

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
January 18-20, 2008
Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge

Present:

Officers: Chick Keller, President; Tom Antonio, Vice-President; John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary; Carolyn Gressitt, Recording Secretary; Steve Robertson, Treasurer

Directors-at-Large (Chapter Representatives): Frances Robertson, Albuquerque; Jack Makepeace, El Paso; Jack Carter, Gila; Alan Krueger, Las Cruces; Chris Baker, Otero; Les Lundquist, San Juan; Carol Johnson, Santa Fe

Committee Chairs: Jim Nellesen, Conservation; Renée West, Newsletter; Gary Runyan, Posters; Lolly Jones, Website

Administrative Assistant to President: Sandra Lynn

Other Participants and Guests: Donna Stevens, Gila; Art Baker, Otero; Ray Bowers, Las Cruces; Bob Sivinski, Santa Fe

- A. **Call to order, Chick Keller, President:** Chick called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m., January 18, 2008 and determined that a quorum was present. Board members, committee chairs, other participants, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. **Approval of August 2, 2007 minutes, Carolyn Gressitt, Recording Secretary:** Board discussed putting draft minutes on the website. It was felt that this was appropriate, as long as they were clearly marked "DRAFT." Tom Antonio moved that the minutes be approved; Steve Robertson seconded; motion passed.
- C. **Treasurer's Report, January 1 – December, 2007, Steve Robertson, Treasurer:** Steve Robertson supplied copies of report and discussed it line by line. Primary topics of discussion were corrections needed, distribution of publications, and handling publications expenses. Chick commented that Steve has had to deal with many financial changes over the last year and has done a good job of tracking income and expenses. Jack Carter moved to accept the treasurer's report and Chris Baker seconded. Motion passed.
- D. **Membership report, John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary:** John provided copies of the report. Discussion ensued regarding rise in higher membership levels, concluding in the importance of encouraging members to give beyond the standard dues amount. Chick asked that more people who are actively involved move to the patron level. Jack Carter pointed out that there are members who give \$100 every year without being actively involved, or without even living in New Mexico.
John highlighted complimentary listings. There was discussion regarding using this category to increase outreach by putting more libraries, etc. on list. John moved, Tom seconded motion to add more libraries, NM legislators, etc. to the list of Complimentary; motion passed. All directors need to research libraries, etc. and send list to John. Les moved that 1,500 newsletters be printed, Carol seconded; motion passed.

Chick relayed information that John is stepping down after the fall meeting. Chick and Steve commended John for his long service to the society. Al moved, Tom seconded approval of membership report; motion passed.

E. **Committee Reports**

1. **Finance Committee:** Wynn Anderson could not attend, so Steve reported on committee's meeting. Committee drew up budget; \$10,000 was invested in Fidelity, as per board decision; committee decided to invest \$10,000 more in Fidelity; additional funds will go into CD's; Steve will look around for good ones.

Les asked about item 4h. Sandra explained about traveling exhibit of Wynn Anderson's photos—there are many concerns: need for insurance; belongs to UTEP, not Wynn, doesn't know how many pictures, etc. Sandra will get more info, will coordinate, but individual chapters will have to make local arrangements, secure safe site, etc.

Discussion of increasing Society's income: Renée suggests ads be run for the society publications, posters, note cards, etc., in newsletter.

Jim Nellessen proposes that leftover funds from plant rescue be divided up proportionately to chapters involved; discussion followed. Motion by Jack Carter, Al Krueger seconded: remainder of grant funds will be moved to general fund, with \$500 subtracted & given to Jim as honorarium; approved.

Discussion re Jack & Martha Carter Grant program and how this relates to the total budget. Tom made motion to establish the J&M Carter Endowment Fund for which contributions will be earmarked and whose interest will fund education and research on plants through grants; Frances seconded; motion carried.

2. **Conservation:** Jim Nellessen
 - a. **Report on conservation activities:** Chris informed of article in Abq. J., Jan. 13, 2008, in which board of trustees of Valles Caldera Trust are giving green light for Environmental Impact Statement "detailing what sorts of activities, public access, and facilities should be developed," with possibility of snowmobiling and other motorized vehicle use. Meetings will get input from public. Jim & Chris will contact Trust to see exactly when meetings will occur and will write up a position paper with Chick; will get back to Board with final.
 - b. **Report on US 54 plant salvage:** Summary of final report is in newsletter; copy of documentation will go to Chick & Sandra. Chick requested official letter to State Hwy Dept, signed by Jim & Chick, thanking them for the grant.
 - c. **Donna Stevens—ORV Draft Statement:** Discussion of minor revisions and need for publication. Full document needs to be sent out to BLM, National Forests, etc., when they are working on their travel management plans. Jack Carter moved we accept Donna's paper (with our suggested corrections) as our official position re ORV's on public lands, and that we get it out with an abstract to newspapers, legislators, etc.; Al Krueger seconded; approved. Lolly will put it on website; it should be sent out to chapters, as well.
3. **Publications:** Chick says that the Publications Chair quit, leaving matters with respect to the reprint of Southern Rocky Mountains book in limbo. Faye Brown has agreed to be the

new publications chair. Chick has been trying to figure out how things stand with the reprint effort. Reprint number has not been decided yet. Albuquerque Printing is doing the reprint. There was a discussion re changing the title.

Endangered species note cards were available for chapters to take back and sell, 60 packets to a box, 8 cards to a packet. Chapters can sell the packets for \$12 to \$15, with \$7 per packet to be returned to state. Santa Fe Chapter has been selling card packets for \$12 to members and \$15 to non-members.

4. **Book sales:** Lisa Johnston was unable to attend; Chick presented Lisa's book sales report.
5. **Posters:** Gary Runyan presented the poster sales report.
6. **T-Shirts:** Chick opened discussion of T-shirts by saying that we are not currently creating and selling T-shirts. Gary noted that he has a supply of T-shirts along with posters, but is concerned that there seems to be no overall inventory of any of our publications or the T-shirts. Other members said there were a few other T-shirts out there in chapters.
7. **Website:** Lolly Jones presented the website report. She is now getting needed information from the chapters, and the UNM server has been stable recently.
8. **Newsletter:** Renée West gave the newsletter report. Discussion: need for botanical articles, survey results forthcoming that will be useful to website and newsletter editors, need for article(s) on grants. Sandra Lynn volunteered to write up article(s) on grants if no one else offers to do it. Tom suggested again that the newsletter should have a name.
9. **Administrative Coordinator Report**—Sandra Lynn
 - a. Speakers Bureau: Sandra submitted proposal; she requests suggestions for good speakers from the chapters; Jack suggests that we could share our speakers list with like organizations. Frances made motion, Les seconded; proposal approved.
 - b. Workshops: Met with Bob Sivinski re how he set up workshops; survey also put in newsletter, got 19% return so far (just in 1-08 newsletter / on website); Feb. 17 is deadline (when her contract with Survey Monkey ends); don't have to be members—all directors should fill out survey.
 - c. Evaluation of job so far: Sandra wants to be of service to chapters, but not getting feedback. She will hold workshop on publicity for non-profits during lunch today (Saturday).

F. Chapter Reports

1. **Frances Robertson, Albuquerque:** Frances highlighted the workshop "Landscaping for Birds, Bees, and Butterflies." She also discussed an experimental project to remove *Ailanthus* and elms from the Bear Canyon Trail area. Steve asked for some clarification about the chapter treasurer's report.
2. **Jack Carter, Gila:** Jack gave the Gila Chapter report, including commenting on the financial health of the chapter.
3. **Judy Lister, Taos:** Chick presented for Judy, pointing out high number of field trips and committees. Steve gave more detail on the Orilla Verde Tamarisk project.
4. **Tom Antonio, Santa Fe,** for Carol Johnson: Tom emphasized the success of Native Plant Day for Santa Fe.
5. **Chris Baker, Otero:** Chris highlighted some of the more interesting activities.
6. **Les Lundquist, Farmington:** Les was happy with big increase in chapter treasury from the state meeting. They still have 19 or 20 members and keep trying to get more; a core of 12 or so come to meetings.
7. **Al Krueger, Las Cruces:** Summary of activities, with suggestions for other chapters:

- a. Plant family presentations by members
 - b. Spring/Fall field trip to same site for comparison
 - c. Photography workshop/sharing of pictures at next meeting
 - d. Sandra: Suggested activity at new Mesilla Bosque SP linked to NM Native Plant Day
8. **Jack Makepeace, El Paso:** Jack expressed concern about lack of income; they may do a chapter plant sale separate from the one for Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. Chapter would like to expand cactus plant salvage on slopes of Franklin Mts., where subdivisions are going in. They also work with other conservationist organizations on these broader conservation issues.

G. Old Business:

1. **State Meeting:** Ray Bowers presented schedule and other info for the 2008 NPSNM State Meeting in Las Cruces, to be held September 25-28; the board was pleased with what is planned. Ray emphasized that the meeting will be the last weekend in September, rather than in August.
It was determined that the **2009 state meeting will be in Taos**, and the **2010 in Silver City**.
2. **Logo:** The Society will continue with old one, with added color.
3. **New ex-officio Board members from agencies:** Several possibilities were discussed, without any concrete decision made.
4. **Otero Mesa Letter approval** (to ratify e-mail vote): Steve moved, Carol seconded; approved.
5. **Retaining New Members:** We lost 168 last year, the majority to 1st and 2nd-year members. Chapters need to continue retention efforts suggested last year.
6. **Atlas of NM Plants**—Bob Sivinski reported that a training meeting was held, but for only 12 para-botanists (amateur botanists); these trainees have turned in fewer than 100 specimens so far. Around 160,000 entries are now in database (all based on university herbaria).

H. New Business

1. **Jack and Martha Carter Endowment Fund—Tom Antonio:** Proposes endowment fund (see budget discussion)
2. **Date for Native Plant Day:** Discussion on timing of plant sales & Native Plant Day; legislature in session; moving around of day makes it hard for chapters to plan, causes confusion, never going to catch on: agreed on 3rd Saturday in August.
3. **Life membership for Lisa Mandelkern:** Carolyn will research policy of honoring past state NPSNM presidents with lifetime membership.
4. **Rio Grande Trail Endorsement Letter:** Discussed endorsement of this Environment NM project as a way to interest & educate people on plants, etc. Frances moved, Tom seconded; approved. Sandra will compose a letter.
5. **Standardizing Time for Winter Board Meeting:** Last weekend in January.
6. **Board Mtg. Travel Subsidy (Frances)**—Up to possibly \$300 cost to going to board meetings (room, gas, etc.); people in chapters need to know that there is cost involved. Jack suggested subsidy be offered. Chapters could provide subsidy; state could pay for staying at Sevilleta. People might be less likely to volunteer for serving on board because of the cost. Chick will come up with proposal to discuss through e-mail.

7. **Nominating Committee:** By March 1 (newsletter deadline) we need 3 people: Wynn (past president), vice-president, and another person chosen by vice-president. Tom will select someone.
8. **Change in By-Laws:** Chick discussed problem with voting by e-mail as per By-Laws; Steve will work on by-laws/policies changes to present to board. Chris requested that we be sure to let all board members know results of voting and to e-mail vote as “reply to all.”
9. **Joint Mtg. w/ Arizona and Colorado Societies:** Sandra has been in communication with these societies, and they have discovered so much in common that a joint meeting, perhaps including Utah, would be something to look into; she suggests using the title “4 Corners Native Plant Society Collaborative” (including Utah). Chick suggested that we look into doing a joint meeting of the boards of these societies first.
10. **Wooten Fund:** Chick made a motion, Carolyn seconded, to send the total of contributions (\$900) made to the Society in memory of Tom Wooten, to the Tom & Eleanor Wooten Foundation. Motion was approved.
11. **Honoraria:** For a job well done, the board unanimously approved an honorarium of \$500 each for Renée West, Lolly Jones, and Lisa Johnston.

I. **Grant Proposals (total \$9,350)**

1. **Phylogenetic analysis of *Phacelia* inferred from chloroplast ndhF and nuclear ITS gene sequences:** Discussion: \$1,000 for only 2 species seems exorbitant; too far from home. Tom & Eleanor Wooten Foundation could support this competently written proposal. Motion: Chris proposes to reject, Gary seconded; motion passed. Letter will offer to get someone to collect 2 specimens, suggest she submit proposal to T & E Foundation or a California foundation, and point out that project is not truly based in New Mexico.
2. **Greenhouse Project at Smokey Bear Historical Park:** Consensus to give only \$500 because of lack of specification of what part of the project it was to be spent on.
3. **K-12 Science Education Programs for Disadvantaged Students:** Approved \$600.
4. **Floristic Survey of Vermejo Park Ranch:** \$750 approved.
5. **Interpretive Signs for Wetlands, Santa Fe:** Good outreach, but proposal is weak: we should have text for signs and other information. Steve made motion to reject & suggest they find a cheaper sign-maker, Frances seconded, motion failed. There is consensus to fund it at \$1000.
6. **Tent Rocks National Monument Brochure:** Frances moved to reject, Steve seconded, motion passed. Carolyn will let them know in letter: it was rejected since written proposal left too many questions; ask them to call Chick; go back to chapter and come up with new proposal.
7. **NM Biodiversity Collections Consortium Database Mapping Upgrade:** It is continually being improved & added to. Steve made motion to accept, Carol seconded, approved \$1,000.
8. **Travel Planning on Gila National Forest:** This ties in well with our ORV Statement. Steve made motion to approve \$1,000, Tom seconded, motion carried.
9. **Floristic inventory of riparian habitats, Gila River:** Carolyn made motion, Tom seconded, approved for \$1,000.
10. **Digitalization of Ivey’s Illustrations:** More manageable than revision/addition to Martin & Hutchins; Ivey is involved in it; an effort to preserve and protect Ivey’s publication & keep it in print on-line; Les made motion, Carolyn seconded, approved \$1,000.

Summary Discussion of Grant Proposals: They total \$6,850—do we want to chip off \$350? Steve proposed taking \$350 off #5; rejected. Proposal by Ray to revise our Request for Proposals (RFP) to clarify exactly what is wanted. Board members need to look at website and give suggestions on revising RFP. The lack of final reports on projects was discussed; grantees need to receive reminders to get reports/articles in by deadline; when they come in, the receiver needs to get them to Renee and Lolly. Steve moved to accept proposals with the amounts suggested; Les seconded; approved in the amounts indicated above.

The board decided to change the deadline for grant applications to Dec. 1, so that the board would have sufficient time to review the proposals.

In the future, the Board needs to get e-copies, as well as hard copies, of proposals, so that summary of approved grants can easily be placed in next newsletter. This information needs to be included in the RFP on the website.

G. Return to Budget for approval, including the \$6,850: Les made a motion to approve as amended, Jack seconded; motion passes. Steve will clean the budget up and send it out ASAP.

H. Meeting adjourned: 11:05 a.m., January 20, 2008