development Webmaster Ahrens discussed the new membership portals. She requested short bios and photos from each member of the The Board agreed with the recommendation to consolidate all INPS chapter and state-wide calendars

Email Migration Webmaster Ahrens reported on efforts to shift communications from a Gmail account or individual Board Member accounts to emails hosted by the web domain, *illinoisplants.org*. Doing so will provide a more professional and secure communication channel and will protect personal accounts.

Content Webmaster Ahrens requested direction on posting back issues of *Harbinger* and noted many issues are missing online. Board Member Charles offered to supply copies of the missing issues.

Annual Meeting

Date Board Member Nick Seaton reported that the annual event will take place from June 20 to 22 at Touch of Nature.

Activities The annual gathering will include field trips, hikes, and workshops, with Chris Benda and John Schwegman confirmed as speakers.

Vice-President Susanne Masi will coordinate the grants-funded projects. An auction is planned with items donated by Chris Benda and Rhonda Rothrock.

Board Member Seaton also mentioned the possibility of a workshop focused on grasses and sedges.

Registration and Promotion President Dangremond suggested starting the registration process early and sending out a save-the-date message.

Organizational Practices

Email Blasts Secretary Smith proposed using Substack as a way to distribute the *Harbinger* and other announcements from INPS. The Board agreed to try it to promote the upcoming Rubus event.

Calendar Secretary Smith asked for review of the proposed Annual Meeting Calendar for approval at the January Board meeting.

New Business

The Board agreed INPS leaders and members must better coordinate social media posts, calendar entries, and email blasts. Secretary Smith and President Dangremond will add formalizing a social media committee with volunteers to manage accounts like Facebook and the new Instagram account to an upcoming Board agenda.

The Board discussed how to capture and track information for members who join offline - through mail or in-person at events. Also, we need to track people who donate but do not join. No conclusions made or resolutions reached. These will be tracked as open questions.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:33 PM by Board President Emily Dangremond.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM.