



ERA committee Meeting

Minutes - 6-12-24

- Sabrina Chandler, Chair, WI
- Anne Lewis, MN
- Roz Schnick, WI
- Marni Karonowski, MN
- Edwin Nordan, MS
- Jacob Hernandez - special guest
- Laura Lee Sandberg - special guest

National Pollinator Week -

National Pollinator Week Along the Great River Road is next week. Look online for our Great River Road toolkit here.

<https://mrpcmembers.com/mississippi/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MRPC-2024-Pollinator-Week.pdf>

Operation Pollination Update -

Since our MRPC partnership launch last September, much has happened.

Information has been shared through area events. During Pollinator Week, Roz will provide an update on June 20. Additionally she plans to talk with a reporter from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Madalyn Hahn, writer) for an upcoming article. MRCTI will launch partnership in July. Development of school-age books will soon be available. Lots of activity around Operation Pollination continues.

The contact for the "The Pollinator Parade" Storybook, see Steph.Hanna@natureplacelacrosse.org and phone number 608.860.6864, ext. 223

Stewardship Award-

The committee plans to extend the deadline to July 1, 2024. National office will promote the extended deadline.

Partners Program with Fish and Wildlife-

Jacob Hernandez joined the meeting, at Erin's request. The Fish and Wildlife program is focused on habitat restoration projects - supporting migratory birds, federal land, at risk wildlife, etc. The program provides boots on the ground delivery and do what the budget allows, sometimes using state and non-profit funds too. All the work is focused on habitat delivery. How can we be of assistance to MRPC to help deliver specific projects or be a resource. Technical assist like a seed list for a project, for example. Deliver conservation on the ground. One example, school yard habitat, pollinator gardens for education. Worked with cities on urban gardens. It was suggested we share this information with Culture and Heritage committee. We will also look at incorporating this information into the upcoming Annual Meeting.

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Joint Venture-

Bringing in an economic aspect of this committee, the Joint Venture (Fish and Wildlife is a partner) services upper Miss and lower Miss. They are in the process of hiring an economist to help with this process. We'd like this individual to engage with the MRPC through ERA committee. Shared position/resource across both upper and lower Miss. On the rec and wildlife elements. Likely will include ecotourism side too. How we drive economics with hunting and fishing/ near federal lands, etc as it relates to the mission of Fish and Wildlife.

Other-

How do we bring more technical aspects/ people to our committee to keep the pipeline going. Marni suggested to discuss ways to increase participation and she's willing to help attract more interest and participation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03am