

Thurston Nature Center Committee Meeting

April 17, 2025

Attendance: Colin Brooks, Beth Caldwell, Amy Creten, Pam O'Neal, Mike Tucker, Jim Vallem, Holly Zechar

Events :

1. Earth Day event @ EPA Office of Air and Radiation - April 22 (4:30-6pm)

- Jim will represent the TNCC with a poster of the TNC, what will be changed and handouts

2. Earth Day Plans/ activities April 21-25 - Mary Manthey will send an email with plans to TNCC; Mike Tucker will support pond studies with third grade as part of Project Lead the Way

3. TNCC work day - May 3 (12-4pm) ; stewards will evaluate work to be done after Thurston Earth Week activities are completed.

- Colin will Incorporate new materials into kiosks/ highlight history of the TNC

4. Ann Arbor for Public Power- People Have the Power / Earth Day event- April 26th (1-5pm) - Wild Ones is a co- sponsor.

- Jim will represent the TNC, table set up at noon, tabling 1-3pm, speakers 3-5pm

5. Steward updates

- Jim:
 - Burn was done in the Prairie and N. Prairie. Hoping to do another burn in the goat area to the pond, need area to dry out/ need S. East wind
 - Move of the Oak Savannah went well. (2) Oaks placed just to the East of the Oak Savannah , rest all in the northern part of the Savannah
 - updates on Scouts projects:
 - Girl Scouts installing 100 ft of boardwalk on N. East side of the pond

- Boy Scouts - possible project in June - raised boardwalk very far N. East corner going South
- Boy Scouts - plant native plants North of the bridge on Thurston / Clague trail. Also, dig a trench near the western rain garden in the Oak Savanna, to collect water uphill from Pond Circle Trail and move it under the trail towards the pond.
- Board wants to send out email with information about Scout projects, will have Scouts create posts to share

6. Financials - Pam and Holly will set up a meeting with the Thurston PTO to discuss donation payment options

7. Board discussed reviewing the By-laws and defining roles of board members on TNCC; will help with outreach for new members to join the board

- Colin and Jim will meet to review the by-laws and make recommendations

8. Let Thurston Play/ Friends of TNC -TNCC will craft a statement to Thurston PTO/ AAPS for clarity on no involvement with any legal pursuits with these groups.

9. Motion made to create a banner with the TNC logo for events - \$ 50+ ; Board voted and approved

Next meeting: May 15 - will set-up an in-person meeting at Thurston