

**MNPS Board Meeting
WESTECH, Helena, MT
February 27, 2106**

Attendees: Bob Person, Patrick Plantenberg, Cathie Jean, Jennifer Tollefson, Karen Shelly, Karen Porter, Gretchen Rupp, Betty Kuropat, Peter Lesica, Rachael Potter, Clare Beelman, Anne Garde, Caroline Kurtz, 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. Kathy S. read the Maka Flora report from Libby Knotts.

Secretary's Report – Patrick Plantenberg

Patrick reviewed Dave Hanna's concerns on the last meeting's minutes and read the revised minutes changes. The Board approved the changes. Patrick will send the revised minutes to Bob for the website. Patrick asked for updates to the address list.

The Board discussed the need for changes to the by-laws on job sharing and unanticipated future expenses. The Board decided that there was nothing in the by-laws that prevented job sharing and that e-mail voting on budget changes between meetings has never been controversial. If an e-mail vote is contested, the vote will have to wait until the next meeting. The Secretary will summarize what has been approved since the last meeting at the next meeting so the changes get in the minutes. No budget changes have been approved since the last meeting.

Two minor by-law edits were identified. Patrick will send an article to Caroline for the newsletter on the edits. Patrick will send an election ballot and article to Caroline by March 10.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny Tollefson

Jenny submitted an annual balance statement as of 12/31/115, and a 2016 budget summary. Some questions were discussed about the Budget Summary. Jenny will review to clarify. Suggested changes were made to several line items for the proposed 2016 budget: Website \$350, MWA \$100, Donations column adjusted, publications \$400, and annual meeting \$5,000. The \$500 Chapter loan for the annual meeting will be added as a line item.

Newsletter Editor Report – Caroline Kurtz

Caroline reviewed deadlines and discussed pay. \$150 increase was approved last year. Everyone is happy with the Newsletter.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean

Cathie reported that we have 682 members at the end of December. Dave Hanna's comments from the last meeting were discussed. The Board approved not having a discount in dues for not affiliating with a chapter. No dues increase was approved. The .50 cent Chapter/State split was eliminated. Chapters will get one check from the state in December.

The new membership brochure will be ready by May or June. We will probably wait until the new MNPS logo is done. Board members have 10 days to review draft brochure writing. Send Cathie pictures. Comments were made to try and reduce the number of words in the brochure.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Changes to the website are done. They caused some problems with PayPal merchant account. Bob working with Linda Lyon's husband to resolve issues.

2016 Annual Meeting Update – Calypso Chapter-Karen Porter

Meeting is set for June 24-26, 2016 at Fairmont Hot Springs with the American Penstemon Society. Chapter will get insurance. The chapter is planning youth activities. The Board approved a \$5,000 budget. The deposit has been made. The Board had some minor comments on the agenda and registration form. There will be two inset pages in the *Kel-seya*. The Board approved a 50-50 money split with the Chapter after the \$500 loan is approved.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Peter Lesica and Kathy S.

Elections will be for Vice President, Secretary, and Eastern at Large representative. Gretchen Rupp will run for VP; Rachel Potter for Secretary, and Jennifer Lyman will stay as eastern rep. Patrick needs bios from Rachel and Gretchen.

Awards Committee – Catherine Cain and Patrick

A couple of names were raised at the meeting. The committee will follow up.

Marketing Committee – The committee includes Bob, Gretchen, Clare, Kathy S. and Jess Brewer. The logo should be ready by May 1.

Small Grants Committee – Betty Kuropat

Betty updated the history of past projects funded since 1996. She will e-mail a copy to Patrick and Bob. This information will be posted on the website. Betty discussed the status of the 2015 grants-only one needed an extension. The

committee recommended three grants for \$1,500. One grant was subsequently removed from consideration.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Peter Lesica

Montana Botanists Book: The text is finished and the committee hopes to have the book out this fall. There is no decision yet on where to publish.

Plant Conservation Conference: 102 people attended-51 from MNPS and 10 students. The conference netted \$1,700.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Clare Beelman

The committee continues to review native plant gardens funded by MNPS and others.

Other Business

MT Audubon: The request to fund \$250 for the bird festival was not approved this year as we missed advertising deadlines and our log is not complete. Maybe next year.

MT Wilderness Assn: Funded \$100 for Friends of Wilderness partners.

Field Trip Firearms Policy: We already have a policy to discourage bringing weapons on field trips.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana – Jennifer Lyman

Nothing to report.

Western Montana- Jon Reny

Nothing to report.

Chapter Reports

Calypso – Karen Porter

They are planning the 2016 annual meeting. They plan at least two projects-a talk by Robert Pal, and maintaining a native garden in Dillon.

Clark Fork – Anne Garde

They continue with monthly meetings at U of M. Work is moving forward on an arboretum at the University. There may be a garden on a roof at the new public library that they should look at developing into a native garden.

Flathead Chapter- Betty Kuropat and Rachel Potter

They had monthly meetings, including Kathy S, huckleberries and bears, and grassland.

Kelsey Chapter – Bob Person and Patrick Plantenberg

Kathy Lloyd has retired. Andrea Pipp did another successful snowshoe trip. Someone showed up with a firearm. Bob is planning another Kelseya trip this spring.

Make Flora Chapter – Libby Knotts (not present)

Kathy read report. Plans are moving forward on a 2017 annual meeting near Lambert.

Valley of Flowers – Gretchen Rupp

They had a herbarium night, social, a program on carnivorous plants, and work on a naïve pant garden. The chapter is working on a restoration project on Mandeville Spring Creek that runs through the Bozeman High school campus. They also consult on native gardens in the area.

Wrap Up

Review and Finalize Budget

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

Spring Board Meeting

Summer Board Meeting 4 pm Friday June 24 at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Adjourn

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