

Volume 51

Number 3



A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 186
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Fall 2026

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Save the Date

Forest History Association
of Wisconsin

52nd Annual Fall Conference

October 1-2, 2027

Wausau School Forest

Wausau, Wisconsin

Chips and Sawdust

Volume 51, Number 3

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*Dedicated to the discovery,
interpretation, and preservation
of the forest history legacy of the
State of Wisconsin*



From The President's Chair

Friends,

With the closing of 2026, my term as president of the FHW will end. I want to thank everyone on the board of directors and all the members for your support during these past two years. The time went fast, too fast! I was fortunate to be president during our 50 year anniversary, having been established in 1975 and incorporated in 1976. To recognize our anniversary, we had a new logo created and placed it on mugs and caps. The logo patch was offered to attendees at the 51st annual meeting in Treehaven. There are a limited number of mugs, caps, and patches available for purchase. More information and the ordering form is in this newsletter.

As part of our anniversary, I researched and wrote short summaries about our original board members with each newsletter this year. That series ends with this issue and Frank Fixmer's story. Other charter members were involved with establishing and leading the FHW and the intent of the articles was not to minimize their contributions but to use the original board as a sample of our founders.

The 2026 annual meeting at Treehaven was blessed with perfect fall weather for the Northwoods. Matt Carothers assembled the subjects and speakers for the meeting and field trip and he wrote an excellent summary of the meeting for this newsletter. Some of us doubled up in the lodging facilities and at least one member relived the time they stayed in the lodge for their summer field sessions while attending UW-Stevens Point as an undergraduate. The first night we shared the dining hall with a class of DNR game warden trainees before they went out for their evening training that closed down Pickeral Road (the only Treehaven access) for the evening. The food was exceptional and plentiful for all the meals served. Again, I want to thank our sponsors for the meeting that helped defray the costs; DNR Division of Forestry, Packaging Corp of America, Superior Woodlands Company, and the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters. I also want to thank the three charter members who were able to attend at least part of the meeting; John Grosman, Tom Albrecht and Jerry Thiede.

The publication, "A Chronology of Firsts in Wisconsin Forest History" was updated in time to distribute at the meeting. It was first published in 1982 and previously updated in 1996. Many thanks to John Grosman for his initiative to start and see the project through to completion. The printed brochure is abridged because of space limitations. More information and citations will be found on the website soon.

The UW-Stevens Point Archive Office is once again working with us to organize and digitize information about the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame inductees. The project was put on hold after the 2025 spring semester when the Archive Office was in a temporary workplace during the demolition of the old UWSP library and construction of its replacement. The new facility, Mary Reinhart University Library, is open and the Archive Office has plenty of space for its collections and staff. I visited the office recently and met with the intern we funded for this semester. Owen Griffin is a second-year student from Platteville, and is organizing materials for Jay Cravens and Bill Wolff.

While searching through meeting proceedings and Chips & Sawdust newsletters, I found references to a document collection assembled from donations by FHAW members. The first mention of the collection I found was in the August 1979 issue of Chips & Sawdust. The article considered it a "temporary repository" but it has become more permanent as we have boxes of documents at the Archive Office. Included in the collection are books that can be borrowed from the library. According to Brad Casselberry, Head of Archives and Area Research Center: "The forest history books are discoverable in our catalog: <https://library.uwsp.edu/home> To check out a book patrons can come here and get a library card, or they can request books through their local library using interlibrary loan. If the book shows up in our catalog (which they all should) then they can be borrowed." Brad sent me a list of our books that are available and a list of our archived files. These lists will be posted on our website soon.

The 2026 annual meeting is recent history and planning is already underway for the 2027 annual meeting. Steve Schmidt, Associate Outreach Specialist with the LEAF program at UW-SP is helping to plan the meeting to observe the Centennial of Wisconsin's school forests. Mark your calendars to reserve October 1 and 2, 2027 for attending the meeting in the Wausau area. Much of the meeting will take place at the Wausau School Forest, located 11 miles southwest of the city on the banks of the Wisconsin River with field tours of other school forests in the area. More details will follow in the coming newsletters.

Again, I want to thank everyone for making these past two years as your president an enjoyable and rewarding experience. I plan to stay on the board and resume my duties as treasurer, meaning you will be getting reminder postcards from me for the next few years. Tom Jerow is taking over as our president and I am looking forward to his leadership and vision for the FHAW.

One last note, please renew your membership if you have not already done so.

—Jim

Bylaw Amendments Approved by Membership

Members of the Association approved a series of bylaw amendments during the annual membership meeting. The revisions modernize the organization's governing documents, update membership and dues provisions, clarify board governance procedures, strengthen financial oversight, authorize electronic meetings and voting, and align indemnification provisions with Wisconsin law. The amendments had been previously published in Chips and Sawdust and distributed to members for review. For details on the approved changes, see the minutes of the Membership Meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

Association Elects Board Members

Members of the Association elected four individuals to three-year terms on the board during the annual meeting. Elected to terms ending in 2029 were Jim Kerkman, Ricky Kubicek, Craig Dalton, and John Lampereur.

Members also elected Don Schnitzler to a one-year term on the board, with his term set to expire in 2027.

Two positions on the board remain vacant. Association members interested in serving on the board are encouraged to contact Jim Kerkman for information about the responsibilities and opportunities associated with board service.

Following the Current of Wisconsin Forest History

*Forest History Association of Wisconsin 2026 Annual Meeting | Treehaven |
September 24- 26, 2026*

From the Northwoods headwaters to the working forests and industries of today, FHW's annual meeting followed a deliberately river-like course through Wisconsin forest history - and toward the history still being written.

The Forest History Association of Wisconsin's 2026 Annual Meeting used the Wisconsin River as both theme and metaphor, tracing the course of Wisconsin forest history from its Northwoods origins to the forests, industries, and stewardship practices that continue to shape the state today. Held September 24-26 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Treehaven Field Station, the meeting blended field tours, historical presentations, and discussions of contemporary forestry, demonstrating how the past continues to influence Wisconsin's forested landscape.

Treehaven proved an especially fitting setting for the gathering. Originally established as a tree farm by Dorothy and Gordon Kummer in the 1950s, the property reflects many of the themes that have defined Wisconsin forestry for more than a century. Through careful stewardship, nearly 140,000 trees were planted on land that had experienced the familiar cycle of logging, fire, farming, and grazing that shaped much of northern Wisconsin following the cutover era. After Gordon Kummer's death, Dorothy and her husband, conservationist Jacque Vallier, transferred the property to UW-Stevens Point, creating today's Treehaven Field Station. Now encompassing approximately 1,400 acres of forest and wetlands, Treehaven serves as a center for natural resources education, research, and professional training.



UWSP Treehaven Education and Conference Center.

The story of Treehaven mirrors many of the larger themes explored throughout the meeting: restoration of cutover lands, private stewardship, professional forestry, conservation, and the transfer of land and knowledge from one generation to the next. In many ways, it embodied the continuing story of Wisconsin forestry.

Thursday: Gathering at the Headwaters

The meeting began Thursday afternoon with the gathering of the FHW Board of Directors. While the board meeting served the organization's business needs, it also marked the symbolic beginning of the annual conference. Members arrived from across Wisconsin to reconnect with colleagues, share ideas, and prepare for the educational programs ahead.

If the meeting's theme was a journey following the current of Wisconsin forest history, Thursday represented the headwaters, where people, place, and purpose converged before the larger story unfolded. An evening dinner in Treehaven's Winterberry Dining Room provided an opportunity for fellowship and conversation among attendees before the field tours began.

Friday: Exploring the Working Forest

Friday focused on the living landscape of northern Wisconsin and the many ways forests continue to provide economic, environmental, and cultural value.

The day began at Treehaven with an introduction to the Wisconsin Forestry Center's Forest Operations Immersion Training Program. Associate Director Stephanie Lange described the six-week experiential certificate program, which provides hands-on training in forestry operations, including timber harvesting, merchandising, and forest road construction. The program highlighted an important reality: forestry remains a vital profession, and the future of Wisconsin's forests depends upon training the next generation of skilled practitioners.

From Treehaven, participants visited properties managed by Ed Steigerwaldt, whose family's forestry roots in the region stretch back decades. The visit offered a fascinating look at how family businesses adapt and thrive while remaining grounded in traditional forestry values.

Steigerwaldt described how his father founded Steigerwaldt Land Services in 1957, emphasizing consulting forestry, aerial-photo interpretation, and Christmas tree production. Over time the business expanded dramatically, becoming a diverse enterprise with employees working throughout the United States and Canada. The company's evolution illustrated how forestry businesses continue to adapt to changing markets and technologies while maintaining their connection to the land.

Attendees also learned about the family's Christmas tree operation, which today spans multiple counties and supplies thousands of trees annually to markets both in Wisconsin and beyond. What appeared to many consumers as a simple holiday tradition was revealed to be the result of extensive year-round management involving planting, mowing, weed control, shearing, harvest planning, and transportation logistics.

Another stop examined the family's maple syrup operation and included a striking demonstration of wildlife's impact on forest regeneration. A deer enclosure clearly showed the difference between protected and unprotected areas, with sugar maple regeneration significantly stronger inside the fenced enclosure. The simple comparison provided an effective lesson on the challenges deer populations can present for forest managers.

The group's final stop with Steigerwaldt was the "Drott 40," a Managed Forest Law property that has been carefully managed through successive har-



Ed Steigerwaldt talking about the family Christmas tree operations with attendees.

vests while preserving aesthetics and maintaining mature stands of red and white pine. The site demonstrated how long-term stewardship can balance timber production, habitat values, and visual appeal.

The afternoon shifted attention to the Wisconsin River itself with a visit to King's Dam and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. For more than a century, dams and reservoirs have played a critical role in supporting navigation, industry, hydropower, and water management throughout the Wisconsin River basin. Participants were reminded that the river was not merely a backdrop for Wisconsin's forest industry. Rather, it served as the transportation corridor and energy source upon which much of that industry depended.



FHW members and guests explore how the Wisconsin River powered logging industry, and regional development.

The day's final field stop explored the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway. Stretching across much of north-central Wisconsin, the waterway follows routes once used during the logging era. Standing along the river, attendees considered how generations of loggers moved timber downstream to mills and markets, transforming vast pine forests into one of the state's most significant industries.

Back at Treehaven, the day concluded on a cultural note. Matt Christoff entertained attendees with historic logging songs, bringing to life the voices and experiences of workers whose stories are sometimes overshadowed by discussions of forests, mills, and industry. The banquet and evening program reinforced the idea that forest history is ultimately about people as much as it is about trees.



As part of the conference, Matt Christoff explored the history of Upper Midwest lumberjack songs before performing several traditional logging ballads.

Saturday: Connecting Past and Present

Saturday's presentations broadened the discussion from local and regional history to larger themes connecting forests, society, and public policy.

FHW President Jim Kerkman opened the program with a presentation on New Hampshire's Pine Tree Riot of 1772, often regarded as one of the earliest acts of resistance to British authority in colonial America. By examining disputes over ownership and control of white pine trees reserved for the Royal Navy, Kerkman demonstrated how forest history can intersect with political, economic, and national history.

William "Biff" Kummer followed with a personal account of Treehaven's development and eventual transition from family ownership to UW-Stevens Point. As Dorothy Kummer Vallier's son, Kummer offered a unique perspective on the family's stewardship of the property and their vision for its future. His presentation reminded attendees that many conservation success stories begin with individual families making long-term commitments to the land.



William Kummer



Kerry Bloedorn

Local historian Kerry Bloedorn then explored the history of the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, providing valuable context for the previous day's visit to King's Dam. His presentation illustrated how water management infrastructure helped shape the development of the Northwoods forest products industry and continues to influence the region today.

After lunch and the FHW annual business meeting, attendees turned their attention to the history of the Tomahawk mill lands. Matt Carothers traced the evolution of ownership from major industrial firms to today's mixture of corporate, family, and nonindustrial forest owners. His presentation highlighted both the challenges and opportunities created by changing ownership patterns and the gradual parcelization of large forest holdings.



Matt Carothers



Dennis Schoeneck

Dennis Schoeneck concluded the historical progression with a presentation on Timber Professionals Cooperative Enterprises, the nation's first logger- and trucker-owned cooperative of its kind. The cooperative illustrated how the forest products industry continues to evolve in response to modern economic realities while maintaining its essential role in forest management and timber transportation.

The meeting concluded with discussions about future forest management challenges and FHW's role in preserving and interpreting Wisconsin's forestry heritage over the coming decades.

History Still in the Making

A recurring theme throughout the meeting was that forest history is not simply a story of loss. While Wisconsin's great pine forests, logging camps, river drives, and historic mills have largely passed into history, their influence remains visible across the landscape.

Today's managed forests, river dams, family woodlots, and forestry schools represent continuing chapters in Wisconsin's forestry story. Each generation inherits a landscape shaped by past decisions and makes choices that will influence the future.

By tracing Wisconsin forest history from Treehaven's restored forests to modern forestry enterprises and future stewardship, the 2026 FHW Annual Meeting demonstrated that history remains an active force in the present. Understanding that history fosters appreciation for those who came before while encouraging stewardship for future generations.

2026 Fixmer Distinguished Service Award to Kerry Bloedorn

During the Association's annual meeting at the UWSP Treehaven Field Station Kerry Bloedorn of Rhinelander was presented with the Fixmer Award.

The award recognizes Bloedorn's longstanding contributions to preserving and interpreting the history of Wisconsin's forests, logging industry, and Northwoods communities. A respected local historian, Bloedorn has spent decades bringing regional history to life through newspaper articles, radio and media productions, public presentations, and historical reenactments.

In announcing the award, FHAW cited Bloedorn's ability to engage audiences of all ages through compelling storytelling and meticulous historical research. His work has helped connect modern audiences with the people, events, and industries that shaped Wisconsin's forest heritage.



Tom Jerow presented Kerry Bloedorn (left) with the 2026 Fixmer Distinguished Service Award at fall conference.

Bloedorn has also served as Director and Curator of the Pioneer Park Historical Complex in Rhinelander, where he has become known for making local and regional history accessible and meaningful to visitors. His programs frequently highlight the history of logging, forestry, transportation, and settlement across Wisconsin's Northwoods.



50th Anniversary Items

There are limited amounts available, sold on "first come, first served" basis



Item	Cost	Number	Amount
Hat	\$20.00 each		
Coffee Mug -11 oz.	\$12.50 each		
Patches	\$ 8.00 each		
Shipping up to 2 items & patch	\$13.00 each		
Shipping for one patch only	\$ 2.00 each		
Shipping each additional hat or mug	\$ 3.00 each		
		Total Amount	

**Send check payable to "FHAW" to:
Forest History Association of Wisconsin
Box 186, Bangor, WI 54614**

Members of the 1976 FHW Board of Directors — Part 4

A final article about the seven original members of our Board of Directors.

Frank Fixmer

Frank Fixmer was born on June 6, 1913 in New York City and died in an automobile accident in Naples, Florida on April 3, 2000.

Frank graduated from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1933 with a degree in forestry and soon arrived in Wisconsin to spend 45 years in federal, state and industrial employment. From 1933-38 he was with the US Forest Service in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). John Lampereur sent a copy of the Mountain News from December 20, 1934 (newsletter from Camp Mountain, CCC Co. 1695) that listed Frank Fixmer as the former technical foreman of the camp and was transferred to Scott Lake CCC camp. As a technical foreman, Frank later explained that one of his tasks was to supervise a crew of 15-25 men who cut down popple that was interfering with better quality hardwoods, in the name of timber stand improvement.



Frank Fixmer, 1999

Another task was having the crew remove ribes (gooseberry) to prevent white pine blister rust in the white pine plantations planted later. (July, 1975 reminiscing on the early days on the Nicolet NF.) In addition to the CCC work, Frank was put on special assignment to the Forest Supervisor's office in Rhineland where he helped develop timber stand improvement and reforestation plans for the Nicolet National Forest.

He then went on to work for the Wisconsin Conservation Department (WCD) and assisted in the development of the Washburn and Burnett county forests. While with the WCD, he served on the Conservation Commission Forestry and Forest Pest Control Advisory Committees (1957-1972), assisting in the drafting of the Forest Pest Control Act of 1958. In 1944 he became Mosinee Paper Company's first forest manager, which he held until his retirement in 1978. While with Mosinee Paper Company, the industrial forest acreage grew from 4,500 to 90,000 acres. Frank had a significant role in developing machine tree planting, conversion of low-quality oak stands to red and jack pine, spot site preparation instead of furrowing and many other innovative forest management practices.

Frank received many awards for his contributions to forestry to include: Resolution of Appreciation from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board in 1973; Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee in 1978; Distinguished Service Award from the Forest History Association in 1980;

John Macon Award from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters in 1983; Elected as Fellow by the National Society of American Foresters in 1984, of which he was a member since 1935; and was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame in 1997.

He was active in many forestry organizations: a charter member of the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, co-founder of the Wisconsin Woodlands Owners Association, co-founder of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin and served as its secretary and treasurer for 20 years in addition to serving on the board of directors.

The 1998 Annual Meeting Proceedings posted the annual business meeting minutes written by Frank as the executive secretary in which he concluded his report with the announcement that his resignation as the executive secretary will be effective as of June 30, 1999. In his report he wrote: "The past 24 years, from its beginnings as a visionary experiment to a viable organization of increasing influence in the preservation of Wisconsin's forest heritage, have been most interesting, educational, and enjoyable for me. However, our accomplishments would not have been achieved without the support of the Board of Directors, past and present, and the active members. I am sure that my successor will have the same spirit of cooperation with which to carry on the functions and programs of FHAW."

In honor of Frank's dedication to the FHAW, the Distinguished Service Award was renamed the Fixmer Award in 2000. The first Distinguished Service Award was presented to L.G. Sorden in 1977. It is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to an organization, agency or corporation, within the forest products and resource community. It is one of three awards given by the FHAW for distinguished service, the other two are the Connor Award and the Miles Benson Award.

**Minutes of the
Annual Business Meeting of FHAW Members
September 26, 2026
Treehaven, Tomahawk, Wisconsin**

Members Present: Matt Carothers, Nicole Filizetti, Primo Filizetti, Tom Jerow, Jim Kerkman, John Lampereur, Pete Mann, Diana Mann, Charles Mentzel, Mark Nelson, Bridget O'Brien, Steve Schmidt, Don Schnitzler, Bob Walkner, Jane Severt, Jerry Thiede, Kay Theide, and Krista Matyska.

Others Present: Bill Kummer, Bill Lange, Lori Lange, Jenny Sadak, Scott Hefernon and Phoebe Yetley.

Online: Arno Helm

Call to Order: FHAW President Jim Kerkman called the meeting of the members to order at 12:15 pm.

Minutes of 2025 Membership Meeting: Minutes were previously published in *Chips & Sawdust*, Volume 50, Number 3, Fall 2025, pages 12-14. Motion to approve by Jim Kerkman; Second by Jerry Thiede. Motion carried.

President's Report: Jim Kerkman's President Remarks reviews a successful year

for the Forestry History Association of Wisconsin, celebrating more than 50 years of the organization and highlighting a new logo, the updated Forestry Firsts publication, continued webinar success, and archival work with UW-Stevens Point. It recognized departing board members and longtime contributors, outlines potential collaboration with the Wisconsin Forestry Center, and previews the 2027 annual meeting celebrating the Wisconsin school forest program's centennial. The message also reviews the Association's distinguished service awards and concludes with the president's thanks as he completes his two-year term while remaining involved with the board.

Treasurer's Report: Don Schnitzler reported on the 2025-2026 fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2026. The amount in each account at that time was \$4,541.38 in checking, \$9,995.85 in savings (including restricted funds), and certificate of deposits at Bank of Wisconsin Dells totaling \$20,360.87. Total value of checking, savings and CD accounts was \$34,898.10. Jim Kerkman reported that investments held at T. Rowe Price had balance of \$142,155 on July 1, 2026. Motion by Matt Carrothers to receive and place on file. Second by John Lampereur. Motion carried.

Audit Report: Tom Jerow and Bob Walkner along with Jim Kerkman and Don Schnitzler performed the annual audit of the treasurer's book and found all financial records to be in order.

Archives Report: Jim Kerkman reported, in the absence of a committee report, the Area Resource Center (archives) has moved into its new permanent home now that building construction has been completed. With that move, the Association will again have a student intern working on the Hall of Fame Inductees' finding aids. Jim asked for volunteers to join the archives committee and introduced its newest member, Peter Mann.

Nominations Committee Report: Jim Kerkman, reported that the following individuals will stand for election for a three-year term ending 2029 - James Kerkman - Ricky Kubicek - Craig Dalton - John Lampereur and a for one-year term ending 2027 - Don Schnitzler. He also announced that there will be two vacant seats remaining on the board. Anyone interested in becoming more involved with the Association was asked to reach out to either Matt Carrothers or himself. Asked about the meeting schedule, Jim explained that the board typically meets 4 to 5 times a year. The meeting during the Fall Conference and the December "Organizational" meeting are generally "In-person" meetings, and the remainder are generally held via the Zoom platform.

Award Presentations: Jim Kerkman shared that at Friday evening's banquet, the 2026 Fixmer Award for Distinguished Service was presented to Kerry Bloedorn for his contributions to preserving and sharing Wisconsin's logging and forestry history.

Old Business:

2024 Annual Meeting Proceedings: Repeated efforts to prepare a written record of the meeting held at Keshena have failed to be approved, so that work will not be made available as a published document. Instead, the individual records will be archived with the papers held by the Association at the UWSP archives.

2025 Annual Meeting Proceedings: Tom Jerow, reported the work is still in progress for last year's Proceedings

New Business:

Elections – Jim Kerkman introduced the candidates for election providing a bit of their background. The candidates for three year terms are Jim Kerkman, Ricky Kubicek, Craig Dalton and John Lampereur. Jim called for other nominations, or volunteers. There were none. Nominations were closed and Jerry Thiede moved to elect the individuals to new terms ending in 2029. Bob Walker seconded. Motion carried. Jim Kerkman introduced Candidate Don Schnitzler for a one-year term ending in 2027. There were no other nominations, Tom Jerow moved to elect Schnitzler for a one year term ending in 2027. Second by Matt Carothers. Motion carried.

Consideration of amendments/revisions to the FHAW Bylaws – To assist the membership in reviewing and considering the proposed bylaw revisions, each change, or set of changes, will be considered individually. This sequence separates potentially more controversial governance provisions from the largely administrative and modernization changes, allowing each issue to be considered on its own merits and helping the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner under Robert's Rules of Order. Proposed revisions were previously published in the quarterly newsletter, Chips and Sawdust, Volume 51, Number 2 and also shared by email with an invitation to participate in this meeting online.

Pronoun and Gender-Neutral Language Corrections

This motion would cover changes such as replacing "he," "his," and "his or her" with "such person," "the President," "the Treasurer," etc.

Motion by Tom Jerow to approve all non-substantive editorial revisions throughout the bylaws that replace gender specific pronouns and outdated references with gender-neutral language, correct grammar and terminology, and make corresponding housekeeping edits, with no change to policy, authority, or member rights. Second by Nicole Filizetti. Motion Carried.

Article I. Section 1 & 3. Membership and Dues Revisions.

These changes define student membership eligibility, affiliate membership language, clarification of voting rights of non-dues-paying members, and authorization for the Board to establish membership dues by resolution and publish them annually. The changes modernize membership categories and provide flexibility for setting dues.

Motion by Bridget O'Brien to approve the proposed amendments to Article I concerning membership language and dues revisions. Second by John Lampereur. Motion carried.

Article II, Section 2.A. Approve Director Vacancy Provision

Permits the Board of Directors to fill vacancies until the next annual meeting, at which time the membership shall elect a director to complete any remaining unexpired term. This preserves member election authority while providing continuity between annual meetings. Reflects current practice.

Motion by Nicole Filizetti to approve Article II, Section 2.A regarding Director Vacancies, permitting the Board of Directors to fill vacancies until the next annual membership meeting. Second by Bridget O'Brien. Motion Carried

Article II, Section 2.B. Approve Director Removal (as modified; deleted “without cause” as previously distributed)

Section 2. B. Director Removal. Any Director may be removed with cause, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed removal is included in the meeting notice.

Establishes that any Director may be removed with cause, by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed removal is included in the meeting notice. This provision establishes a clear procedure for removing a director when continued service is no longer considered to be in the organization's best interests.

Motion by John Lampereur to approve Article II, Section 2.B. Director Removal (as modified). Second by Jane Severt.

Arno Helm raised the issue that Directors are elected by the membership -- Allowing the Board to remove an elected director by a two-thirds board vote shifts authority from the membership to the Board.

Motion by Arno Helm to table the consideration pending further review. There is no second.

Jerry Thiede commented that the two-thirds vote the board of directors is significant and so it will be a very rare case when this happens. Yes, we are a membership organization, but I think this would be rarely used because it does take a reason.

Arno Helm asked if “Cause” has been defined. Mark Nelson referenced that Nonprofit board members have the legal responsibility to meet their duties of care, loyalty, and obedience.

Jane Severt called the question. Discussion ended.

Restated motion: Motion by John Lampereur to approve Article II, Section 2.B. Director Removal (as modified). Second by Jane Severt. Motion Carried. Arno Helm voted No.

Article II, Section 2.C.: Director Attendance (as modified – without acceptable excuses)

Any Director who is absent from three (3) regular consecutive meetings without acceptable excuses to the Board of Directors may be deemed to have resigned, and the position may be declared vacant by majority vote of the Board.

Establishes a reasonable attendance expectation for Directors and provides the Board with a clear process for addressing repeated absences.

Motion to approve Article II, Section 2.C. (as modified – “without acceptable excuses”) by John Lampereur. Second by Jerry Thiede. Motion Carried.

At this point the Zoom Meeting connection was lost, audio recording for remainder of meeting is not available.

Article II, Section 6. Special Meetings Of the Board of Directors; and Section 7, Electronic Meetings

Authorizing electronic notices, electronic communications, remote meetings, and procedures for secure electronic voting consistent with Wisconsin law. Modernize board and membership operations.

A motion was made and seconded to Meeting and Communications Updates. The motion carried unanimously.

Article III, Section 4. Principal Duties, Financial Oversight Revisions

Treasurer responsibilities, require annual financial reporting to the membership, and the authority of the Board to establish financial control policies and independent financial reviews or audits.

These changes are consistent with current practice; strengthen financial governance and transparency.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve Financial Oversight Revisions. The motion carried unanimously.

Article IV. Section 4. Indemnification provisions and conforming them to Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes

These are primarily legal modernization and clarification amendments.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve Indemnification Provisions and Conforming them to Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes . The motion carried unanimously

2027 Annual Conference – Jim Kerkman asked attendees to mark their calendars for the 2027 Conference to be held October 1-2, 2027 and plan to attend

Other Business: No other business was discussed.

Adjourn: There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Schnitzler, Secretary protem



From the Newspaper Archive



FIRE'S FEARFUL WORK

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS DAMAGE

Many Farmers Homeless - The City Alarmed but the Danger not Serious McMillan's Narrow Escape

Not since the days of the fire of '87 has there been such feeling of uneasiness in the city (Marshfield) as marked Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week. Forest fires were raging on all sides and with high winds blowing a feeling of general alarm was caused though the city itself was comparatively free from danger.

With the exception of one light shower no rain has fallen here since July 4th and as a consequence everything was as dry as tinder and equally inflammable. Despite the danger farmers had carelessly gone to work and fired stumps and brush piles which kept growing gradually and spread as the dry weather continued until old pine slashings and early choppings were blazing in every direction; sending forth clouds of smoke that enveloped the city and shrouded the surrounding country in a semi-darkness that the sun could scarcely penetrate.

The first real danger resultant from the constantly encroaching flames was when the fire that had established a strong hold in the pine slashing about three miles to the northwest crept out and caught in the abandoned lumber yard at

Mannville two weeks since. No means of controlling it were at hand and the scattered houses in Sherry's deserted village, with but few exceptions, were quickly leveled and the destroying element pushed rapidly east threatening McMillan and south towards Marshfield. No serious danger was apprehended here, but the heavy growth of dry underbrush, down and dead timber, made quite an easy pathway to McMillan.

B. F. McMillan, one of the most intrepid fire fighters in the state, scented the danger at once and with capable lieutenants and a well-organized crew started to do battle. Once, twice, three times did he check its progress and his town and plant remain apparent security. Thursday a strong, north-west wind fanned the smoldering embers into life and despite the herculean efforts put forth, the flames leaped across the Little Eau Pleine and held the vantage ground within twenty-five rods of the plant and the wind blowing directly towards it. All day Thursday the battle was waged by Mr. McMillan and his men against fearful odds and as night settled over the little mill town even the most confident gave up hopes. In sheer desperation efforts to master the fire were doubled. The men who had fought valiantly all day under the leadership of McMillan followed him during the night and when morning

dawned the plant was still standing -- though more than five hundred acres had caught in and about the yard. On Friday, additional help from this city put in an appearance and the fire was forced back to the north of the Lake Shore Railroad, while men were stationed all along ready to put out any flying sparks. All day long this was kept up, the men running here and there, the pumps working throwing water over the slab piles and dump, while only a short distance away the flames roared and cracked in their mad play, the terror of the hour heightened by the falling of countless trees that sounded not unlike the booming of a cannon in the distance. On Friday afternoon the wind veered, and the watchers succeeded in changing the course of the fire so that it passed to the north of the plant and confidence of saving the town was again restored. Reinforcements from Wausau gave new inspiration and as night again closed down over the scene a feeling of security was returning.

While McMillan was thus doing battle a most terrifying scene was being enacted on the outskirts of the city in the northwest. Thursday noon the smoldering fire in the mill yard dump at Mannville was fanned into flames and sweeping across the road wrapped itself about the depot, store and one or two more buildings that escaped the previous fire, and they soon passed out of existence. From there it swept like a whirlwind to the two residences owned by Mrs. M. Powers and hardly had Mrs. Powers and her four children escaped from the building in which they lived when it was a mass of flames. Richard Miller, who resides in a farmhouse across the road, fared better. He succeeded in saving his place, though the fire was burning around it. The three Mattes, John, Herman and Fred, were not as



Benjamin F. McMillan
1845—1918

fortunate, all losing heavily by the destruction of property. Fowl, swine and other animals were caught, and their carcasses marked the power the heat smoke.

Not satisfied with the destruction, the fire under a favorable wind swept down the railroad right of way burning out several culverts in both the railroad and highway, passed the farms of John and Conrad Seubert, clearing the fields of fences but left their houses, to do more destructive work further on. At the same time a southwest wind brought with it another hurricane of flames and swooping down took in rapid succession the farmhouses George Zwage, Chris Zitmann, Joe Bart, Balt Bart, Frank Kettle, Peter Rodinger, the Wisconsin Furnace Company's house and Niek Robel's house. At Powers' Switch it crossed the road, taking in the house, barn and personal property of Peter Hansen and John Jenny's barn. On towards the city it flew with the speed a racehorse devouring on its way the home and barns of Chris Guckenberger. Some knowledge of the danger which threatened the farmers was brought to the city and hundreds of willing hands went to the rescue, but their work was of little avail. Nothing seemed to satisfy the insatiable greed the flames. Onward it pressed, taking barns of Moses La Belle and Thomas Gaffney and a little later the barn and then the house of William Witman. From the west it came up through the cemetery here met the determined resistance of hundreds of men who with pails and shovels contested every inch. The charred and blackened grounds and fields, and leveled and burned fences testify to the fierceness with which it raged. It was almost impossible to combat the flames, owing to the isolated location of the places in danger. Water was scarce and water tanks and barrels had to be resorted to. Fire was also creeping up on the residences on the Adler addition but was promptly suppressed, while southwest of the city out towards Bakerville the clouds of black smoke bore evidence of the extent and intensity of the fire raging there.

Such was the condition that confronted the locality on Thursday. The citizens worked incessantly on all sides, helping a farmer here and going to relief of a settler there. As the day grew a pace the excitement increased. Tales of distress from outlying districts reached the city and smoke-begrimed settlers who had fought until they were almost exhausted to save their homes and property commenced to flock into the city. Frank Kettie, a settler living on the road west of Powers' switch, sought in every way to stay the progress of the flames but finding it was an unequal contest gave up and loading his few household goods on his wagon, yoked up his oxen and with his wife and two children started for town. They had to run the gauntlet fire and smoke that enveloped the Mannville road and on reaching the home of Moses LaBelle the oxen fell exhausted in the road and were soon cremated by the flames raging about them.

The family succeeded in finding their way through the smoke, but the furniture fell prey to the devouring element. Tales such as these, reports that the city was sure to be destroyed caused the cheeks of many of the citizens to blanch with fear and alarm and anxiety was felt on every side, though the danger was more imaginary than apparent. The police force was trebled and the militia and citizens sent out to patrol the burning districts and guard against further progress toward the city. All night Thursday and all day Friday was the work of watching kept up without cessation. (from the Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, September 21, 1893, page 1)

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