

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
October 17, 2015**

Attendees: Rachel Potter, Betty Kuropat, Karen Porter, Dave Hanna, Kathy Lloyd, Bob Person, Clare Beelman, Peter Lesica, Gretchen Rupp, Cathie Jean (by phone), and Kathy Settevendemie

Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements- Kathy Settevendemie

Kathy welcomed everyone and asked for additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report – Kathy Lloyd filling in for Patrick Plantenberg

Kathy asked for updates to the address list. Betty noted corrections to the minutes from the February 28, 2015 and the June 26, 2015 board meetings. Kathy will get those to Patrick. No by-law changes were identified. Bob Person and Kathy S. will discuss the board manual update with Patrick.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson and Shannon Kimball absent

Jenny submitted by email an annual balance statement for 2015 and a 2015 budget summary for review. It was noted that the top figure in the right column on the balance sheet should be in red. People wondered why our checking account balance was down compared with 2014. The \$500 under donations on the budget summary is for the Catherine Zimmerman Hometown Habitat film that was previously approved. Betty said expenses for Small Grants should be \$3,799. She also said 2015 Annual Meeting expenses were \$9,650.74 for a profit of \$288.51. Peter said to remove *Flora of Montana* from the Special Projects column. The board needs to discuss things with the treasurers.

Newsletter Editor Report – Caroline Kurtz sent in a report

Caroline checked into using another print shop and found that The *Printery* in Plains is still much cheaper. They print, fold, label, and mail between 520-720 copies each issue. Caroline reminded us that submitted photos need to be high resolution; small jpegs are not good enough. The deadline for the next *Kelseya* is December 10. Caroline requested a budget increase of \$300 per issue to be split between her and the graphic designer. Discussion ensued and input from the treasurers is needed. The board recognized how important the *Kelseya* is and greatly appreciates Caroline's professionalism and the quality of the publication. The board wondered if there were alternatives. It was noted that we are mostly a volunteer organization. A general discussion about a dues increase ensued. The board felt some increase in payment for the newsletter would be manageable; maybe \$150 per issue. Cathie Jean will look into how much money is rebated to the chapters from membership fees.

Membership Report – Cathie Jean by phone

Cathie said membership is going smoothly and Jenny and Mariroses's help is much appreciated. It is helpful if chapters review their membership list and send corrections to Cathie. Membership is slightly up from last year. As of October 1, 2015 we have 617 members. 45% of members get the newsletter digitally. Membership forms have been updated to let people pay for more than one year at a time. Canadian members need to pay \$4 extra only if they receive paper copies of the newsletter. If anyone needs membership brochures they should contact Cathie. Before new membership brochures are printed we will discuss possible dues increases.

Dave suggested eliminating the discount for not affiliating with a chapter, simplifying the form, and everyone paying current higher rate for what it costs to be in a chapter whether affiliated with a chapter or not. Board members were confused on what they agreed to so this needs to be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Bob said things are going well. People commented on the great look of the website front page. Bob could use some photos from the 2015 Annual Meeting. There will be some redundancy with our Face Book page but that is OK.

2016 Annual Meeting Update – Karen Porter for the Calypso Chapter

The meeting is set for June 24-26, 2016 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. The meeting is a joint venture with the American Penstemon Society. Attendees will make their own room reservations using Fairmont's online system. The cost is \$145 + tax double occupancy per night. Kids under 13 are free. To register go to: <http://fairmontmontana.com/>, click on "Book Now", then choose "Groups". Our group ID: 14384; our password: 37003400. The site is up now. There are also hotels and camping possibilities in the area that Calypso will provide. Field trip planning is underway, as is T-shirt design. Bryce Christaens from Native Ideals Seed Farm will do a penstemon workshop. It was suggested that someone from the American Penstemon Society could also help out. A discussion about insurance took place. The board directed Calypso Chapter to provide insurance for field trips.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Kathy Settevendemie and Peter Lesica were appointed to the committee. Officers to be elected are vice-president, secretary, and eastern-at large representative. There was some discussion about term limits; no conclusion. It was suggested to post something about the duties and what is required of each position – maybe on the web and in the *KeIseya*.

Awards Committee

Catherine Cain (she can delegate) and Patrick Plantenberg were appointed to the committee. The Board will reword the Awards Policy and maybe change the name of the awards. It was made clear that awards do not need to be given each year, and don't have to be given only to chapter members of the hosting chapter.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee is composed of Kathy S., Bob Person, Gretchen Rupp, Clare Beelman, and Jessica Brewer. Madeline has resigned. Kathy S. explained the search for a logo designer and RFP the committee sent out. They got 7 replies and have narrowed the field down to one. Rachel moved to approve \$3,800 for logo design and Gretchen seconded the motion. The motion passed. There might be some expenses in 2015 and the rest in 2016. We would retain the rights to the logo design and will get a black and white and a color version. There will be several opportunities for the membership to comment as the logo is developed. By the next board meeting the logo should be done.

Small Grants Committee – Betty Kuropat

The committee approved four grants in 2015 and one from 2014 (white bark pine) is now completed and an article was in the *Kelseya*. The MSU Pollinator Garden project sent in a final report and will try to have an article in the winter issue of *Kelseya*. 2016 budget request: \$5,800 if we allocate \$4,500 in 2016 (3 projects at \$1,500, the remainder is a carry-over from 2015). Betty reported that the committee voted to tighten up the formatting requirements for proposals. They also voted to change grant requirements to state that recipients have to be a member of MNPS. Peter suggested as an alternative we could make a good pitch for why they might want to become a member and explain the good deeds done with membership income. Much discussion ensued. Betty moved to require all grant applicants to be members of MNPS. The motion failed. Clare moved to remove the small grant requirement that applicants must be a resident of Montana or a member of MNPS. The motion passed. The board directed the Small Grants Committee to change the wording on the call for proposals form to include a blurb encouraging membership and explaining why it is a great idea. January 31 is the proposal deadline. In the past the call for proposals has been an insert in the winter issue of *Kelseya*. Betty will put the call for proposals on the website and will submit an article about the small grant proposal deadline for *Kelseya*.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica

Peter reported on a meeting of the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Forage and Range Research Laboratory (FRRL) meeting that was in Great Falls in late September. MNPS and others, are concerned about the introduction of exotic species such as forage kochia for rangeland restoration. FRRL reported that this year they are monitoring forage kochia plantings and developing protocols to

mitigate its invasion into native rangeland. They are also working on the possible use of native gray molly (*Kochia americana*) to perhaps replace forage kochia, and on five native legumes. A new interagency policy: Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration 2015-2020 is available at:

(http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/fish_wildlife_and/plants/seedstrategy.html).

The strategy says there may be places to use non-natives but they should be replaced by natives in subsequent ecological restoration or during natural successional processes. Peter also reported that work on the Montana Botanists book is progressing. He is working with Rachel and they plan to be able to talk about publishing options by this winter. The Plant Conservation Conference is set for February 9-10, 2016 at the UM University Center in Missoula. The topic is genetics and plant conservation. He is unsure of a budget request but said it will cost \$750 for the venue plus food and drink for the breaks, and \$500-700 to fly in a speaker. Steve Shelly said the Forest Service could chip in up to \$1,000. The board discussed the Equal Protection for Plants petition being circulated by the California Native Plant Society. The board agreed it is not in our best interest to support it. Peter will talk to Emily with CNPS about it.

Landscape/Revegetation – Clare Beelman

Clare reported that the committee is focusing on reviewing all native plant gardens funded by MNPS small grants to discover what works and what doesn't. They plan to publish their results on the website and in the *Kelseya*. The common challenge is maintenance. They would also like to develop a list of public native gardens in the state with a map component. Let Clare know of any gardens in your area.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana – Jennifer Lyman (not present)

No report.

Western Montana- Jon Reny (not present)

Betty reported for Jon. Three field trips took place this year. The Exploding Car Battery trip to Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge, a Bitterroot Trip on Bitterroot Knob, above the Kootenai River, and a Wild Ginger Excursion to a unique riparian area close to Libby. Pat McLeod (Troy, MT) has expressed a desire to become more active. She had a great idea of locating some of the "State Trees" in our area, and the annual Exploding Car Battery Hike, 2016 is being planned.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Karen Porter

Karen reported earlier on the 2016 Annual Meeting that is taking most of their energy. They have several programs and a holiday brunch planned for this fall/winter.

Clark Fork – Clare Beelman and Peter Lesica

The chapter had their October meeting in the Bitterroot Valley at the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge. There is a new kiosk at the base of the M Trail at UM campus.

Flathead Chapter - Rachel Potter and Betty Kuropat

Betty and Rachel did a small annual meeting recap. People enjoyed the weed workshop. They had a number of field trips this summer and are gearing up for winter programs.

Kelsey Chapter – Kathy Lloyd and Bob Person

Bob, Patrick, and Kathy met to discuss future programs and events. A holiday potluck is scheduled in December at Bob and Toni Person’s home. The chapter hopes to get some winter programs and events scheduled. Andrea Pipp would like to do another snowshoe outing.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts (not present)

Peter talked to Libby about the 2017 Annual Meeting. The chapter is considering a Bible camp near Lambert. They aren’t sure if they can swing a joint meeting with the Saskatchewan native plant group. We could invite them to Lambert.

Valley of Flowers – Gretchen Rupp

The chapter had five field trips this summer including a weed pull and a planning meeting. They will do fall clean-up at the Pollinator Garden and a holiday party is planned.

Wrap Up

Review Budget

Proposed 2016 budget: What is in the Merchandise Sales row and can it be combined with Annual Meeting? Add a new row under Special Projects called Marketing and put \$3,800 for the new logo in proposed expenses. For the Plant Conservation Conference put \$1,500 in both the proposed expenses and proposed income columns. Put 0 under Chapter Projects. Put \$600 in proposed expenses for Awards. Under Donations put 0 for proposed expenses and proposed income. For Small Grants Fund put \$5,800 under proposed expenses. UM Herbarium and MT Audubon Donations are both 0 for 2016. Annual Meeting 2017 add \$500 under proposed expenses.

Spring Board Meeting was set for February 27, 2016 at Westech in Helena.

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