

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
November 9, 2013**

Attendees: Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Bob Person, Anne Garde, Joanne Jennings, Jenny Tollefson (on phone), Madeline Mazurski, Peter Lesica, Patrick Plantenberg, Jen Hintz (on phone), Cathie Jean, Caroline Kurtz, Karen Shelly, Kelly Upright, and Kathy Settevendemie.

President's Report – Kathy Settevendemie

Kathy welcomed everyone and asked for additions to the agenda. Dave Hanna will send out a Doodle Poll to select a Spring Board meeting date.

Vice President's Report – Karen Shelly

Karen announced she has finished her thesis summarizing plant information from surveyor data. She summarized the 45 questions received on the web site in the past year. She produced a map of members by county. We discussed adding a map to the Newsletter showing chapter area by counties.

Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg

Patrick will send a thank you note to WESTECH for letting us use their office and phone. Patrick asked for updates to the address list. The minutes from the Summer 2013 Board meeting were approved as corrected. Patrick discussed MNPS pins for sale to members. He will bring 2-3 examples to the next meeting with a cost estimate. Patrick will update and convert the MNPS Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines Manual to a PDF version this winter.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson

Jenny submitted an annual balance statement, a 2013 budget summary, and a 2014 proposed budget summary. Board members discussed how to handle the Flora line item. Only 200 copies are left. Suggested changes were made to several line items in the proposed budget. Jen will produce a revised budget and send it to all Board members.

Newsletter Editor Report – Caroline Kurtz

Caroline reported that ½ of the Newsletters are now distributed electronically. December 10 is the deadline for the next newsletter. She is trying to work with Jean Pfeiffer to make a new MNPS logo that will work for black and white as well as color copies. She would like all members to suggest new publications and native plant related apps for discussion and review in the newsletter.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean

MNPS had 589 members (last year's total was 613) including 450 households, 208 electronic newsletter recipients, and 24 in state At-Large members. She suggested simplifying membership options to chapter member, at-large member, and living lightly member. The Board will not make any changes until the new

membership brochures are gone. She will review exchange members. She suggested listing events in the newsletter on a regional basis. Cathie would like to step down as membership chair in one year.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Bob has included links to other NPS's on the website. He added a link to the Flathead Chapter landscape packet on the Flathead Chapter web page. He will do electronic registration for the Plant Conservation Conference on the webpage. The Clark Fork Chapter has a Facebook page. The Board discussed potentially making it a statewide page. No decision was reached.

2014 Annual Meeting Update - Valley of Flowers Chapter-Joanne Jennings

Meeting is set for June 27-29, 2014 in the Paradise Valley at Luccock Park. The theme will be Fire and Ice. An educational component is being considered. The use of the annual meeting planning notebooks was discussed.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee- Peter Lesica and Dave Hanna will lead. Vice President, Secretary, and Eastern-at-Large offices are up for grabs.

Awards Committee – Cathie Jean and Kathy S will lead.

Small Grants Committee – Linda Lyon sent report to Kathy S

No articles have been submitted on past projects yet. \$2,000 was approved for next year's budget. Photos of past projects are needed.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica

Peter discussed the letter the committee sent on the two BLM Management Plans he reviewed. He commented that the US Department of Agriculture is still transporting plants into the Western US that are invasive. MNPS and five other native plant societies sent a letter to ARS. We have not yet had a reply. No botanist has been hired by the Heritage Program. He suggested getting letters from consultants to support hiring a botanist.

The Plant Conservation Conference is scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2014 at MSU. The committee has decided on pollination as a major theme. Terry Griswold from Utah will be the keynote speaker. Costs include \$800 to cover travel costs for the speaker, and \$600 for MSU.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Clare Beelman (not present) and Madeline Mazurski

The new co-chairs were nominated and approved by the Board. Madeline discussed the potential of MNPS license plates. It would cost \$4,000 for set up fees. She will get more information from other groups that have tried it. We

discussed surveying members. The committee would like to update the Source Guide. Other publication information on the website probably also needs to be updated. The committee would like to review all native plant gardens funded by MNPS. What makes them successful? They would use the information to put together a publication. They asked for \$300 for gas money. The money was approved.

Other Business

Satellite Chapters - Madeline submitted a proposal based on at-large chapters. The Board approved a 1-year trial run for the Lincoln satellite group to work with the Clark Fork Chapter.

Future of Annual Meeting - Kathy L is concerned that annual meetings may be getting too complex. The Board discussed leaving it up to the Chapter to design the type of meeting they can handle. The Board suggested introducing new members at the annual meeting.

Update Board Manual – Will be done this winter.

Proposed Book on Botanical Explorations in Montana – Peter reviewed the history of the project. Rachel Potter and Peter will work on it. They may ask MNPS to help with funding.

Heritage Program Botanist- Have members contact State Librarian.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana - Dave Shea

Dave led a hike to Ear Mountain, Yeager Flats, and Preston Park.

Western Montana- Jon Reny

Jon is distributing Newsletters in Libby. He will have Peter lead a hike in northwest Montana. He will lead a wildflower walk and have a plant id contest.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Kelly Upright

They will have a pot luck planning meeting in December. The new Butte Extension Agent, Kelly Anderson, is a MSU Horticulture graduate. They will try to get her involved in Chapter activities.

Clark Fork - Anne Garde and Madeline Mazurski

They continue with monthly meetings at U of M. They had one in November at the Montana Natural History Center. Madeline will be speaking on arctic plants. They have a Facebook page. The Clark Fork Chapter Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter>) has information for 2013 field trips, including photos and maps for each trip. This page provides details for all Chapter events and can be viewed by the public. Ken Stolz, Tarn Ream, Marirose Spade Kulhman, and Clare Beelman update this page.

They have a seed swap, a Christmas party, and a plant keying workshop. The Native Plant Sale has been reorganized to spread out the labor. The sale will be held at the end of May. They still maintain the Native Plant Garden at the U of M. They are working on a kiosk on Mount Sentinel. They are working with a potential satellite chapter in Lincoln.

Flathead Chapter- Jen Hintz

They have a potluck planning session scheduled. They have started planning the 2015 annual meeting to be held in the Swan Valley.

Kelsey Chapter – Kathy Lloyd has stepped down as President after 17 years. The future of the Chapter was discussed. The Chapter is having a Christmas potluck again at Bob Persons house. They will discuss getting volunteers to do simple functions as a start.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts

The chapter is not very active. They had a June Ft. Peck meeting.

Valley of Flowers – Joanne Jennings

They have worked on a pollinator garden. Pete Husby is scheduled to talk. Gretchen Rupp is leading the charge on the Annual Meeting.

Wrap Up

Review and Finalize Budget

Changes were made to the budget including raising the Landscape Committee funding to \$500. Jen will handle the Flora issue. The Newsletter costs were revised downward.

Spring Board Meeting Topics

Patrick will bring MNPS pin estimates. Madeline will discuss license plates again. The native landscape garden tour will be discussed. The Under 40 Ad Hoc Committee will be discussed. We need to talk to young members at the annual meeting.

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