



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Fall Board of Directors Meeting

October 27th 2018

Westech, Helena, MT

Attending: Gretchen Rupp, Shannon Kimball, Cathie Jean, Bob Person, Patrick Plantenberg, Jeff Copeland, Peter Lesica, Maria Mantas, Betty Kuropat, Annie Garde, Karen Porter, Rachel Potter, remote for first ½.

Secretary's Report - Rachel Potter via phone

Summer 2018 board meeting minutes approved. Membership meeting tentatively approved pending review 2/2019 by BOD. See MNPS Membership Meeting 2018 20180629dft

Treasurer's Report –

- Income and expenses are following our predictions when we created the final budget at the last meeting, except for a deviation in Small Grants.
- Membership income should meet or exceed our projections as more folks renew between now and December 31st. We pay out the Chapter portion of dues in the fall (verify with Cathie).
- Special Projects
 - UM Herbarium donation to cover shipping is very appreciated; the herbarium cabinets will be installed July 12th if all goes as planned (possible newsletter article on this?).
 - Plant Conservation Conference generated a \$970 profit.
 - The annual meeting a \$6000 profit. Thank you Clark Fork Chapter
 - MT Pioneer Botanists is still selling well, like we budgeted.
 - A \$5,000 check was sent in May to fund the Rare Plant Conservation Strategy.
 - Draft Budget was developed. See 2019 Draft Budget.pdf
 - Assets as of 10/17/18 are \$45,241.60

Webmaster Report – Bob Person

Website change to WordPress was expeditious and smooth.

The Ad hoc committee on format/function revisions has not come up with any recommendations of substance regarding further changes to the site, since the new format is much more graphic and less text-y.

GR will ask chapter reps for scenic shots of their field trips, to go on the chapter pages. They could look at and use Matt Lavin’s Flickr pages for flower shots, if desired.

All board members – send Bob photos and suggestions for where to place them.

Membership Committee – Cathie Jean

Cathie wishes to retire from this position by the Fall 2019 meeting. The board discussed the responsibilities of the position. Cathie will develop a proposal to split the duties of the membership chair. Board discussed revising this position, turning it into two, one being a Communications Officer. Cathie will develop a description of the current job with estimates of time requirements, and bring it to the board at the March 2019 meeting.

Board members need to actively recruit for the position(s).

Membership update – With the help of Sasha, Jenny and Shannon we continue to keep membership records updated, welcome notes are sent to new members and the Kelseya newsletter article is submitted quarterly.

Membership budget - So far in 2018, 500 copies of the membership brochure were printed for \$353.10. Another \$160.00 was requested for membership chair expenses (labels, postage, ink), however a request for reimbursement has not been submitted. For 2019 budget, \$500 is requested to print another 500 membership brochures and to pay for membership chair expenses.

Finally, here is an update to the annual membership tables the Board discussed last spring. Enjoy!

Table B. Annual membership for the Montana Native Plant Society showing the number of members for each chapter plus exchange members. Current 2018 membership is based on Sept 12, 2018 values. (Source: MNPS Membership database).

	<i>CAL</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>SW</i>	<i>VOF</i>	<i>Reg Total</i>	<i>EXG</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
2018*	45	190	95	99	20	50	31	105	635	45	680
2017	38	195	91	92	24	54	27	98	619	43	662
2016	65	204	79	90	20	59	29	102	648	43	691
2015	47	193	88	94	24	57	37	98	638	44	682
2014	50	163	73	85	21	57	37	89	575	44	619

2013	44	189	78	84	27	54	34	89	599	44	643
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* The current year membership count is revised upward as the year progresses until late December when it becomes final.

Table C. Annual membership income showing chapter and state distribution of funds for the past 5 years (Source: Membership Income Processing Report dated October 9, 2018).

YEAR	TOTAL INCOME	CHAPTER SHARE	STATE SHARE	STATE DONATION
2018	\$9,595	\$3,281	\$6,104	\$210
2017	\$11,360	\$3,528	\$7,832	
2016	\$10,321	\$3,354	\$6,967	
2015	\$9,658	\$3,400	\$6,258	
2014	\$9,705	\$2,902	\$6,803	
5-yr Avg	\$10,128	\$3,293	\$6,793	

* The current years membership income and chapter share is provided at the fall board meeting for budget purposes.

2020 Annual Meeting. Jeff C. presented the VoF plan for having the 2020 meeting in the Centennial Valley at the Taft-Nicholson Center, Univ. of Utah. Due to cost, no camping, lack of nearby public camping, and that the Center would not commit to OK ing the meeting until November of 2019, the Board decided that it would be best for the VoF to pursue other venues (no vote taken). The Chapter was directed to investigate the Elk Lake Resort, and the Nature Conservancy ranch on the north side of the valley. Gretchen Rupp will notify Beth. Who will communicate with TN Center?

Standing Committee Reports.

A. Conservation Committee – Peter L. and Maria presented:

- Sent Helena/Lewis and Clark NF comments on the forest plans. Circulated.
- Plant Conservation Meeting – meeting successful, began process of developing Rare Plant Strategy.
- Peter discussed preliminary plans for protecting *Physaria douglasii*, a Montana endemic mustard found on the Kootenai NF, growing in sand dunes on the shores of Lake Kookanusa, an area also designated for off-trail ORV use. The plan entails getting the local ORV community involved in mapping populations and developing a protection plan

that still allows ORV use. A field trip to map plants is planned for May 2019. This may be a good way to get younger members active.

- Maria discussed how the seed money for the first phase of developing the Rare Plant Strategy for Montana was used for phase I. The team has been very active. They propose to form a partnership among representatives of 10-20 organizations that manage land, then reach out to all owners of more than 100,000 acres. Identifying funding sources is underway and promising so far.

B. Landscape Committee

- Need for a Committee Chair, currently vacant and the committee is idle.
- Compilation of native plant gardens was started by last chair but dropped
- Web site has links to native plants suppliers
- Bob said we need to find out who wrote the paper on landscaping with natives on VoF page of website – very good.
- Back and forth on how to get people on committee. Shannon said that the committee needs to be formed at annual meeting. Peter said that in old days a committee consisted of who showed up at the committee meeting during the Annual Meeting.
- GR will contact Madeline Mazurski, Linda Iverson & Clare Beelman, and ask them for a list of past accomplishments and potential future projects. Names for possible committee chair will also be solicited. She will then send all this on to chapter reps and ask for more names.

C. Small Grants- Betty Kuropat

- Betty is caught up for first time, needs to update spreadsheet to reflect this.
- Board authorized Betty's request for \$4500, 3 grants at \$1500.
- Bob: put link calling for grant applications on Facebook page
- Tad Weaver would be good to review grants on an ad hoc basis.
- Maria: should we offer more than \$4500? Are we limiting grants by limiting \$ to \$ 1500?
- We seemed to agree that the board can increase \$ for good grants.
- Maria: should we separate grants from the operating budget? Discussion. Gretchen didn't think this was necessary. Maria will present this idea at the March 2019 meeting with a one-page description of how this would work and justification.

11. Ad Hoc Committees

Nominating Committee:

- Peter and Betty on Committee
- Western-at-Large, Treasurer, and President up for election.
- Have Caroline put call for nominations in Kelsey.

Awards Committee: Maria volunteered to join committee, Gretchen will ask Drake and Kathy Lloyd to be on committee also.

12. Other Business.

Grant Request Montana Arboretum. Agreement this is a worthy request, but ideally, this should be part of the regular grant cycle. Shannon made motion to approve, Karen seconded, approved unanimously. Awarded the \$1500 asked by Arboretum Committee. Gretchen will send (done) an award letter to Kelly Chadwick, asking that the MNPS be listed among the project sponsors.

- Recruiting Young Members. Peter presented list of topics that he hoped young members would discuss when Ryan Quire (not present) convenes a phone conference.

Questions to discuss:

- Does MNPS meet any needs for you – for socializing, learning plants, working for conservation, becoming acquainted with new ecosystems, bolstering your professional network, or anything else? Specifically how could it do a better job of any of these?
- What additional functions would you appreciate MNPS working on?
- What other ideas do you have for making the organization appealing & worthwhile to young people?
- Would younger people rather spend their time with other younger people rather than oldsters?
- Are meetings (presentations etc.) and field trips less appealing ways to socialize?
- What sort of activism would inspire younger people to get involved?

Suggestions

- Have a young-member bonfire after the slide show at the annual meeting
- Circulate among the chapters a template for a native-plant trivia night at breweries
- Engage a university marketing intern for one semester to mount an Instagram page, design a sticker, and create other cool marketing materials
- Make short presentations advertising the organization to relevant classes at MSU, UM and Carroll College. Put together a 10-slide show & give chapters copies. The slides should look like people are having FUN.
- Create an electronic jobs board and persuade employers to post openings, or comb the relevant sites, harvest links & post them ourselves
- Start clubs at the universities – “there will be pizza!”
- Do more with kids, including in schools, at summer camps and workshops
- Help young botanists by hosting a botanical job info center
 - Engage younger folks with more feet on the ground activities

- Advocate more strongly for the protection of public lands

Talking Points- We get a fair number of younger people at field trips and annual meetings, but few volunteer to take leadership roles.

13. Area at Large Reports. Eastern and Western Reps not present. (see attached).

14. Chapter reports.

- Vof Flowers- Jeff reported on summer hikes and the first of our Winter Events, a plant trivia night at a local brew pub, and what a great success it was.
- Flathead-- We finished out our summer field trip schedule with a fire ecology trip with Steve Wirt, a walk along the Whitefish Legacy Trail, Anne Morley's annual Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail walk, and a trip to Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. Members were also given a chance to pilot test a new ScienceCache app to collect citizen science data on huckleberries for the USGS in Glacier National Park.
- Kelsey. Bob reported on hikes and planned winter events.
- Calypso. Karen reported.

15. Wrap-up

Finalize 2019 Budget.

- Discussion on including printing Botany Book in 2019 budget. Motion made to delay decision on budgeting for printing until 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Spring Board Meeting will be Saturday, March 2, 2019.

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