Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
January 30-31, 2010
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge & Research Station, NM

Present:
**Officers**: Tom Antonio, President; Renée West, Vice-President and acting Recording Secretary; Lolly Jones, Membership Secretary; Steve Robertson, Treasurer

**Directors-at-Large** (Chapter Representatives): Frances Robertson, Albuquerque; Jack Makepeace, El Paso; Charles Holmes, Gila; John White, Las Cruces; Judy Lister, Taos; Carol Johnson, Santa Fe; Hildy Reiser, Otero

**Chapter Presidents**: Tom Antonio, Frances Robertson

**Committee Chairs**: Jane Mygatt (website), Gary Runyan (posters), Lisa Alvares (book sales)

**Administrative Coordinator**: Sandra Lynn

**Other Participants and Guests**: Jack Carter, Martha Carter, (Gordon Lister and Gary Johnson were seen on the premises)

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A. **Call to order, Tom Antonio, President**: Tom called the meeting to order at 9:05 am January 30, 2010, and determined that a quorum was present.

B. **Chapter Reports and Chapter Treasurer Reports** were read by Albuquerque, El Paso, Gila, Las Cruces, Otero, Santa Fe, Taos

C. **Book Sales discussion**: Tom read Lisa Johnston’s email introducing Lisa Alvares, who will take over. Lisa Alvares has already rented the storage unit for book inventory (NPSNM paying half, sharing storage unit with her). Lisa J says she will still be helping Lisa A get the book sales set up. Frances asked about book ordering becoming available on our website. Tom wants to do something like Colorado NPS, which has an arrangement with amazon.com, linked through their website, with some percentage (5-7%) returned to CoNPS. Jane says California does it too. There was discussion about amazon.com procedures. Tom pointed out that book sales are not a primary money-making tool for the Society. It has mainly been viewed as a service to members and chapters. Frances suggested that the Society book chair could buy all its books from amazon.com for cheap, but Jack Carter pointed out that the small suppliers have worked with the Society and prices stay low. Renee suggested a committee to gather information for the board to make an informed decision on future book sales and procedures. Tom wants Lisa A and Lisa J to look into how it would work.

Book inventory storage unit rent should come out of book sales account, not the Society’s general treasury. Tom says Lisa J has planned it that way. There was discussion of whether Society book chair should write the rental check. There will be a period of adjustment for the book operation. It needs an overall assessment. Sandra said that the question will keep rising in the future if we don’t deal with it: storage expenses for Society long-term. There are other questions that should be addressed: working down the huge book inventory (reducing) while purchasing books (needed titles). Discussion of instructions needed from board to new book
chair. Discussion seems divided: half say not to worry, half say we need to get a better idea of what’s going on.

Hildy Reiser moved that we should pay the expenses of this move of book inventory from Artesia to Albuquerque: rental van and gas. Carol Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

Jack Makepeace suggested that we need a committee to work on reducing inventory (we have about $11,000 worth). Lisa A says that Carolyn Dodson has offered to help, and Lisa J is helping. That should be enough of a committee. Lisa A headed to Artesia immediately after the discussion to pick up the books.

D. August minutes: discussion on publications – Gary’s proposal. Inventory and prices of posters, note cards, and publications. AMENDMENTS:

New Business #8: Gary said that it was “crazy that we have no inventory control.”

Old Business #6: Carolyn and John are NOT finding the new printer. Should read: “We should be looking into a new printer that can produce a higher-resolution newsletter.”

Steve Robertson moved to accept minutes with amendments. Frances Robertson seconded. Passed.

E. Website Report: Jane Mygatt. Lots of new additions to the website. Average 1,000 hits a day on website, especially native plants, education, grants. Tom complimented Jane on website appearance. Renee mentioned that chapters need to keep their info updated. Sandra suggested that chapters have someone designated to keep contact with Jane.

F. Treasurer’s Report: Steve Robertson. Budget was in balance. For 2009, we were in the black, despite the proposed budget being in the red. Not sure why, but one grant wasn’t paid, Admin coordinator used less than planned, investments improved. We’ve been in the red for a few years; maybe our caution is paying off. Expenses will go up this year for Network for Good, the join-online links for membership and for Carter Fund.

Our main checking account was changed from a bank in Silver City to a CU. Also moved our CDs to Charter Bank, which has gone out of business. Discussion of investment strategies and economic projections.

Charles Holmes moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Hildy Reiser seconded. Passed.

G. Adjourned for lunch at 12:05 pm. Continuation at 1:20.


I. Finance Committee Report: Tom Antonio reported for Wynn Anderson. Proposed budget from Finance Committee meeting. Tried to be conservative in projections of income while covering expenses. Deficit of $890. Proposed budget was discussed. What is the PO box fee expense? It may be an old box in Las Cruces that we need to get rid of. Sandra said workshop expenses
and income look OK. Need to add in book inventory transfer expenses. When was the Allred grant paid – which year were the funds taken out of? 2009. AMENDMENT: Reduce workshop income by $500 in proposed budget.

Jack Makepeace moved to accept the amended budget. Hildy Reiser seconded. Passed.

J. Conservation Chair: Email from Jim Nellesen wanting to resign. Discussed several suggestions for people who might want to take it over.

K. Posters: Gary Runyan. We made $1,000 this year, down from last four years. Tom has asked Gary to take on inventory and sale of note cards and garden publications. Gary: Need to decide on pricing. Goal is to locate inventory in various chapters and track it. Chapters can set their prices over what the state gets and keep the rest. Gary is also working on new outlets for posters. Discussion of free posters for teachers. We have an inventory of several years’ worth. Tom and Gary will work on accurate count of notecard and book inventory overall, and pricing policy. In future, chapters will prepay for inventory.

Discussion of book printing expenses and chapter revenues for Central New Mexico Gardens, Northern NM Gardens.

Jack Carter: Society should never publish a book again. Too much up-front cost. We don’t have anyone who can do the kind of specialized marketing that’s needed.

Motion: Judy Lister moved that the chapter returns to State the publication cost of NMMG of $7.50 per book. Steve Robertson seconded. Passed.

Motion: Steve Robertson moved that chapters can sell Chihuahuan Desert Gardens and CNMG for whatever they want and keep all the money. Frances Robertson seconded. Passed.

Motion: Steve Robertson moved that chapters return $7 back from sale of each box of notecards. Judy Lister seconded. Passed.

Frances Robertson moved that the Society research the actual cost of printing for these books so the state isn’t getting ripped off. Motion rescinded.

L. Administrative Coordinator: Sandra Lynn. Needs ideas for new workshops for the coming year. (more later…)

M. Newsletter: Tom Antonio for Sarah Johnson. Tom read Sarah’s email. The new printer will help with print quality of photos. Tom asked Jack Carter to address the printer issue. Long discussion of changing printers, whether in Las Cruces or another city. Bulk mail issues with post office. Other difficulties.

Motion: Carol Johnson moved to choose as our new printer R&B Printing in Las Cruces for printing and mailing. Hildy Reiser seconded. Passed. Jack Carter will talk to Carolyn Gressit about implementing the move.
Martha Carter: Another issue is the extra packages of newsletters are sent to chapters and others. Are they being used? Let the Carters know if the extras are being used.

N. Workshops: Sandra Lynn. I need a committee to work with me. Have had one volunteer so far. Could use help in setting fees for workshops – differs for each workshop. Would like to send to the board info about each workshop plans, get feedback on fees. Trying to keep it affordable and yet get some extra for Society.

Discussion of various rates for workshops. Student, professional, members, nonmembers. What about others with economic hardship? Not professional – make it nonmembers instead.

O. Carter Fund: Jack Carter. “It’s been amazing.” We’re almost to the stage of needing to invest the funds. Need a completely new committee to do this – not Finance Committee. Should be people who regularly invest money. It’s going to be a fund for the future. I like the 50% rule: half the money stays with the body of the fund, half goes for grants.

Steve Robertson moved that the Carter Fund be invested by a separate committee chosen by Jack Carter. Seconded by Carol Johnson. Passed.

P. Valles Caldera: Frances Robertson. Information on joining Caldera Action, a group working to add VC to the National Park Service, out of the trust established to make money from the land.

Frances requests that the Society join, Chapters join, lots of individuals join.

Discussion: Society needs to be more active in conservation. Do we need to donate a lot of money? Another idea: Society should set up a long-term fund for causes such as this, with precedent. Lending our name is important, the money not so much. More comment in support of this idea. But in the future, not now. Could be considered later.

Hildy Reiser moved that we support Caldera Action by joining at $50; support its addition to the National Park Service. Steve Robertson seconded. One no vote. Passed.

Q. State Meeting at Gila Chapter: Charles Holmes. August 11-15, with a day early for a Botrychium Workshop. Lots of neat presentations and field trips.

R. Renee West: Need support letters on the Tom Wootten Wilderness Area proposal. Everyone agreed to send them.

S. Policies in Effect revision: Tom Antonio. Wynn Anderson is working on them. Tom will send to us an email for review and comment. Then have an email vote.

Steve Robertson made the motion to proceed. Hildy Reiser seconded. Passed.

T. Network for Good: Tom Antonio. Some difficulties with reporting and separating the money. Discussion: These procedures are hard to understand. Can we change the percent of money to chapters from memberships and donations over membership to make it standard? Would be easier for our records and dispersement: one fourth.
Steve Robertson moved to standardize. Hildy Reiser seconded. Passed.

U. Adjourned until tomorrow at 5:35 pm.

V. Called to order 9:00 am January 31, 2010.

W. Discussion and ranking of grant proposals.

First round of voting, to eliminate or fund projects:
#8—4 for, 7 against, 1 abstention ELIMINATED
#6—11 for, 1 against
#9—7 for, 4 against, 1 abstention
#5—8 for, 4 against
#7—2 for, 10 against ELIMINATED
#2—11 for, 1 against
#3—8 for, 4 against
#1—7 for, 5 against
#4—11 for, 1 against

Determining funded amount:
#4—$1,000
#2—$600
#6—$600
#1—$700
#3—$800
#5—$600
#9—$700

Board voted to fund at these numbers.

X. Jack Carter checked on yesterday’s decisions:
--Caldera Action article in newsletter
--selected R&B Printing for newsletter
--formation of investments committee

Y. Discussion of upcoming board elections. Slate of candidates not quite set yet, but needs to come out in the April newsletter.

Z. Meeting adjourned: Tom adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am.