

**MNPS Board Meeting
Lewis and Clark Library, Helena, MT
February 26, 2011**

Attendees: Susan Winslow, Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Peter Lesica, Joanne Jennings, Beth Madden, Patrick Plantenberg, Caroline Kurtz, Jenny Tollefson, Jennifer Hintz, Bob Person, H. Wayne Phillips, Cathie Jean, Karen Porter, Kelly Upright, Drake Barton, and Karen Shelly

President's Report – Dave Hanna

Dave welcomed everyone and introductions followed. The spring 2011 Board meeting is scheduled for Friday night, June 17, 2011 at Camp Needmore in the Ekalaka Hills.

Vice President's Report – Karen Shelly

Karen asked if MNPS wants ads on the website. The Board decided not at this time. Karen continues to work on Important Plant Communities. She reported the results of the November Committee meeting. The committee nominated the Bent Flat Fen in Flathead National Forest. The committee needs to develop a classification system and an ecoregional approach. They are currently using Baileys' Ecoregions. The minutes of the meeting have a first draft of the classification criteria. Karen will send the draft minutes to all Board members.

Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg

Patrick circulated the address list for updates. The Board discussed the 2010 Fall Board Meeting minutes and they will be corrected to indicate the Membership Chair will distribute the electronic Newsletter. No by-law or policy changes were identified. Patrick will search the By-Laws to see if any changes are needed to allow Chapters to apply for grants under the state MNPS 501(c)(3) umbrella. Record retention time was discussed at the meeting. Dave will check on how long we have to keep records before they can be disposed of. Several Board members went over old MNPS records after the meeting. The Secretary will keep the consolidated records after the purge is completed.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson

Jenny passed out the final MNPS 2010 Budget Summary, the proposed MNPS 2011 Budget Summary, and the Annual Balance Statement as of 12/31/2010. It appears we lost \$600 in 2010. Peter questioned how we lost \$600 and still increased our total assets between \$3,000 and \$4,000. We have almost \$42,000 in our accounts and are in good shape. Jenny will check to ensure the numbers are correct.

The proposed 2011 budget was discussed and revised throughout the meeting. Membership expenses were raised from \$500 to \$650. The Small Grants Fund was decreased from \$2,500 to \$2,400. Two new lines will be added for the

Chapter grant applications. Jenny will revise the budget and send corrected versions to the Board. Jenny is tracking PayPal expenses.

Two Chapters are applying for grants and need the state MNPS 501(c)(3) status. This could affect our IRS status. Patrick will check the By-Laws for any language that may deal with this issue. The Board decided that Chapters that apply for grants need Board approval. The grant money will come to the state MNPS Treasurer and the money will be reimbursed to the Chapter after the final report is submitted. The local Chapters will be responsible for bookkeeping and reporting on the grants. These grants will be added to the State MNPS budget for reporting purposes. The state will ask the Chapters to report yearly income and expenses minus membership money received from the State MNPS. The reports will be due by January 31st. These Chapter assets will be included in our IRS reporting.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean

To date 102 members have indicated they would like electronic copies of the Newsletter. This is about 20% of the membership. To date only about 50% of the members have renewed. Cathie Jean expects we will end up with about 150 electronic copy requests. Caroline will track potential savings by printing less and the savings on postage. Cathie Jean will send out cards or put an article in Newsletter to cover exchange members. The Board discussed whether we should send out electronic copies to everyone or just electronic copies to those that have requested electronic copies. Cathie Jean will do whatever is easiest.

We currently have 507 memberships including families, 247 have renewed, 50 used PayPal, and 34 used electronic. Chapter Membership includes Calypso 40, Flathead 70, Maka Flora 24, Kelsey 76, Valley of Flowers 71, and Clark Fork 149. Peter will send out a renewal card in March.

Cathie discussed using our website host Cedar Mountain to manage our membership database. Advantages would be that all information would be in one place. It appears to be cheap. Would the Chapters use it? The Webmaster likes the idea. Cathie will research some more and present a proposal in the Fall to the Board.

2011 Annual Meeting Update – Beth Madden for the Maka Flora Chapter

Beth updated the Board on Annual Meeting developments. Beth will finalize and get the registration form in the Newsletter by March 10th. The registration will be \$50 with \$10 added for the Saturday meal. Camping and cabins are included in the registration. The Chapter will be using PayPal registration and they will set up their own account. Insurance won't be needed for the facility. The Chapter is asking for \$3,000 from the state. The Flathead Chapter has a microphone system and the PowerPoint projector. Silent auction items are needed. They will offer free registration for some of the local landowners. Maka Flora is applying to Town Pump for a grant for 100 car wash coupons to ensure cars are washed

before traveling to Ekalaka. Each attendee will get stickers for cars to show they have been washed. Cars that haven't been washed won't be used for field trip vehicles. Wayne will help with press releases to local papers in Eastern Montana. The Board reviewed some draft wood cut drawings to be used for T-shirts etc.

Newsletter Editor Report-Caroline Kurtz

Caroline apologized for the Newsletters being a little late. Articles are due by March 10.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

The website is looking good. Bob asked the Chapters to check their pages to ensure the links are working.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominations

The offices of President, Treasurer, and Western Representative at-Large are up for election. Dave Hanna, Jenny T. and Judy H. will run again.

Awards

Patrick and Joanne solicited nominations for Awards in the *Winter Kelsey*. No nominations have been brought forward to date. Please contact Patrick and Joanne if you have any ideas soon.

Standing Committee Reports

Small Grants Committee – Drake Barton

The Committee asked the Board to fund one education and one research proposal. The Committee had twelve proposals this year. The Board approved a \$900 education project at Glacier High School to replace some plants that died in the October 2009 cold snap. The project was approved with the request that water be limited after establishment to avoid sending the wrong message about native plant landscaping. The second proposal approved was a \$1,000 graduate research proposal from Edith Dooley to research the interrelationships of blister rust infection and mountain pine beetle productivity.

The Committee would like to develop different guidelines for the education and research proposals. The 2010 Eva Mason project is completed. The 2010 Peas project payment of \$500 will be extended into 2011.

Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica

There will be no Rare Plant Conference in 2011. The 2012 Conference will be on climate change effects and will be in Helena. The morning session will be on effects. The afternoon session will be on "What can we do?" The second day will include threat assessment and IPAs.

The Important Plant Areas Review Committee met on nominations for new Important Plant Areas. Four potential areas were identified: St. Mary's Peak, Two in southern Beaverhead County (Centennial Valley Sandhills and a wetland complex), and an area near Powderville. The Powderville area has not been completely surveyed. The survey may be done at the annual meeting using MNPS Annual Meeting attendees. Several areas have private land. MNPS needs to notify the landowners. The Committee is drafting a letter that will stress that recognition is an award for good stewardship or something to that effect. No maps will be on the website for IPA that include private land.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Caroline for Kathy Settevendemie (who is traveling in La Serena without benefit of clergy)

Caroline circulated a draft MNPS brochure from Kathy S. Several corrections were noted on the form. The Board approved a budget of \$1,000 to produce the brochure at the last meeting. The Board would like to get 500-1,000 copies depending on cost.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern-at-Large – Wayne Phillips

Wayne will lead a field trip on the Bill Milton Ranch near Roundup after the annual meeting. The trip will be probably on Sunday morning.

Western-At-Large – Judy Hutchins absent

Chapter Reports

Calypso Chapter – Karen Porter and Kelly Upright for Catherine Cain

The Chapter has \$924 in its Treasury. On April 2 they will have their Native Plant Landscaping Workshop. On April 15th they will have a weed symposium in Butte.

Clark Fork Chapter – Peter Lesica

Peter reported they have \$15,000. Their income may be dropping as they may not be having the weed pulls and native plant sales in the future. Anne Garde and Madeline Mazurski will be co-presidents. They are applying for a grant from Captain Planet for \$2,500 to develop some trunks with a weed curriculum. Next year's annual meeting will be the Lubrect Forest in the last weekend in June. Trips will concentrate in the Ovando Valley- the Valley of the Knobs as called by Lewis and Clark.

Flathead Chapter – Jennifer Hintz

Jennifer reported they have \$3,400. There are working on a Whitefish Trail Project and have finished updating their landscape packet. Chris Peterson will give a presentation on 100 days in Glacier. Lindsey Bengtson from the USGS will give a program on high elevation plant monitoring correlated with climate

change. They also will have a booth at the Forestry Expo again this year. They are digitizing photos.

Kelsey Chapter – Kathy Lloyd

Kathy reported they have \$6,000. The Heritage Program is digitizing Drake's photos of the Mount Helena plant collection for the Lewis and Clark Library website. They have programs by Matt Lavin on Sagebrush Steppe, Dean Pearson on Exotics, and Celestine Duncan on aquatic invasives.

Maka Flora – Beth Madden

No more to add.

Valley of Flowers – Joanne Jennings

The Chapter continues to have programs. Joanne reported that Cathie Jean did a program on Yellowstone. They had a virtual trip on California Mohave plants by Tom from the Lewis and Clark Caverns. Susan is going to give a program on the plant materials program. They will have their annual clean up day again in Bozeman.

Other Business

Dave reported that Jim Locklear has written about phloxes of North America. He is from Lincoln, NE and may want to do some programs.

Peter gave an update on the new Flora of Montana. Dave used the key in 2010 and identified some issues. The key will be used for one more field season. Peter may be applying to The Cinnabar Foundation for money to publish the Flora. Peter will match the grant. The Board offered to help and Peter refused the help. The Missouri Botanical Garden can't get it done in a reasonable timeframe. Peter may look to the U of Washington Press, Oregon State University Press, or the University of Montana Press. The Flora may be done in 2012.

Wrap Up – Dave Hanna

The Board reviewed and approved all the proposed changes to the budgets and Jenny T. will send out revised copies to all. Dave asked for summer 2011 Board meeting topics.

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