

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
March 8, 2014**

Attendees: Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Bob Person, Joanne Jennings, Madeline Mazurski, Patrick Plantenberg, Jen Hintz (on phone), Karen Shelly, Kelly Upright, Clare Beelman, Gretchen Rupp, Drake Barton, 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 discussed the 45 questions received on the web site in the past year. No requests yet on where to find flowers blooming. The Board discussed putting species lists and flower times on website. Clare and Kathy will work on it.

Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg

Patrick will send a thank you note to WESTECH for letting us use their office and phone. Patrick thanked Kathy S. for speaking at the Kelsey Chapter meeting last night; 90 people attended her talk on Native Plant Landscaping. Patrick asked for updates to the address list. The minutes from the Fall 2013 Board meeting were approved as corrected. Patrick will update and convert the MNPS Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines Manual to a PDF version this spring after he retires. No by-law changes were identified. Patrick will get the election ballot and biographies of the candidates in the *Kelsey*.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson

Jenny submitted an annual balance statement as of 3/1/14, and a 2014 budget summary. Suggested changes were made to two line items in the proposed budget. Madeline wanted to know what line item contained the money for the proposed garden tours her and Clare are doing this spring and summer. The Board discussed the proposed plan for Valley of Flowers to supplement the Annual Meeting budget. The Valley of Flowers want to encourage families to attend the meeting. The Board asked Gretchen to change the proposed budget to show a loss. The Annual Meeting does not have to make money. The Board encouraged Gretchen to pay for a group to do the children's activities if needed. Jen will produce a revised budget and send it to all Board members.

Newsletter Editor Report – Kathy S. reported for Caroline Kurtz

The deadline for the *Ke/seya* is March 10. The Field trip Flyer deadline is April 10. Caroline will be gone from early August until Christmas so she will not be able to produce the Fall and Winter Newsletters. Lisa will produce the newsletters in her absence. 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 sent in a report

Cathie would like to step down as membership chair in one year. Marirose Kulhlman of the Clark Fork Chapter will help her for the coming year.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Several Chapters have Facebook pages. Clare has started a state Facebook page. There is also a state annual meeting Facebook page. The two pages are linked. Dave asked Bob to check 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 will check into the issues.

2014 Annual Meeting Update - Valley of Flowers Chapter-Gretchen Rupp

Meeting is set for June 27-29, 2014 in the Paradise Valley at Luccock Park. The theme will be Fire and Ice. 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 VOF chapter.

The Board discussed the potential joint 2016 annual meeting with the American Penstemon Society in the Dillon area. The Calypso Chapter is looking for a venue that can handle 200 people.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee- Dave Hanna

Karen Shelly will run for Vice President, Patrick Plantenberg will run for Secretary, and Jennifer Lyman will run for Eastern-at-Large representative.

Awards Committee – Cathie Jean and Kathy S are discussing potential awards. Patrick will pass on the list of past award winners to Kathy S.

Small Grants Committee – Drake Barton reported for Linda Lyon

The committee will review grant criteria and timelines as some applications were too long and the committee had a short time for turnaround on a decision. Sixteen applications were received. Two proposals were forwarded from the committee for approval. Penzing from the U of Colorado submitted a grant to research whitebark pine direct seeding. The MT Natural History Center and Ft. Missoula submitted a grant request to fund the outhouses for a year. Both grants were less than the \$1,000 maximum. The committee approved the grants. Betty Kuropat will take over the Small Grants Chair next year as Linda Lyon is going on sabbatical. The Board approved Betty's new position.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Kathy S., Patrick, and Karen reported for Peter Lesica

Patrick and Karen summarized the successful Native Plant Pollinator Plant Conservation Conference. The meeting was in Bozeman and over 80 people attended.

Kathy S. discussed the letters the committee has sent out. One was sent to Sen. Baucus about issues in the Farm Bill with wetland habitats. The Board asked Peter to forward it to the new Senator Walsh. Letters were sent to the Natural Heritage Program about hiring a botanist. No botanist has been hired by the Heritage Program yet. A letter was also sent to FWP about important plant communities affected by the SWAP communities program.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Clare Beelman and Madeline Mazurski

The committee has been updating publication information on the webpages and has been updating the Source Guide. The committee will be review all native plant gardens funded by MNPS (about 15). They will visit about half this year.

Patrick discussed the Native Plant Landscaping talk requested at the January 2014 MT Nursery and Landscape Assn meeting. He would like to see Kathy S. and a panel of native plant landscapers present a classy PowerPoint presentation showing the variety of ways native plants can be used in landscaping. We have time to identify good examples and take good pictures.

Other Business

Satellite Chapter in Lincoln-no progress

Future of Annual meeting-Flathead Chapter has a lot of enthusiasm. Hard to find a venue to hold 100 attendees.

License Plates-Madeline discussed the potential of MNPS license plates. No progress has been made. It would cost \$4,000 for set up fees. Clare will get more information from other groups like Audubon that have tried it.

Logo Update-Try to tie logo update to license plate project.

Marketing Committee-The Board established an ad hoc Marketing Committee consisting of Madeline, Bob, Patrick, Clare, and Caroline to research and develop consistent marketing options for MNPS on Facebook, webpage, and other marketing venues. Madeline will be temporary Chair.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana - Dave Shea, not present. Dave Hanna reported Dave has some field trips in the works.

Western Montana- Jon Reny (not present)

Karen reported that Jon is distributing Newsletters in Libby and Troy in schools, library, etc. He will have Peter lead a hike in northwest Montana in June on Pulpit Mountain.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Kelly Upright

Kelly Upright reported on their planned landscaping workshop this spring in Divide featuring Kathy Cripps, Ian Foley, and Casey Delphia. They are also planning the 2016 annual meeting.

Clark Fork - Madeline Mazurski

They continue with monthly meetings at U of M. They had a program on plants of Hungary, with upcoming programs on pollinators and spring wildflowers. The last herbarium night focused on *Eriogonums*. They had a holiday party. Madeline spoke on arctic plants. They have a cleanup herbarium night planned. They are planning their spring plant sale. They have a Facebook page. The Clark Fork Chapter Facebook page is(<https://www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter>). They are working on a kiosk on Mount Sentinel. They are considering using QR codes on the kiosk at MT Sentinel with seasonal plant lists.

Flathead Chapter- Jen Hintz

They have started planning the 2015 annual meeting to be held in the Swan Valley. They had a talk on the History of Botany in Glacier Park. Dee Blank will present her plant photos, and they have two field trips planned. They also have a native plant sale planned.

Kelsey Chapter – Patrick Plantenberg and Bob Person are planning Chapter events. Kathy S. spoke last night on Native Plant Landscaping to 90 people. Bob Person discussed the Wildflower week events. Scott Mincemoyer will speak. They are also planning a native garden tour in June.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts (not present) Karen reported for the Maka Flora chapter. They have \$870 in their budget. They have an April 5th planning meeting. We will talk to them at annual meeting regarding hosting the 2017 annual meeting.

Valley of Flowers – Joanne Jennings and Gretchen Rupp

Cathie Jean led a trip to the Bighorns. Casey Delphia gave a talk on native bee pollinators. They are busy planning annual meeting.

Wrap Up

Review and Finalize Budget

Changes were approved to the budget including showing that the annual meeting would lose money.

Summer Board Meeting Topics
Marketing

Board Meeting 20140308rev.doc