

APPROVED
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico
January 28, 2006
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center

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; Website, Bob Sivinski sitting in for Lolly Jones

Directors-at-Large (Chapter Representatives): Philip Melnick, Albuquerque; Jack Makepeace, El Paso; Janet Gilchrist, Gila; Carolyn Gressitt, proxy for Allan Krueger, Las Cruces; Chris Baker, Otero; Leslie Lundquist, San Juan; Tom Antonio, Santa Fe; Judy Lister, Taos.

Other Participants and Guests: Helgi Osterreich, Cynthia Hunter, Virginia Burris, Gordon Lister, Art Baker, Carolyn Dodson

Note: All documents referred to in these minutes are available from the files of the Recording Secretary.

A. Call to order Wynn Anderson, President

Wynn Anderson called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present. Board members, committee chairs, other participants and guests introduced themselves. The meeting agenda was approved. Wynn made the following announcements:

- He reminded chapter representatives that the NPS and its affiliated chapters are tax-exempt organizations and distributed for their use copies of the 1977 501(c)(3) letter recognizing our tax-exempt status and the society's Employer Identification Number. If needed, tax exemption certificates are available from Donna Stevens.
- He distributed copies of a new policy in effect concerning the marketing and public sale of educational publications. He asked if there are any further changes needed or suggestions for policies in effect; none was mentioned. He requested that Jack Carter and Bob Sivinski (past presidents) review, rewrite, and propose new policies before the August meeting, working with Wynn. The current policies in effect are posted on the website.
- He would like to have written job descriptions from each officer of the board and each committee chair before the August meeting.

B. Approval of previous minutes Sandra Lynn, Recording Secretary

Tom Antonio moved and Chris Baker seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved without changes.

C. Approval of treasurer's report Jan 1 to Dec. 31, 2005 Donna Stevens, Treasurer

Donna reminded chapter representatives that the 2005 chapter financial reports are due Feb. 15, 2006. Janet Gilchrist moved and Les Lundquist seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's submitted report. The report was approved.

D. Membership report John Freyermuth

According to the membership report dated December 31, 2005, membership was up by 6 from the previous year but down by 27 since the summer. John said that's typical. He pointed out that the larger chapters are growing, and the smaller chapters are shrinking. Deletions from the membership database totaled 181 members over the last year, consisting mostly of members who did not renew their memberships from December 2004 through November 2005. His report also noted that just over 60 % of the deleted memberships are for people who were members for two years or less. Thus, we are attracting some new members but not retaining a large percentage of them. John mails membership information to chapter membership secretaries so that they can follow up on both new members and deletions. A list of membership secretaries accompanied his report.

Sandra Lynn, Carlsbad Chapter representative, reported information she had just learned about the inactive Carlsbad Chapter, including a complaint from a new member that the NPS was engaging in "false advertising" by listing an inactive chapter in its newsletter and brochures, and also that the financial report from Linda Frank, Carlsbad Chapter treasurer, showed that the chapter had been losing money every month as a result of bank fees levied against the dormant account. After some discussion the board agreed to acknowledge the situation and formally recognize that the chapter is essentially defunct and has been for some time. It was suggested that Sandra notify the Carlsbad Chapter members of this. Sandra Lynn moved that the remaining chapter treasury funds be returned to the state treasury, and Donna Stevens seconded. The motion passed.

E. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee—Jack Carter. Jack submitted a report on the society's investment portfolio from Edward Jones, "Assets Analysis Prepared for the Native Plant Society of New Mexico." He also submitted a report of his investigations of dues structures in other state native plant societies and botanical organizations in the Southwest. This investigation resulted from requests received by the board for more funding from the state organization for chapters, in particular El Paso and Albuquerque. Discussion

followed the presentation of the report, and afterward it was decided by consensus not to change the current dues structure. Jack also reported that no change has occurred with respect to the funds seized by the IRS. The society's only hope of getting its money back is apparently through political intervention. A letter is being drafted to send to Senator Domenici.

2. Book Sales—Wynn Anderson for Lisa Johnston

A book sales annual report for 2005 was submitted. Wynn brought up a new possibility. The Native Plant Society of Texas has just closed its bookstore, while our bookstore is very successful. Wynn suggested that we expand our bookstore so that we serve both Texas and Arizona. Discussion of that suggestion followed, including expense arrangements and the future of the NPSNM's bookstore. Wynn asked the board for informal consent to his pursuit of a possible cooperative arrangement with the Texas society. The board agreed that he should explore the possibility.

3. Poster Sales—Gary Runyon.

Gary reported \$1600 in poster sales since August 2005. He is filling orders and receiving assistance from individual chapters in distributing posters. He is also providing posters free to teachers who wish to display them in the classroom. We have plenty of posters in inventory.

Bob Sivinski requested help with distribution of a poster on threatened and endangered species. This new poster was funded by Fish and Wildlife, along with New Mexico State Forestry. Bob has 2000 posters, which are not for sale but which he would like to get distributed to teachers. Board members offered to help.

4. T-shirts—Wynn Anderson for Lisa Mandelkern

No new t-shirts are available, and no plans have been made for a t-shirt at the El Paso annual meeting in August.

5. Website—Bob Sivinski for Lolly Jones

A website usage report was submitted. Bob reported that chapters have not been keeping their pages updated. Discussion followed about why not and what to do. Chapter representatives were urged to remind chapters to update their website material.

6. Newsletter--Renée West

A newsletter report was submitted. Renée requested that the board consider allowing her to post the newsletter on the website. No objections were offered, so the proposal was accepted. Renée also asked if she can increase the number of pages and was told that she can, so long as she stays within her budget. The size of the newsletter could be increased if we were to get new advertisers. A discussion followed concerning paper and picture quality. Wynn Anderson told Renée that as editor she has the authority to consider changes in the newsletter format.

Virginia Burris raised a question about whether a speaker for the upcoming backyard habitats workshop could receive an ad in the newsletter in lieu of a portion of his honorarium. The board consensus was that it would not be a good idea to do that. The speaker should receive his honorarium and then purchase an ad with those funds if he wishes.

Newsletter distribution problems are occurring as a result of the way the post office handles mail in New Mexico, but the problem is apparently being addressed at the state level.

7. Publications—Wynn Anderson

A report on sales and inventory for the NPSNM guides—*Southern Rocky Mountain Gardens* and *Central New Mexico Gardens*—was submitted. Donna Stevens reported on the sales figures for publications for 2005. Wynn announced that he is discussing the vacant Chair of the Publications Committee position with an interested person.

8. Conservation—Jim Nellessen

A detailed report was submitted. Jim discussed in particular the US 62/180 plant rescue project. He asked that each chapter designate someone to organize the local volunteers for this project. Jim still needs to ascertain the start dates. Scheduling, liability and the infeasibility of transplanting large *Yucca elata* were discussed. We will be selecting the plants that will be most likely to succeed as transplants. The importance of the project in terms of public relations for native plants and the society was discussed.

9. Workshops—Wynn Anderson

Wynn mentioned again the need of a new chair for workshops. Virginia Burris is proposing a future (May 2007) state workshop on wildlife habitat gardening using native plants. She presented an agenda for the workshop and a proposed budget. She discussed the rationale behind the workshop, the funding of it, and cooperation with other interested organizations, such as the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. The state can be its backer, or the Albuquerque Chapter can be its backer; that decision still needs to be made.

F. Old Business

1. Festival of the Cranes—Tom Antonio of the Santa Fe Chapter. The volunteers from the Santa Fe Chapter at the festival sold about \$500 worth of books, posters, and t-shirts and signed up four new members. Wynn asked if the Albuquerque Chapter could take that responsibility for next fall.

2. Official State Native Plant Day—Chick Keller

A joint memorial will be presented to the legislature again. The question was raised about the date: when would be the best time? It was suggested that just before the annual meeting, as was the case in 2005, is not a good time in terms of getting the word out to the public, since the board of directors and chapter officers are involved in the state

meeting, and members are en route to the meeting. So it was agreed that Native Plant Day should be September 23, 2006.

G. New Business

1. Gift from the Jane Decker Asmis Trust. Wynn Anderson announced that the trust has given us an unsolicited gift of \$10,000. The funds are unrestricted.
2. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2006-2007 Officers. Wynn Anderson appointed Vice President Chick Keller as the chair of a nominating committee and asked him to find two more people to serve on the committee with him. Chick requested names from the board. Those officers now serving must consider if they wish to serve another term.
3. Approval of 2006 budget. The newsletter budget was discussed, particularly postage, clarifying the information available in the report from the treasurer. Some corrections were made in the budget. Chick Keller made and Les Lundquist seconded a motion to increase the income anticipated from investments from \$2600 to \$3500. The motion passed. Tom Antonio made and Phil Melnick seconded a motion to increase the newsletter budget item for equipment and training from \$250 to \$400. The motion passed. Wynn Anderson recommended that the society not incur the expense of reprinting the brochure on account of the deactivation of the Carlsbad Chapter. John Freyermuth moved that the projected costs for postage under the Membership section of the budget be reduced from \$600 to \$500. Les Lundquist seconded. The motion passed. Phil Melnick moved that postage and shipping costs for posters be increased from \$250 to \$300. Les Lundquist seconded. Before voting on the corrected budget, the board moved on to consider the slide digitalization project.
4. NPSNM slide digitalization project. Photo archive/slide collection possibilities were discussed. The slides need to be organized, labeled, and scanned, according to Cynthia Hunter. The \$2000 proposed in the budget would pay for that job, so no changes were suggested.
3. Approval of 2006 budget, continued. In view of the increased number of grant requests submitted, Chick Keller moved that we increase the budget for grants by \$500 to \$6500. Chris Baker suggested an amendment: a larger increase to \$7500. Chick accepted her amendment. Sandra Lynn seconded. The motion passed. Then Tom Antonio made and Phil Melnick seconded a motion to approve the revised budget. The motion passed. Jack Carter and Donna Stevens will submit for the secretary's files a corrected proposed budget.
5. Proposed roadside vegetation education project. Bob Sivinski announced that Sarah Wood has volunteered to prepare some materials for the New Mexico Department of Transportation to educate them about how to improve maintenance procedures with respect to natives (mowing, herbicide use, etc.). Wynn Anderson said he would like for the NPSNM to encourage her efforts.

6. Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Open House. Wynn Anderson suggested that the Albuquerque Chapter represent the society at that event as well as Festival of the Cranes.

7. Proposal for a 2007 NPSNM Wildflower Calendar. Tom Antonio proposed a 2007 wildflower calendar as a fundraising effort. It would cost \$2500 to produce. Wynn Anderson pointed out that calendars require strenuous marketing over a short time period. Bob Sivinski suggested the possibility of note card packets with plant photographs instead, as note cards would not have a specific shelf life like calendars do. Discussion followed concerning producing any dated product. No action was taken on the calendar or the note card proposals. The suggestion of Christmas cards with native plant photos was presented. The board was interested in that possibility, and it was decided to research costs for future consideration.

8. Membership in the Valles Caldera Coalition. Virginia Burris proposed to the board that the NPSNM join the coalition, which is, according to literature she provided, "a group of 40 organizations and individuals with expertise in natural resources and a keen interest in the Valles Caldera National Preserve.... The Valles Caldera Coalition advocates for careful stewardship of the Preserve." Chick Keller spoke in favor of the organization and moved that we join and add our name to the list of organizations that support it. Chris Baker seconded the motion. It passed.

9. 2006 Annual Meeting. Jack Makepeace presented information on the upcoming annual meeting in El Paso, August 10 to August 13. The theme is "One Desert, Two Countries, Three States: Chihuahuan Desert Plants." It will take place on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. Chris Baker moved and Les Lundquist seconded a motion that the board meet on Thursday August 10. The motion passed. The meeting program will offer three tracks: botany, conservation, wise use. Wynn Anderson described some of the program plans.

10. Grants. Wynn Anderson and Chris Baker reported on 2005 grants.

Each of four regional herbaria--UNM, NMSU, WNM, UTEP--receives our support in a \$500 grant on a non-competitive, non-reporting basis. Chick Keller moved that we increase the total herbarium grant amount to \$2500 so that San Juan College Herbarium could receive the same amount as the other four. Phil Melnick seconded. The motion to grant \$500 to the San Juan College Herbarium passed. Discussion followed concerning whether or not the herbaria should report to the board on their use of the grant funds. Chick Keller, Sandra Lynn, and Jack Carter spoke in favor. After discussion pro and con, the sense of the board was that reports on the automatic grants are not necessary.

The following grant applications totaling \$11,956 were mailed out to board members prior to the meeting. They were discussed in detail, and in some cases, several motions were made for different grant amounts, as board members tried to allocate limited funds. Once the allocations were made, Tom Antonio made a motion and Judy Lister seconded that the allocations be accepted. The motion passed. The resulting grant awards are listed below:

Grant Application 1. \$1000 request for a “Horticulture Course—Native and Xeric Plants” from New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches, Inc., in Albuquerque.
Awarded \$500.

Grant Application 2. \$1000 request for a “K-12 Education Activity on Transpiration in Desert Plants” from Chihuahuan Desert Park in Las Cruces.
Awarded \$600.

Grant Application 3. \$772 request for “Native Plant Education” from the Friends of Rockhound State Park in Deming.
Awarded \$250 plus free posters

Grant Application 4. \$1000 request for “Plant Trunk” from Gila Conservation Education Center in Silver City.
Awarded \$500

Grant Application 5. \$600 request for “Wetland Web” from Santa Fe Botanical Garden in Santa Fe.
Awarded \$600

Grant Application 6. \$900 (amended from \$984) request for “Herbarium Cabinet to House a Collection of Native Plants from the Santa Fe National Forest” from Pajarito Environmental Education Center in Los Alamos.
Awarded \$900

Grant Application 7 was the request from the San Juan Chapter for support for the San Juan College Herbarium. The decision is reported above under support for regional herbaria.

Grant Application 8. \$1000 for “Phylogeography of *Fouquieria splendens* (ocotillo) across North America” from Joanna Redfern, Biology Department, UNM, Albuquerque.
Awarded \$1000

Grant Application 9. \$913 for “San Pedro Creek Watershed Watch” from East Mountain High School in Sandia Park.
Awarded \$500 plus books supplied from the NPS Bookstore

Grant application 10. \$500 for “Natural History of the Gila: A Southwestern New Mexico Symposium” from Symposium Committee of Gila Conservation Education Center in Silver City.
Awarded \$500

Grant application 11. \$600 for “Phylogeny Reconstruction of *Carex* Section *Scirpinae*” from Michelle DePrenger-Levin at the University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado.

No grant awarded

Phil Melnick moved to adjourn, and Tom Antonio seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Lynn
Recording Secretary

