

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Native Plant Society of New Mexico

August 10, 2006

Centennial Museum, UTEP, El Paso, Texas

Present:

Officers: Wynn Anderson, President; John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary; Chick Keller, Vice President; Sandra Lynn, Recording Secretary; Donna Stevens, Treasurer

Committee Chairs: Finance, Jack Carter; Newsletter, Renée West; Posters, Gary Runyon; Conservation, Jim Nellessen

Directors-at-Large (Chapter Representatives): Philip Melnick, Albuquerque; Jack Makepeace, El Paso; Janet Gilchrist, Gila; Chris Baker, Otero; Andrea Greenaker, proxy for Les Lundquist; Tom Antonio, Santa Fe; Judy Lister, Taos

Other Participants and Guests: Art Baker, Otero; Beth Herschman, Albuquerque; Cleo Barnes, San Juan.

A. Call to order Wynn Anderson, President

Wynn Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm and determined that a quorum was present. Proxies were accepted for Las Cruces and San Juan Chapters. Board members, committee chairs, other participants, and guests introduced themselves. The meeting agenda was approved.

B. Approval of previous minutes Sandra Lynn, Recording Secretary

Wynn Anderson pointed out a wording error—"postcards" should have been "note cards"—in the minutes. Sandra Lynn noted the correction. No further changes were suggested. Janet Gilchrist moved and Chris Baker seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

C. Interim Treasurer's Report, January 1 to July 31, 2006 Donna Stevens, Treasurer

Copies of the report were provided.

D. Membership report John Freyermuth, Membership Secretary

Copies of the report were provided. It included details of membership totals, including changes and deletions and types of memberships, as well as a listing of chapter membership secretaries. Wynn Anderson pointed out that we are losing too many new members after a year. Wynn urged the chapter representatives to go back to their chapters and talk about how to meet our goal of achieving 1000 members. We can't establish an office with a part-time staff until we reach 1000 members. Wynn also urged chapter representatives to consider purchasing life memberships for their most dedicated chapter members. This was discussed. A discussion also followed of how to encourage more members to renew at the Friends, Supporting, Sponsoring, and Patrons levels.

E. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee—Jack Carter

The annual budget as revised and adopted at the winter board meeting and an investment portfolio analysis were provided. Jack said he would like to see some of our funds used to build programs that would bring in new members. Currently, the largest single expenditure is for grants.

2. Book Sales—Lisa Johnston

Lisa was not present. Her semi-annual report was handed out. There was no discussion of it except for one clarification question answered by Wynn Anderson.

3. Website—Lolly Jones

Lolly was not present. Her semi-annual report had previously been emailed to the board. Members commented favorably on how much society material is now available on the website.

4. Newsletter—Renee West

Renee was asked about how picture quality could be improved. She explained that the problem was a technical one. Suggestions for solutions were discussed.

5. Posters—Gary Runyon

Gary provided a report on sales of posters in 2006. Wynn Anderson mentioned the importance of stimulating sales of the cactus poster.

6. Workshops—Wynn Anderson

Wynn reminded the board that we need a volunteer to chair the workshop committee and offered to write up a job description to be disseminated in the newsletter and elsewhere. The Albuquerque Chapter will be sponsoring a workshop next spring that was discussed and reported on in the last minutes.

7. Publications—Wynn Anderson

Wynn announced that Kelly Gallagher from Los Alamos has indicated interest in becoming the new publications chair. The board must decide whether or not to appoint her. Chick Keller nominated Kelly, and John Freyermuth seconded. The motion passed. Wynn noted that the Southern Rocky Mountains Gardens guide is sold out and suggested that perhaps Judith Spehar would volunteer to work on getting it reprinted.

The next topic brought up was the proposed production of a set of note cards made from four photographs of threatened and endangered plants. Munson Graphics of Santa Fe has proposed to co-produce them with the Native Plant Society. A copy of the proposal sent to Bob Sivinski was provided, which included estimated expenses and income of the project. Wynn pointed out that Bob's photos were recommended for use on the note cards but that Bob himself had suggested instead a competition to choose the photographs. Discussion of that possibility followed. Wynn stated that he thought we ought to use

Bob's photos for the first printing of note cards. Philip Melnick moved to accept Munson's proposal and to proceed with the project as discussed, under Bob Sivinski's direction, and using four of Bob's images, which he is to select. Donna Stevens seconded. The motion carried.

Tom Antonio then brought up a new publication proposal—to develop plant postcards. The idea was discussed in terms of how it could be done and the intended market. Tom had in mind providing some excellent photographs of native plants of New Mexico to postcard producers. Chris Baker moved that Tom continue to develop the costs and marketing details of the proposal for future consideration, and Phil Melnick seconded. The motion passed.

8. Conservation Report—Jim Nellessen

Jim reported on the status of the project to rescue plants along US 62/180 between Carlsbad and the state line. The highway is slated for expansion to four lanes in 2007. The first installment of the grant from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been received. Permits have been obtained from the Department of Transportation and the BLM in Carlsbad. Additional permits will be required from the Department of Agriculture in order to sell rescued plants, so each chapter wanting to sell plants must get an agriculture permit. Bob Sivinski sent out an email asking if any chapter wants to sell plants. Only Otero has been considering it so far. Jim says homes will be needed for some of these plants. Plans were discussed for accomplishing the rescue effort between now and Dec. 31 and also how to find the best locations for digging plants. Jim has prepared a list of sites where potential "rescuees" are concentrated. How to dig the plants successfully was discussed. Wynn Anderson offered to write advice to chapters concerning effective and safe techniques for digging. All plant rescuers will need to use field trip release forms, which can be obtained from Wynn via email. Orange vests and traffic cones may be necessary. Plant rescuers should save receipts for any purchases of such items or other supplies.

F. Old Business

1. Status of funds held by IRS. Jack Carter reported that the society is still trying to get Senator Domenici's office to intervene on its behalf.
2. Festival of the Cranes and Sevilleta Open House. Albuquerque Chapter is responsible for representing the society at both events this fall.
3. Official Native Plant Day, Sept. 23, 2006. Chick Keller reported that the proclamation will rotate among the chapters for display.
4. Endorsement of Letter on ORV use to Regional Forester. Wynn Anderson made the announcement that the interim motion, made by Donna Stevens and seconded by Janet Gilchrist, had passed with eight yes votes received by Wynn via emails from the board. However, Wynn Anderson then reported on the failure of another interim proposal made by Chick Keller that we endorse a letter to Governor Richardson concerning state water issues: only three responses were received from board members. Wynn pointed out that

board members must respond to such interim email requests if the email system of making board decisions is to function as well as it should.

5. Board job descriptions. Wynn Anderson reminded board officers and chairs of standing committees that he had requested job descriptions from each one.

G. New Business

1. Sacramento Chapter. Wynn Anderson reported that the chapter is no longer functioning. Janet Gilchrist made a motion that the board dissolve the inactive chapter, and Chris Baker seconded. The motion carried.

2. Establishment of Public Information Committee. Wynn Anderson proposed Sandra Lynn as chair of a new ad hoc committee to be added to the present three—the Finance, Publications, and Conservation Committees. The Native Plant Society needs publicity on a statewide basis, and the new committee would be responsible for that. Beth Herschman from Albuquerque offered to serve on the committee. Chick Keller moved to establish the committee with Sandra Lynn as chair, and Phil Melnick seconded. The motion carried.

3. NPSNM Logo. Tom Antonio suggested that the society consider designing a new logo. Lisa Johnston is also interested. The two can form an ad hoc committee to develop proposed logos for the board's future consideration.

4. Annual Meeting in 2007. The San Juan Chapter, represented by Andrea Greenaker, will host the state meeting in 2007 in Farmington. The annual meeting committee is tentatively considering the second week in August in order to utilize facilities at San Juan College. The timing for the state meeting was discussed. Wynn Anderson pointed out that our state meeting usually draws about 125 people, but he thinks it should be getting about 150 attendees. He asked if August is a good time for the meeting or if some other time would allow more people to attend. Beth Herschman, who chaired the arrangements committee for the Albuquerque annual meeting in 2005, said that she thinks the primary limiting factor is cost rather than timing.

5. Election Results:

Wynn Anderson announced the results of the recent election of officers:

Chick Keller was elected the new president.

Tom Antonio was elected the new vice-president.

Carolyn Gressitt was elected the new recording secretary.

John Freyermuth was elected to continue as membership chair.

Steve Robertson was elected as the new treasurer.

Chick Keller made a brief talk about plans for the next year. He would like to visit all the chapters and hopes the society can revitalize some. He intends to recommend action concerning the state's approach to vegetation on state highway rights-of-way. He introduced the new officers.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

The business of the agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned shortly before 5 pm.

Additional information provided: Wynn mentioned the reception to be held at Marshall Carter Tripp's house after the board meeting, recommended some eating places in El Paso, and noted that the exhibition of his native plant photographs on display at the Centennial Museum is available to circulate to chapters.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Lynn
Former Recording Secretary