

**MNPS Board Meeting  
Montana Wild Center, Helena, MT  
February 16, 2012**

Attendees: Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Peter Lesica, Patrick Plantenberg, Jennifer Hintz, Bob Person, Cathie Jean, Drake Barton

**The Board did not have a quorum present. We decided to continue with the meeting and send any decision recommendations made at the meeting to the rest of the Board for an e-mail vote to finalize the decisions.**

**President's Report – Dave Hanna**

Dave welcomed everyone. Peter reported that the Summer Board meeting will be held at Blackfoot Native Plants on Friday, June 29, after dinner at 7 pm.

**Past President's Report-Susan Winslow**

Not present

**Vice President's Report – Karen Shelly**

Dave reported that she had nothing new to report.

**Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg**

Patrick circulated the address list for updates. He will send it out to the missing Board members for revisions. The Board discussed the 2011 Fall Board Meeting minutes. Patrick made revisions based on comments from Board members. He will send them to the Board members to approve after this meeting. No By-laws or policy changes were identified. Record retention time was discussed at the meeting. The Board suggested some minor changes. Dave will send the revised schedule out for final approval by the Board. Patrick will put in the Policies and Procedure handbook.

The Annual Meeting Notebooks were discussed in terms of retention time. Kathy Lloyd will review the books when she receives them after the Summer 2012 Annual Meeting. She will decide which portions should be kept. Then those portions will be scanned and digitized to keep them electronically. The notebooks will not be put on the webpage.

**Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson**

Jenny was not at the meeting but e-mailed out the MNPS 2011 Final Budget Summary, the proposed MNPS 2012 Proposed Budget Summary, and Annual Balance Statements as of 12/31/2011 and 2/7/2012. We have \$45,000 in our accounts and are in good shape. We lost \$420 in 2011. Several changes were discussed over the course of the meeting and will be discussed below. The 2012 budget will show a major loss as a result of the changes discussed below. Dave will have Jenny prepare a corrected 2012 budget for approval by the Board. Dave reported that Jenny will be gone for about 6 months in 2012 but Madeline

will step in to cover for her. The Treasurer needs to discuss setting up separate PayPal accounts with Bob for events and membership to avoid confusion.

### **Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean**

Cathie presented a membership summary from 1997 to 2012. Patrick will e-mail her the Board Meeting Minutes so she can check her figures. She will start to track memberships at the end of the year so we have some consistency in the figures from now on. She will total number of members and total number of households. She will also track Chapter memberships at the end of the year. This historic information will be placed in the MNPS Policies and Procedures Manual annually. MNPS has 688 members and 549 membership households and 35% of the households are getting electronic copies of the Newsletter.

Cathie reviewed the results of Board comments on her suggested use of the Cedar Mountain Full-Edit database to manage membership. It would cost about \$700 plus \$2 a month to get it started. This is a discounted price for us. She feels confident that the site is secure. Much discussion followed and it was decided that the demand to use it is not there at the present time, given the amount of up-front effort to get it set up. However, if needs change it may be a good option in the future since it would also add other functionality to the website. Cathie will prepare a position statement and privacy policy concerning our membership database for approval at the Fall Board meeting. Patrick will send her the latest Membership Chair Duties list so she can update it. The Board also discussed how long Cathie should keep membership renewal information sent to her by members. She will keep it til the end of the year and then destroy it.

### **2012 Annual Meeting Update – Peter Lesica for the Clark Fork Chapter**

The registration form will be in the March *Ke/seya*. There will be eight field trips. They have sent in \$263 for insurance for the event.

### **Newsletter Editor Report-Caroline Kurtz**

Caroline was not present but sent out an e-mail ahead of the meeting. Articles are due by March 10. We discussed the quality of Newsletter photos. Caroline suggested using a link to the Newsletter rather than attaching it to the e-mail. The Board decided to keep it attached to the e-mail but to provide a link to a higher resolution copy on the webpage. Peter suggested we prepare a *Ke/seya* article to honor lifetime members and list them and use this to encourage more lifetime members.

### **Webmaster's Report – Bob Person**

Everything is going fine. Peter will try to get presenters at the Plant Conservation Conference to submit their PowerPoint presentations in PDF format to the website.

## **Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Nominations-** Dave reported that Patrick and Karen have decided to run again for secretary and vice president respectively. Wayne Phillips would like someone else to be Eastern-at-Large representative. Several possible candidates were suggested. The ballot has to be in the Newsletter by March 10.

**Awards-** Peter reported that the committee has received two nominations.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Small Grants Committee – Dave Hanna for Linda Lyon**

Linda sent an e-mail report to Dave. Five proposals have been received. The committee will have a conference call on February 25 to develop their recommended projects for the Board. The Board will decide by e-mail by end of first week of March. Drake will talk to Linda about excusing herself from scoring on one project, but scoring the other project proposals.

### **Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica**

The Plant Conservation Conference was a success with about 70 present. There were some good presentations and some useful dialogue on getting more data submitted on species of concern.

### **Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Kathy Settevendemie**

Not present. The Landscape Committee has created the MNPS Garden Awards program to recognize outstanding native plant gardens throughout Montana. Comments and revisions from the Board helped to shape the program. Information on the Garden Awards program is now posted on the MNPS website.

## **Areas-at-Large**

### **Eastern-at-Large – Wayne Phillips**

Not present-sick.

### **Western-At-Large – Judy Hutchins**

Not present. Judy and Peter are considering another field trip in May 2012.

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Calypso Chapter – Not present**

The Chapter is very active.

### **Clark Fork Chapter – Peter Lesica**

As usual, the Chapter has many activities. Planning the annual meeting and plant sale. The gardeners are active.

### **Flathead Chapter – Jennifer Hintz**

Jennifer reported Maria gave a good presentation on the Legacy Project. They had presentation by Native Ideals Seed Farm. They will have a silent auction on D. Strickler's books.

### **Kelsey Chapter – Kathy Lloyd**

Kathy reported they had asters workshop and program on myrtle family. They will have program on native landscaping, and a talk by Wayne on Yellowstone flora. They have reserved Camp Rotary in Monarch for the 2013 annual meeting.

### **Maka Flora – Not present**

Beth Madden has retired and Libby Knotts will be new president.

### **Valley of Flowers – Joanne Jennings absent**

Cathie Jean reported on the Chapter activities. They need a new president.

### **Other Business**

Peter gave an update on the new Flora of Montana. The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) will publish, market, and distribute. The book will be backpack sized and will be about 750 pages long and cost about \$50 retail.

Peter is working on a MNPS grant proposal to the Cinnabar Foundation for funding to help pay for the copy editing and indexing (\$5,000). He will donate \$2,500 to MNPS and the grant would cover the other \$2,500. MNPS will have to produce a small page for the ConserveMontana website before submitting the proposal. The proposal is due by the end of March and needs to be in a Facebook-like format for the Cinnabar ConserveMontana webpage.

BRIT will have 1,500 books printed. The publisher requires that the publishing cost of the books (\$21,500) be paid for up front. Peter proposed that he would pay for half the books and MNPS would pay for the other half. MNPS and Peter would recoup the publishing costs in royalties after approximately eight years when all the books have sold. All we have now is a draft proposal from BRIT; the numbers could change somewhat in the contract between BRIT, MNPS, and Peter.

We could buy for our members at wholesale price and sell at a discount to our members. The Board members present felt that supporting the publication of the Flora was a great opportunity to advance the Society's mission, and agreed to add a line item to the budget for half the cost of publishing the books (\$11,000). The Board members also decided to add a line item to the budget for \$2,500 to purchase and get 100 books shipped to MNPS for members and events. The revised budget will be sent out and the other Board members can vote on whether they approve these proposed expenditures.

**Secretary's Notes: The Board Members at the Meeting reviewed the minutes for errors which have been corrected.**

**A draft of the proposed decisions that all Board Members must make after the meeting was sent out and a quorum replied affirmatively by February 29, 2012.**

**1) The revised Fall Board Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2011 were reviewed and approved as revised.**

**2) The revised Record Retention Schedule was reviewed and approved as revised.**

**3) The Board members approved paying for publishing half of the 1,500 copies of the Flora of Montana books: This line item for \$11,000 was added to the revised 2012 MNPS Budget.**

**4) The Board members approved the budget line item for adding the purchase and shipping of about 100 copies (\$2,500) of the Flora of Montana for use by the MNPS for sale to its members and at events in 2012 and beyond.**

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