



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Board Meeting, Final Minutes

Westech, Helena, MT

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Attendees:

Kathy Settevendemie, Dave Hanna, Peter Lesica, Cathie Jean, Bob Person, Gretchen Rupp, Betty Kuropat, Shannon Kimball, Jeff Copeland, Caroline Kurtz, Karen Porter, Libby Knotts (teleconference) and Rachel Potter, recording.

Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements - *Kathy Settevendemie*

Kathy welcomed everyone with a special nod to Jeff Copeland, Valley of Flowers, to his first board meeting. A newsletter item was added to the agenda. Agenda approved.

Vice President's Report - *Gretchen Rupp*

Reports from:

- Jennifer Lyman, Eastern Montana Rep at large. They had one field trip to the Beartooths with 6 people attending.
- Jon Reny, (pronounced 'rainy' for those that never knew) Western Montana Rep at Large. Had one field trip in the Cabinets and they have not convened this fall.

Secretary's Report - *Rachel Potter*

- Minutes of the Summer Board Meeting were approved.
- Board member contact updates: libbyknotts@gmail.com, Sasha 406- 546-2178.
- By-law changes- none
- Board manual update- **Cathie Jean would like to review and revise the membership section. Rachel will forward to her. Rachel and Bob will briefly review the manual for needed updates** and if no reason not to, it will be posted online. No one wants a hard copy.

- Rachel will ask Patrick if he is willing to continue as the Electoral College, or some part of, particularly the election results.

Treasurer's Report - *Shannon Kimball, Jenny Tollefson (not present)*

- 2016 Budget status- Membership income continues to go up. A few people took advantage of multi -year membership. Minor changes were made to the 2016 budget. Shannon will incorporate changes. Annual meeting expenses have not cleared yet. The approx. \$4000 net profit from the 2016 annual meeting will be split between Calypso chapter and state, as was agreed to before the meeting. If more donations for the Pioneer Botanist book come in **before** 2017, the checks will be cashed but the income will be recorded in 2017.
- The proposed 2017 budget was discussed. Changes from the 2016 budget include: Proposed income: Membership raised to \$7,000; no Plant Conservation conference income; Pioneer Botanist Book \$3500. Expenses added: Montana's Pioneer Botanists, 6,800. Proposed Expenses changed: Newsletter to \$6,800; \$400 to website; \$300 for publications (brochure); no Herbarium donation (off year); \$500 to Audubon for lobbying; no marketing expenses (cost of developing letterhead unknown); small grants \$4500;
- **Shannon and Jenny will circulate revised 2016 budget and 2017 proposed budget at a later date.**

Newsletter Editor Report - *Caroline Kurtz*

- The Montana Natural History Association just released a book of selected Field Notes from 25 years of the MTPR radio program. It is available at the MNHA and should be in bookstores soon.
- An increase in the Kelseyia editors' compensation was discussed, but no increase made at this time. The editors currently split \$650/issue, up from \$500 last year. There was agreement that a professionally produced Kelseyia is the heart of our organization and raising the fee to closer to standard rates may be addressed in the future.
- Caroline reports that: Eileen Chontos and I estimate that it takes us each about 12 hours to do our part of Kelseyia (me: gathering or generating material, editing submissions, finding photos, captions, communicating with the printer; Eileen: layout, finding and preparing photos, preparing files for printer and electronic versions) or 24 hours of labor total for each issue (the Field Trip Guide takes substantially less time to prep).

Membership Report - *Cathie Jean & Sasha Victor (not present)*

Cathie thanked Marirose for recruiting Sasha Victor to fill her shoes. Sasha is currently doing all the data entry and Cathie Jean the rest of the duties, running labels, preparing membership reports, handling the brochure, sending welcome emails... Hopefully Sasha will eventually learn the whole string so she can step in where necessary.

As of Oct 28, 2016 we have 678 members. Eighty two of these are Lifetime members and 45 are Exchange members.

Positive things- we are getting mail processed before each newsletter! Last newsletter – no rejections.

Sasha Victor has a new phone 406-546-2178

The membership brochure was updated and 400 copies printed early last summer. The total (Walt Curtis ebiz labor and printing) = \$536.39

Duties clarified.

- Process membership mail and PayPal transactions (renewals, new members and address updates) and enter into database.
 - Treasurer sends these to Sasha; cc PayPal to Cathie
- Provide membership reports to the Chapters and At Large representatives
 - Begin to include expired members in the spring membership report
 - Delete member after 3 years expired; then add as new member when they eventually renew
 - Refresh 'date addressed change' column at the beginning of calendar year
- Submit income from dues report by Chapter to the Treasurer annually
 - Report at the close of calendar year
- Send new members (with an email address) a welcome email notice and the latest copy of the Kelsey newsletter

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Membership Google account – Google Drive

Sasha and Cathie have editing privileges

Download membership as excel file to generate reports and labels using MS Word

Some members do not want their email shared with anyone. Cathie deletes those emails from our database.

For the Flathead Chapter, membership lists will be sent only to mmps.flathead@gmail.com

Table 1. General membership in the Montana Native Plant Society.

Date	Regular Members	Exchange Members	Total Members
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2014 Dec 31	610	44	654
2015 Dec 11	636	46	682
2016 Oct 28	633	45	678

Webmaster Report - Bob Person

- Bob's envy of officers sharing duties drove him to recruit Clare Beelman to help with the web site. Clare will take over a couple of pages. Thank you, Clare.
- Jon Reny suggested posting field trip plant lists on the web to be used as a long-term reference for future trips. **Bob will look into how to organize**, handling lists with varying amount of info, etc. and ask for lists at a later time. It was suggested he look at methods of other Native Plant Societies. Ideally, this will be something that interests Clare.
- Annual meeting registration: we paid for a "platform", Elbowspace, an online utility has a lot more flexibility than the Paypal form generator. **Linda Dinesh, Bob and Libby need to communicate about annual meeting registration.**

2017 Annual Meeting Update - Libby Knotts (Maka Flora)

- Lambert, June 23-25; Eastern Montana Bible Camp. Rates can be kept relatively low, \$6/person/meal, \$30/person for facility. There are larger bunk style cabins and a few smaller ones. Camping is available and RV sites for \$6 extra. There is a pool, zip line, climbing wall, mini golf, etc. They are talking to one of the cooks but do not have any details yet. Sack lunches could be a convenience on Saturday. Maka Flora will make a decision. Hotels are in Glendive and Sidney.
- Offering and hosting any Friday night festivities up to Maka Flora. Dinner can be a potluck.
- **Libby will check on purchasing insurance** and if the camp has insurance for when we are on site.
- The 30th anniversary of the MNPS will play some role. On Tshirts? Other mementoes. **Any ideas for a celebration are appreciated.**
- Field trips. They have a number of good ideas for field trips but **will be looking for additional leaders**. Libby asked about compensation for possible out of area leaders not in the MNPS. In the past, the MNPS has covered costs for the children's program leaders, some key note speakers, and even paid honorariums for keynote speakers. The decision is up to Maka Flora. The camp is not available Friday afternoon, but they hope to offer workshops on Saturday to attract nearby farmers, ranchers and students.
- Working with Canadian groups has not really panned out. At least they are on the email list.
- Awards are handled by a separate board committee and are not the responsibility of the host chapter.

- Added after draft- Rachel volunteered to compile information on possible field trips, and suggestions for places to visit or camp for those travelling across the state to the Annual Meeting.

2018 Annual Meeting - Peter Lesica, Anne Garde (not present) Clark Fork

Clark Fork Chapter is at an impasse deciding between two venues and hoped for board direction... that they did not get. Similar church camps both have pros and cons. <http://www.caneridgewest.org> is outside Lincoln. Pros are flexible dates and trips access the highcountry if after July 4th. Con is that we have had many trips in the area previously. <http://www.campbighorn.com> is near Quinn's Hotsprings. Pros are new territory and canoe trip options. Con is that it is only available the weekend of June 10, excluding families with school age children.

Ad Hoc Committees

Nomination Committee- President, Treasurer, and Western Montana Rep At-large are up for election. Betty, Rachel and Gretchen are on the Nominating Committee. A call for nominations will be in the December Kelseya, bios and ballot in the March issue.

Awards Committee- Doug Smith, Maka Flora, was nominated for the committee. Kathy will follow up with him and recruit one or two others from: Linda Iverson, Kathy L., Drake, Wayne or Madeline Mazurski. A call for nominees will be sent by the committee to the Kelseya by December 10.

Branding/Marketing - Kathy Settevendemie

Six Pony Hitch was contracted after six proposals were received in response to the RFP. Initially, the time and money was used up without an acceptable outcome but parties agreed to continue to a resolution. So the final simple and elegant product is the result of *extensive* hard work by the committee consisting of Kathy, Bob, Gretchen, Clare, Caroline and Jess Brewer. The provided style guide should be adhered to. Print and digital files are in every different configuration. An annotated index to the files could be added to the style guide.

Kathy shared a couple points- A full logo and letter logo was created; grass was chosen partly due to difficulty finding a plant species meaningful east and west; native plants are connected to the environment; grass is founded in the plant society, but also is underpinning of life in Montana; wide letter spacing represents Montana's wide open spaces.

Kathy will request an estimate from Six Pony Hitch for creating a letterhead with the Logo.

Small Grants - Betty Kuropat Drake, Annie, Rebecca Durham, Jennifer Lyman.

Past Projects-2015 Christine McManamen, Efficacy of Herbicides received an extension until 12/16. \$573.00 outstanding. All others (3) are complete, 2 reports are in the Fall 2016 Kelsey.

2016- 2 Lisa Bechell, MNHC Adventure Garden is complete and paid. A report will be submitted to the Winter Kelsey. Andrea Pipp's moss/ lichen inventory of the Milton Ranch is complete, she is finishing the report and will receive a final payment of \$750 when complete.

2017 Budget Request: \$4500 for up to 3 grants of \$1500 each.

Proposal Deadline- is January 31 every year, and has been posted to the website. The Small Grants page also has a history of MNPS small grants.

Betty would like to add to the list of contacts for outreach about small grants. She asked everyone to send her *specific contacts with emails for schools, universities, community groups, etc.*

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation - *Peter Lesica*

- The Montana Pioneer Botanist book is moving along. There are 16 different authors, even more contributing photographers, and many members have helped with design, proofreading, etc. Total cost will be about \$6800 for 400 copies. Different pricing scenarios were presented and the board approved funding the book with a cover price of \$30/book, \$25 to members. At this low price, there is a fair chance sales will not cover costs, but it will get into more hands. Donations are also being solicited. Free copies will be offered to all authors and some photographers, though a well worded suggestion for a donation will be included. It will be in print late spring or early summer.
- The board voted to endorse *The Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act*. There are reservations re: presentation of the material, i.e. there needs to be a more compelling need presented.
- 2018 Conservation Conference- in Helena 2018. Proposed topics are wetlands or discussion of threatened and endangered determinations including whitebark. For the species status part of the meeting, we should focus on fewer plants that have known issues. The priority may be on the MTNHP web site. The goal of the conservation conference is to help practitioners. Committee will decide the topic at the annual meeting. It is hoped that MTNHP will put on the conference.
- Flathead Forest Plan- Peter submitted comments with some input from the committee, including Chantelle, Rachel and Elizabeth Bergstrom. *Custer/ Gallatin, and Helena/Lewis and Clark are coming up.*
- Peter formed a Native Plant coalition to "bird dog" the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Focus Group. Peter recruited a member of the

UT Native Plant Society to represent the Native Plant coalition at the ARS meeting in Utah in September 2016.

Landscape - *Clare Beelman*- no report

Other Business

- Banking- Wells Fargo is charged with many unethical business practices. The MNPS chose to bank with them because they are in the most MT cities (27), Glacier Bank is close behind (25) and 1st Interstate next (22). (Info added after meeting). **Action?**
- Wild Ones- *Kathy* Wild Ones is a national organization that promotes Native Plants and Landscaping. Janice Hand in Bozeman wants to start a MT chapter. MNPS was invited to become an affiliated member, for a fee. If we had an active landscape committee, it might be a better fit. Later- *Kathy* did more looking and advised we not join at this time.

Areas-at-Large- See VP report above.

Chapter Reports

- **Calypso** - *Karen Porter*

The 2016 joint annual meeting with the American Penstemon Society was attended by 128 people. Roughly ½ were MNPS members, about ½ the number attending some recent meetings, which wasn't a surprise given the high cost and venue. However, it was a good time and what was needed for the joint meeting. We got good feedback from the Penstemon Society.

- **Clark Fork** – *Peter Lesica*

Search for 2018 site discussed above.

- **Flathead** - *Rachel Potter*

The Native Plant Shade Garden was destroyed by a contractor, presumably without the new landowner's knowledge. The landowner had been contacted about the garden and agreed to let us continue. Chapter follow-up was, essentially, insufficient. A very unfortunate incident.

Field trips were not many but well attended. Are hosting 5 evening programs this winter

Membership will send membership updates to the Flathead gmail account only.

- **Kelsey** – *Bob Person*. *Kathy Lloyd* stepped down as the forever president, but the good news is that they had a meeting. A holiday party is scheduled. Activities are likely to be informal herbarium nights, hopefully including lichens with *Andrea Pipp*, and some field trips. *Justine (?) Helena/Lewis* and *Clark USFS* botanist, attended the annual meeting and the Chapter is hoping for her involvement.

- **Maka Flora** - *Libby Knotts* Annual meeting, see above
- **Valley of Flowers** - *Jeff Copeland*

The chapter hosts a monthly lecture series and had a bunch of field trips. They are trying to attract new and younger members and are looking to social media, more parties, hikes and networking with other organizations. They have teamed up with Montana Land Reliance and joint activities with Audubon were suggested. Maybe monarchs and milkweed. They continue to be involved with the Experimental Native Garden Horticultural Farm at MSU and ?

Wrap-up

- Spring board meeting March 4. **Bob will contact Westech.** Kathy will be gone.

Adjourn 4 pm