

MRPC ERA Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Attendees:

Sabrina – US Fish and Wildlife (MN/WI)

Erin -

Nani - IL

Norma - KY

John - MN

Lesley - IA

Edwin - LA

Roz – WI

Edmond – TN

Peter McDonagh - MN

Committee meeting called to order at 10:04am.

Sabrina shared that US Fish and Wildlife created a pollinator center of excellence conservation. It's not a place but a group of people across the country that can work together. Website is here. Monarchs and what we can do to help. Ways for others to engage. Through Nature's Notebook.

Erin is still working on promoting third week of June National Pollinator Week. Promoting pollinator habitats. Trying to think of ways to track it – maybe through a hashtag. #GRR National Pollinator Week. 2023 Pollinator Partnership Toolkit is now available online. We should be able to grab some ideas from it. Link to Center for Pollinator Conservation and other resources

<https://www.fws.gov/initiative/pollinators>

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/2023-Official-Pollinator-Week-Toolkit-1.pdf>

Proclamation from MRPC Board – Add to Friday's meeting agenda

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week/proclamations>

Roz – Rotary clubs and gardens – A How To guide. Turning things around to save our Monarchs and other pollinators. There's so much benefit that comes from this. No down sides. Not reinventing the wheel but using sources and allow for MRPC to act as a HUB for all this information. We're pulling things together that already exist and sharing information. Compile it into one location.

Leslie – local artist received an award from the state for emerging art leader in state working with Clinton co conservation. Collecting natural ingredients and then a 6-week period creating and then on display at the eco-centers. Gabi Bird artist. <https://www.gbart.studio/> Focus has always been on natural things and her newest project takes it a step further. <https://www.ourquadcities.com/news/local-news/arts-and-culture/special-clinton-artist-earns-iowa-recognition/>

Edmond – Hosting his first cleanup of the year in TN along the GRR, scheduling 3-4 this year.

Which ICs have a pollinator garden – C&H would like to know. If there are ICs that would like one, we can put them in touch with resources and assistance to talk with the right people. Add it to the IC check list.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am