

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
November 15, 2014**

Attendees: Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Bob Person, Madeline Mazurski, Patrick Plantenberg, Cathie Jean (on phone), Karen Shelly, Karen Porter, Gretchen Rupp, Betty Kuropat, Peter Lesica, Rachael Potter, Jon Reny, Mary Rose Kuhlman, and Kathy Settevendemie.

Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements- Kathy Settevendemie

Kathy welcomed everyone and asked for additions to the agenda.

Vice President's Report – Karen Shelly

Karen had nothing to report

Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg

Patrick apologized for losing the summer meeting notes. Patrick asked for updates to the address list. Patrick and Bob Person met yesterday to discuss how to set up electronic searchable PDF version of MNPS Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines Manual. He will work on this this week and will asking for updates from some Board members. . No by-law changes were identified. Patrick will send out a list of *Ke/seya* contents before December 10th. Patrick will send a thank you note to WESTECH for letting us use their office and phone.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson submitted report by e-mail

Jenny submitted an annual balance statement as of 11/15/14, and a 2014 budget summary. Some questions were discussed about the Budget Summary. The Flora deficit is not really true. Suggested changes were made to several line items for the proposed 2015 budget.

Proposed Income: Membership was changed to \$6,350; The Annual Meeting 2015 line item was kept at \$12,000;

Proposed Expenses: Membership was changed to \$300; Newsletter was increased to \$5,500; Awards were increased to \$600; Small Grants were increased to \$4,500; Herbarium donation was removed; MT Audubon was increased to \$500; Annual Meeting Expenses were changed to \$12,000; and the line items for the Plant Conservation Conference and Flora of Montana were removed.

Newsletter Editor Report – Kathy S. reported for Lisa Hensley

The deadline for the *Ke/seya* is December 10. Caroline will be gone until Christmas so she will not be able to produce the Winter Newsletters. Lisa will produce the newsletter in her absence. Peter passed around a list of potential articles and authors for others to add to. It was also suggested to propose some

themes for articles. We will make Caroline aware of this list of authors and articles. Chapter Presidents and Board members will solicit articles from potential authors in their areas and ask them to submit articles to Caroline. Make sure Caroline and Lisa get courtesy copies of the Newsletter to Bob and Cathie Jean as soon as they are published so they can do their jobs.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean and Marirose Kuhlman

Cathie reported that we have 522 members. The end of December will be the final number for the year. Cathie and Marirose explained their co-chair duties. Marirose is updating the databases in Excel and Google Drive in the Cloud. They will keep records for two years. Cathie is doing labels, etc. and doing some QA/QC. The Board decided they don't need access as long as Cathie and Marirose can provide data when needed. Access info will be given to Betty Kuropat for the annual meeting. Having 'real time' access will help the annual meeting registration committee because they often have need of up to date contact info from the membership list.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

The webpage just keeps rolling along. 250 people are following the Facebook page. Bob discussed alternate hosting and trouble with links. The links problem is temporary. Bob will check into an alternate format to ensure better use by smartphone users. He will use less words and more photos.

2015 Annual Meeting Update – Flathead Chapter-Betty Kuropat and Rachel Potter

Meeting is set for June 26-28, 2015 at the Loon Lake 4H camp at Ferndale near Bigfork. The camp does not allow alcohol so the Friday night pot luck will be at Marias house near the Camp. Parking is limited so some people may want to park at Maria Mantas's house and carpooling to the meeting from afar is strongly encouraged. We may need special event insurance. The Board suggested paying up to \$1,000 for insurance if it covers field trips and is warranted. Educational components are planned. The chapter is planning youth activities. The Board approved a \$12,000 budget with \$2,500 upfront. Note: Betty subsequently asked for \$5,000 upfront (Patrick Plantenberg 12/1/2014).

The Board discussed the joint June 24-26, 2016 annual meeting with the American Penstemon Society in the Dillon area.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee -

Elections will be for President, Treasurer, and Western at Large representative. Karen Shelly and Gretchen Rupp will be on the committee

Awards Committee - Bob, Rachel, and Maria Mantas awards. Patrick will pass on the list of past award winners to Kathy S.

Marketing Committee – The committee includes Bob, Madeline, Patrick, Karen Shelly, Clare, and Jess Brewer. The committee is looking for logos, pins, and other marketing ideas that will make MNPS recognizable, and deliver a consistent appearance.

Small Grants Committee – Betty Kuropat

The committee met at the Annual meeting and discussed changes to the guidelines. Grants will be due by January 31. The committee will accept e-mail applications only. Betty is ensuring consistency between the guidelines and By-laws. The Board discussed grants for maintenance of old versus applications for new gardens. Numbers were set at grants up to \$1500 and a total of up to \$4500 for grants each year. Betty is updating the history of past projects funded since 1996. This information will be posted on the website. Betty discussed the status of the 2014 grants. The MT Natural History Center grant for restrooms is completed. The restrooms were needed to fulfill the mission of the Center. Elizabeth Pansing was to work on whitebark pine but has not been heard from. Betty will send one last e-mail.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica

ARS Meeting: Peter discussed the coalition of native plant societies that formed to stop ARS from introducing new plants with the potential to become invasive species like forage kochia. Peter attended a meeting in October in Central WA and he requested \$38 in reimbursement for his trip.

Montana Botanists Book: Peter discussed the series of articles on Montana botanists that will be compiled into a Montana Plant Hunters book. The committee hopes to have the text finished this winter. Then they have to get illustrations and do layout and copy editing. There is no decision yet on where to publish. Gertrude Norton is the only woman botanist in the book.

Plant Conservation Conference in 2016: subject will be molecular methods in plant conservation. Fred Allendorf has been approached to speak. The conference will be held in Missoula in 2016.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Clare Beelman and Madeline Mazurski

The committee has been visiting and reviewing native plant gardens funded by MNPS and others. Maintenance is a problem.

Clare and Madeline will be speaking the night before our next Board meeting in Helena to the Kelsey Chapter. The Board discussed redoing the MNPS brochure this year. The new membership brochure was taken on by the membership committee (Cathie Jean).

Other Business

Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge- The Board discussed a proposal from Bob Danley to restore pollinator forb species on 50 acres on the refuge. 2000 acres on the refuge, and 4000 acres on private land. The project was handed off to the Clark Fork Chapter. There was a strong suggestion by some that the Refuge start small.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana – Jennifer Lyman

Former Eastern at Large Rep, Dave Shea set up two field trips but one was cancelled.

Western Montana- Jon Reny

Jon reported that they had one trip in northwestern Montana. Two people on the trip want to form a Troy Chapter. They are planning another trip to Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge 30 miles west of Kalispell. The Flathead Chapter would like to co-host or coordinate on this.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Karen Porter

Karen reported on their gardening with natives workshop in Divide. They also maintain a garden on Helena Street in Dillon. They had field trips to ringing rocks, the Rochester Basin, Badger Pass, Bighole Pass, and Brandon Lakes. They are also planning the 2016 annual meeting.

Clark Fork – Anne Garde and Madeline Mazurski

They continue with monthly meetings at U of M. They are planning their spring plant sale. They are working on a kiosk on Mount Sentinel. The native garden at the university looks great. They had field trips including one on orchids.

Flathead Chapter- Betty Kuropat and Rachel Potter

They are busy planning the 2015 annual meeting. They had a winter shrub keying field trip. They will have a planning meeting in January. For a number of years, the Flathead Chapter has delegated program speaker contact duties to various members, something that has worked very well.

Kelsey Chapter – Patrick Plantenberg is planning programs and Bob Person is planning field trips. Kathy Lloyd is President again. They will have a Holiday Potluck at the Dive Bakery. Scott Mincemoyer will be doing a warm season grass herbarium night at Carroll College. They will have a winter botany field trip. The chapter works with the MT Discovery Foundation on programs.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts (not present)

No report

Valley of Flowers – Gretchen Rupp

They had a great annual meeting. They maintain the Langhor Pollinator Garden, and weed an expansive road cut above Kagy Blvd. They will have a Holiday Pot Luck. They had a plant collecting and pressing workshop. They had 4 programs and a tour of the herbarium at MSU. In the spring, Kathy Settevendemie will present a program on native plant propagation. The chapter is considering supporting two local projects with labor, expertise or funding: a restoration project on Mandeville Spring Creek that runs through the Bozeman High school campus, and/or a Pollinator Garden on the grounds of the MSU Horticultural Farm.

Wrap Up

Review and Finalize Budget

Changes were approved to the budget as listed above in the Secretary's Report.

Spring Board Meeting

February 28

Adjourn

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