

MDS Board Meeting Agenda

March 18th, 2021 – 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Online Meeting Due to Covid-19



Minnesota
Dragonfly
Society

Meeting Minutes for the Minnesota Dragonfly Society, 3/18/2021

6:30pm **Gathering of guests** and members
Online due to Covid-19 pandemic

Board Members Present: Barry Mullin, Curt Oien, Dave Doyle, Cathy (Perk) Perkins, Kat Dickerson, Kurt Mead, Terry Carr, Ron Lawrenz, John Arthur, Emily Schilling, Mike Moen, Leah Darst, Dianne Rowse

Absent: Ami Thompson, Amy Jo Forslund, Mitch Haag

Guests: Tony DeRose, MDS member and Strategic Planning guide

6:35pm **Welcome/Introduction** of guests and members

6:36pm **Review Agenda** items and open for any additional topics

6:38pm **Approve Past Meeting Minutes** from Board Meeting held on 02/18/2021. - approved

6:40pm **Treasurer Report**- see Appendix A below

6:45pm **Committee Reports**

Research: Barry is entering data.

Outreach: Discuss how we might start live events -Leah not here in meeting yet. John- has program 6/19/21 at Springbrook (live).

- Ron- Carpenter NC unit for WI Master Nat. 7/17/21 (live).
- Do we want to hold live events? Tony- PGA and Living Well ask if everyone will be vaccinated to attend event. John at

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Springbrook- it's kids, and they likely won't be vaccinated yet. Tony- Master Nats. field trips next week, just requiring masks. John- Prairie Enthusiasts doing prescribed burns this week, with COVID rec. See Appendix B below. Legal liability? Curt- Is Monarch Fest going this Sept.? Emily- Had August event at Itasca State Park, still on for now. These are all outdoors programs. Kurt M. – State Parks no word yet on this summer's programs.

- Curt O.- MDG- plan for later in summer (July?). Kurt M.- maybe have MDG just for the day, in metro area (not overnight). Ron- Virtual component with groups in several diff. areas and Zoom wrap up at end of day.

Communication: Talk about the offer from a student to update MDS web site

- Zoom account for MDS? Perk- Cost based on number of moderators; Perk will set up a basic Zoom account. Barry- has pro Zoom account \$17/month.
- Motion by John: Set up a Zoom Pro account. Ron seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Barry offered help to anyone running an MDS Zoom meeting. Train the trainers!
- Barry- nothing scheduled for Tamarack yet
- Leah- NO requests yet for MDS programs; look at website to see if it still says we are NOT doing programs due to COVID-19. Revise to say resuming in July 2021, "outdoors" only.
- Curt O., Perk, and maybe Amy Jo and Mitch have MDS equipment. Plan an equipment gathering & inventory in about 6 weeks (when Curt's immunity is best). Ron has items to donate. (replacement net bags if they fit MDS nets or board members' nets).

Communication committee- Kat and Curt O. met recently with Univ. of MN student about website project. It's a model, and we can use it or not when it's done. Send suggestions to Kat; 3-week deadline for the student project. Mike- Suggested a meeting about website likes/dislikes. Bring this up again at next meeting.

6:55pm

Other Business

Discuss possibility of having a 2021 Minnesota Dragonfly Gathering

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- Does it make sense to organize one this year?
- When would we want to have it?
- Where would we want to have it?
- Who could help to organize it?
- July (late season), one day, a park with a picnic shelter
- Tony- the survey will reveal zip code clusters to see where most of our members are located
- Mix of in-person and virtual gatherings; evening sharing via Zoom; species list
- Ron- think big, across MN
- FaceBook group- people can post when they're going out and ask others to join in
- Dragon-blitz style- could send an MDS expert ("captain") to lead each group/location; Kurt M. could lead the NE- MN area group
- Maybe split up NE MN/ Aitkin Co. into several parts to better survey it. Map it out!
- Kurt used to put out maps of counties with odonate species numbers to show areas that need more surveying.
- Terry & Perk were in Crow Wing County last summer (Brainerd, Baxter, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes area); saw 5 emerald spp.; Crow Wing State Park there has gathering spaces too.
- Kurt M. -has worked with Arboretum in Brainerd, meeting space; John A. did talk there too.
- COVID-19 rec from state gov.- outdoor groups up to 15, not restricted to 3 family groups. Think of face-to-face time risk when showing someone the claspers on an insect.
- Curt- Consider sending email to past event organization leaders to ask if they'll want to request an MDS presence this summer? Leah/ Perk has event contact emails (used for Survey).
- Perk- Monarch Fest/ Mpls. Parks- no info yet on their website for this year
- Need an MDG coordinator, with "hosts" in different parts of the state. This will help keep group size smaller. Virtual gathering in evening. Dragon-blitz! Each host will organize their event, making reservations/ permits as needed. Publicity needed... Kurt M.- would host in NE part of MN, and take responsibility for getting permits, etc.

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Need more surveys in NW and SW parts of MN. Terri- lives in west central MN, could help with either NW or SW. Kat- could host in Clay County/ Moorhead area. Terry- In Big Stone Co? a few years ago; few odes in agricultural area

- Think about who will be MDG coordinator and discuss next meeting.

7:30pm **Strategic Planning Update**

Tony DeRose (& Ron Lawrenz)- Survey has been taken by 135 people already! 1300 U of M Master Naturalists got the survey email; about 2,000 people total got the survey notice.

-Dianne got the link on the Minnesota Naturalists' Association webpage corrected today.

-Perk- will do a FaceBook group "boost" (\$17? fee) for the Survey

-Curt O. has 5 kits of equipment as part of the Arne Myrabo memorial; each kit has an aerial net, aquatic net, *Dragonflies of the North Woods* book, *Damselflies of MN and WI* book, and a Belamo 10x loupe. (Kits valued at about \$100 each.) Former MDS Board member Ami Thompson worked with Rob Blair from U of M/MN Master Naturalists to create a plan to award one set each year (starting in 2020) at the MN Master Naturalist Volunteer annual meeting. The award would go to a volunteer who is enthusiastic about dragonflies and needs equipment. The project got stalled this past year when Ami moved out of state and the COVID pandemic hit. Who will get it going again?

-The MN Master Naturalists web page with a list of volunteer opportunities allows MDS to add info to a drop-down box. Tony will work on this as he is currently enrolled in the MN Master Naturalist class.

-6 strategic planning priorities; survey questions built around these

-We need to post our survey to our MDS website home page. Jeff will need to do; Leah will request access. She's learning website development. ☺ (Secretary's note from 3/20/21- Jeff put the survey link on the MDS website. Thanks!)

7:55pm **Next scheduled board meeting**

15 April 2021 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Wrap-up & Additional Comments

8:00pm **Adjournment**- Kurt moved to adjourn; John seconded; passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dianne Rowse, MDS Secretary

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Appendix A

Treasurer Report- by Cathy Perkins

Date of report: March 17, 2021

Checking Statement

Account balance: \$9,175.88

Available balance: \$9,175.88

Deposits: \$40.00 memberships collected
\$10.00 Mightycause 2/25/2021
\$9.82 Amazon Smile

Pending transfers: \$0.00

Future transfers: \$0.00

Central Bill Account Statement

Total line of credit \$10,100.00

Available credit \$10,100.00

Statement balance due \$0.00 (Due 4/4/2021)

Credit Card Purchases

None

Appendix B – from email from John Arthur after the MDS Board meeting, 3/18/21

Below are the rules that Prairie Enthusiasts are using for prescribed burns.

Approved by the Executive Committee and effective March 15, 2021

These Current Guidelines cover all in-person public events sponsored and/or publicized by TPE, which include field trips, work parties, prescribed burns, workshops, lectures, courses, social events, meetings, and conferences. The purpose is to enable us to continue our important conservation and education work as much as possible while staying safe and protecting the public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Current Guidelines are applicable throughout TPE's service area in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, are reviewed monthly and are updated if necessary, as conditions change.

Cancellation and Postponement: All indoor TPE-sponsored events are cancelled or postponed until

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further notice. Outdoor events are permitted, unless prohibited by local orders.

Attendance: Attendance at TPE-sponsored events should be limited to a number that can effectively practice social distancing (6 foot distance) throughout all parts of the event. For example, only about 10 - 15 people can gather in a group, remain 6 feet apart, and easily see and hear a field trip or work party leader. Recording an attendance list with at least the email address and/or phone number of each participant is recommended to aid in possible contact tracing.

Social Distancing Rules: Social distancing and use of masks during events are the most critical elements of holding TPE-sponsored events safely during the pandemic. TPE currently requires the following social distancing rules at events:

- No one should attend who has a fever or other symptoms, or an active COVID-19 infection.
- All leaders and participants should stay at least 6 feet apart (except for members of the same household).
- Wearing a face mask is required when safe distancing is difficult or impossible. This is especially critical on field trips, where there is a tendency for participants to inadvertently be in close proximity to see objects of interest.
- Everyone should cough or sneeze away from others and cover themselves appropriately.
- Sharing closed vehicles should be avoided and/or limited during an event, except between members of the same household. Open vehicles (or open windows in a closed vehicle) may be used, but the number of passengers and trip time should be limited, and everyone must wear a mask.

(end of Appendix B)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dianne Rowse, MDS Board Secretary,
3/20/2021