

**Minutes of Board of Directors Annual Meeting  
Prairie Trails Club Inc.  
Starke County Community Foundation  
300 Keller Avenue, North Judson, Indiana  
April 23, 2025**

**Call to Order by Board Chair**

Steve Lucas, Chair of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Prairie Trails Club Inc. (“PTC”), called to order the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:17 p.m., CT (6:17 p.m., ET) on April 23, 2025 in the Meeting Room of the SCCF, 300 Keller Avenue, North Judson. With presence of six of the seven Board Members, he recognized a quorum. Those present were Diane Blais, Rich Vallicelli, Peg Stalbrink, Steve Lucas, Kirt Verhagen and Larry Wickert. Also present was Treasurer Kathy Lucas, a non-voting member.

**Election of Officers**

Steve recognized the officers were currently himself as Chair, Peg as Vice Chair, and Diane as Secretary. He said any member of the Board may be nominated and elected to any of these three positions. No other person was nominated. Elected unanimously were Steve as Chair, Peg as Vice Chair, and Diane as Secretary.

**Resolution Affirming Actions by and Congratulating the PTC Membership on Successes in 2024 and Early 2025**

Diane Blais presented for consideration the following resolution: “The Board of Directors of the Prairie Trails Club Inc. endorses and expresses its appreciation to our Membership for contributions and actions taken for a successful year in 2024 and early 2025. Included were successful efforts by Kathy Lucas and Rhonda Milner to develop documents among the Prairie Trails Club; Hill Excavating, LLC; and Territorial Engineering approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and resulting in advancement of grant ITP-23-06 to the construction phase.” Peg Stalbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Resolution Congratulating Jay Albright on his Service as Executive Director of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation**

Larry Wickert presented for consideration the following resolution: “The Board expresses its appreciation to Jay Albright, Executive Director of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation, for his continuing and steadfast professionalism and support in developing non-motorized trails, in Starke County and elsewhere in Indiana, and particularly as has been

critical to successful initiatives of the Prairie Trails Club.” Rich Vallicelli seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Action to Support and Facilitate Possible Receipt of Easement or Real Estate Donation to Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail at English Lake**

Steve reported that Walter J. and his wife Peggy R. Block are the owners of real estate in the unincorporated community of English Lake that abuts Starke County Road 250 South on the South, Starke County Road 650 West on the East, and the right-of-way of the Pinsky Railroad on the Northeast. Walter has approached the Prairie Trails Club for a possible collaboration in which land would be donated for use on what is anticipated to adjoin, in the future, the Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail.

The collaboration would potentially include the erection of signage, maintenance, land fill, and other improvements in preparation for, and ultimately the construction of, a trail that would meet minimum requirements of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (or another State or Federal Agency) and the trans-American Great American Rail-Trail. On-site or website (or both) acknowledgement of the generous donation would be an element of the transaction.

Steve added that he expected a survey, site documentation, and recordation of an easement or deed transfer would be needed to identify and preserve the ability of the Prairie Trails Club to accomplish trail construction and maintenance. He asked that the PTC President and Board Chair be authorized, upon their joint signatures, to approve expenditures not to exceed \$5,000 for these purposes. The Board members discussed the merits of a purchase versus an easement but did not take action to pursue one option or the other.

Kirt Verhagen moved to authorize the President and Chair of the Board of Directors by joint action, or their successors, to approve or approve with conditions, PTC expenditures which shall not exceed \$5,000 to achieve design, survey, and recordation for an easement or deed transfer with respect to the Block’s property at English Lake. Larry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm, CDT (6:33 pm, EDT).