

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
February 28, 2015**

Attendees: Rachel Potter, Betty Kuropat, Caroline Kurtz, Jenny Tollefson (on phone) Karen Porter, Cathie Jean Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Bob Person, Patrick Plantenberg, Karen Shelly, Clare Beelman, Gretchen Rupp, 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 said the only comments she has received is “Where is my Newsletter?”.

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 Fall 2014 Board meeting were approved as corrected. Patrick will get the election ballot and biographies of the candidates in the *Ke/seya*. No by-law changes were identified on job sharing, procedures for future unanticipated expenditures. Everything is working now. Just make sure we are transparent. Next year add to nominating committee list, in manual, and on ballot that teams can run.

Patrick will finish converting the MNPS Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines Manual to a PDF version after he loads adobe on his computer. He will check if Rachel and Tara are on list.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson

Jenny submitted an annual balance statement for 2014, and a 2015 budget summary for review and approval. Jenny revised the budget format. Suggested changes were made to two line items in the proposed budget. \$500 was added for website upgrades. We need to upgrade PayPal account to handle donations. Jen was asked why we are in the red? Membership is down. Marketing committee will help the situation.

A discussion ensued on our fiscal policy. We need to use money wisely. We don't have a long-term plan. We should consider a numeric threshold to hold in reserve. We could apply for a grant for capacity building next year. January is the deadline. We should use free resources first. Brainstorming is needed first. A committee is needed. Sound out the proposal at the annual meeting. We need to develop a Dream List of Products.

\$1000 was approved for Audubon lobbying efforts. Jen will produce a revised budget and send it to all Board members. U of M herbarium donation will continue.

The Board discussed Catherine Zimmerman's Hometown Habitat film. The Board approved \$500 to support the film.

Newsletter Editor Report – Caroline Kurtz

Lisa Hensley is stepping down this summer. Caroline has some templates for MNPS. Caroline has some contacts to replace Lisa. Caroline will contact potential replacements for Lisa. Caroline would like to step down too in the future. The deadline for the *Kelseya* is March 10. The Field trip Flyer deadline is April 10. The Montana Women articles are due March 4.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean

2104 Membership 610 plus 44 = 654. She will check into having Printing for Less do labels for Newsletter. How do we improve membership? Do we need to offer multi-year memberships? Do a flip chart blog. Put Chapter websites in membership brochure. We need to survey members to try and improve membership. Put something in the *Kelseya*. What is good? What is needed? Cathie will send a proposal for the Newsletter to the Board for approval. Clare reported we had 500 likes on Facebook.

Gretchen Rupp will compose and mount a short Internet survey for members, to sound them out about the value they see in MNPS and what additional activities they would appreciate.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Bob checked the CEDAR Mountain server software to see if it is compatible with smartphones. We also discussed the pdf problems on the CEDAR Mountain software. Bob indicated we may need \$600 to get webpage compatible with smartphones.

2015 Annual Meeting Update - Flathead Chapter- Meeting is set for June 26-28, 2014 in Ferndale at Loon Lake. Educational components are planned. The chapter is trying to stimulate family attendance and youth activities with subsidies. The Board approved the program flyer with some revisions and the budget without a subsidy from the Chapter. They are printing T-shirts again.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee- Gretchen and Karen Shelly

Kathy Settevendemie will run for President, Jenny Tollefson will run for Treasurer with Shannon Kimball as Co-chairs, and Jon Reny will run for Western-at-Large Representative. Patrick will get bios for the election ballot from Gretchen. Karen will get Jon Reny's bio.

Awards Committee – Bob, Rachel, and Betty are discussing potential awards. April 15 award nominations due.

Marketing Committee-Clare and Madeline discussed progress on marketing and branding. The Board approved consistent naming protocols for the Society and Chapters to be used in public announcements and our public outreach tools. The Board approved the committee's recommendation for "Montana Native Plant Society, Maka Flora/ Flathead/ etc. Chapter". No acronyms will be used. We need to write a letter to the Chapters with this change.

The Board also approved another recommendation from the Committee to fund a design person to develop templates for the State and Chapters for consistent and readable information dissemination.

The Board is impressed with the progress made by the committee and empowered the committee to continue developing recommendations for Board approval.

Small Grants Committee – Betty Kuropat

The committee recommended approving 4 grants totaling \$4104. An MSU Pollinator Garden was approved if we get a more complete species list. A U of M proposal on the Efficacy of Herbicides was approved for \$1145. An MSU Assembly of Pollinator Network after Wildfire was approved for \$1459. The Audubon Center proposal for a \$1000 Pollinator Garden was approved for \$500. We need a species list.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Karen Shelly reported for Peter Lesica

Karen reported on the Montana Botanist Book, correspondence, and the 2016 Conservation Conference for Peter. Karen Shelly will get Patrick a copy for the minutes.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Clare Beelman and Madeline Mazurski

Madeline is stepping off this committee to chair the Marketing Committee. The committee will be reviewing all native plant gardens funded by MNPS (about 15). They visited some last year from Helena to Billings and will visit more this year. They will be reporting preliminary findings to the Kelsey Chapter on April 15th. The common challenge is maintenance. To be successful it appears one person must have the passion to keep the garden maintained.

Clare suggested we change the duties of the Landscape/Revegetation Committee and the Ad Hoc Marketing Committee.

Other Business

Recruitment: need tactics. Use brochures to get message out.

Herbariums: We have \$5800 in an endowment. The Clark Fork Chapter gives \$1000 to U of M herbarium. Do we need to support MSU Herbarium? What happens when Matt Lavin retires? Ask Matt about what to do.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana – Jennifer Lyman, not present. Jennifer had a field trip to the Pryors. Will have another trip to the Beartooth later this summer with Peter. Check the Pryor Coalition website. She sent a letter to BLM Partner's Meeting March 10 in Omaha.

Western Montana- Jon Reny (not present)

He will have Peter lead a hike in northwest Montana to Lost Prairie.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Karen Porter

Karen reported on their planned landscaping workshop April 4 in Divide. They have trips planned to Branson Lake, the Pipestone area, Goat Flats, and Vipond Park. They are also planning the 2016 annual meeting.

Clark Fork – Clare Beelman

They are planning their spring native plant sale May 27th. They have a Facebook page. They will start field trips in April. Some events planned include MT Land Reliance Trip to Ninemile Cedars, and a Rogers Pass Lewis and Clark Trip with Wayne Phillips.

Flathead Chapter- Rachel Potter

They are busy with the 2015 annual meeting planning to be held in the Swan Valley. They have field trips planned in coordination with MT Wilderness Association, Audubon, etc. They are going to the Larch Arboretum which is a Crown of the Continent site. They will have trips to a cushion plant community and will work on leafy spurge plots in May. They have a mussels talk planned and herbarium nights planned on lichens and *Erigerons*.

Kelsey Chapter – Patrick Plantenberg and Bob Person are planning Chapter events. Kathy Lloyd is President again. Andrea Pipp put on a winter shrub identification class attended by 30 people and a winter shrub id snowshoe trip. Scott Mincemoyer will do a herbarium night on warm season grasses. April 15th Madeline and Clare will present preliminary findings on their native plant garden tour. They also have field trips planned to view *Kelseya uniflora*, orchids, and later this summer to Red Mountain.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts (not present and no report)

Valley of Flowers – Gretchen Rupp

They have monthly meetings. They are working on a project providing plant materials at Bozeman High School to restore the stream channel through the campus. Hal Hunter gave a talk on the poor condition of range near Yellowstone. Tad Weaver gave a talk on his 40 years' of tracking the plant community in a meadow in the bangtails. In April, Kathy Settevendemie will lead a workshop on saving, processing and planting native seeds, and the chapter will have a weed pull and a spring cleanup session at the Pollinator Garden by Langhor Park.

Kathy Settevendemie gave a talk saving seeds and propagating natives to 80 people. They also will have a seed exchange. Tad Weaver gave a talk on his exclosures in the bangtails. Linda Iverson gave a talk on maintenance of native gardens.

They have six trips planned to places like a cushion plant community and to Copper City.

Wrap Up

Review and Finalize Budget

Changes were approved to the budget including \$1,000 to Audubon, upgrading PayPal, printing newsletter in Livingston, printing mailing labels at the new printer, up to \$600 for updating website, \$104 extra dollars for Small Grants, and \$500 donation to Catherine Zimmerman.

Summer Board Meeting was set at 4:30 on Friday afternoon, June 26. Get reports if you can't attend to Kathy Settevendemie.

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