

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Native Plant Society of New Mexico

February 8, 9, 2014
Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge

Present:

Officers: Renée West, President; Barbara Fix, Vice-President; John White, Treasurer; Pamela McBride, Recording Secretary

Directors-at-Large (Chapter Representatives): Bettie Hines, Albuquerque; Charles Holmes, Gila; John White for Joan Woodward, Las Cruces; Kathy Barton, El Paso; Bob Powell, San Juan Four Corners; Linda Barker, Otero; Jan Martenson, Taos

Committee Chairs: Jack Carter, Finance

Other Participants and Guests: Deborah Farson, Administrative coordinator; Martha Carter, Gila; Keller Suberkropp, President, Gila.

- A. **Call to order, Renée West, President:** Renée called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., February 8, 2014 and determined that a quorum was present. Deborah Farson, the newly hired administrative coordinator, was introduced to the Board and presented some of her background. Renee, John and Linda made additions to the meeting agenda. Linda motioned to approve the revised agenda, Jan seconded. The revised agenda was approved unanimously.
- B. **Approval of August 8, 2013 minutes, Pamela McBride, Recording Secretary:** Linda made a correction to the minutes under section G. 2. The correction was made to the subject title of the letter sent to the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Bob made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Kathy seconded. Approved unanimously.
- C. **Treasurer's Report, January 1 to December 31, 2013, John White, Treasurer:** John went over the report.
- 1) Total revenue received was \$32,761. Operating expenses were \$30,417. The operating account balance on 12-31-2013 was \$17,952, but the herbarium grants for 2013 still need to be paid, so that will reduce it by \$2,500. After the herbariums are paid, the 2013 expenditures will have exceeded the yearly budget by \$156.
 - 2) Bettie motioned to accept the treasurer's report as submitted, Jan seconded. The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.
- D. **Membership Report, Deb Farson for Lindsey Kirchhevel, Membership Coordinator:**
- 1) The total number of paid memberships (648) was up by 2 since 2012, although life memberships have dropped by one. Revenue was up \$1262 compared to 2012. There was a significant increase in the number of Friends category memberships paying at the \$50 level so even though the number of paid memberships has declined considerably from the peak in 2008, when paid memberships totaled 784, revenue did not decline drastically. Memberships of the majority of the chapters were down or basically the same; Taos was the only chapter that had a significant increase in the number of members (92 vs. 69 in 2012). The total of all chapter rebates for 2013 was \$4955.
- A. **Committee Reports:**
- a) **Finance Committee: Jack Carter, Finance Chair:**

- 1) With the newest donation solicitation letter, the restricted fund increased by several thousand dollars so that the account value is \$57,127. This account is only 4 1/2 years old and reflects the dedication of the membership to preserving native plants. The current value as of 12-31-2013 of the unrestricted investment account held at Edward Jones is \$81,801. There is another account in the amount of \$44,973 invested in Fidelity Spartan Index 500 Fund for a total of \$126,774 for unrestricted investments. Jan made a motion to form a subcommittee to examine the restructuring of the operating budget and conservation investment funds with special attention to funding grants and workshops. The committee will be composed of the president, vice-president, administrative coordinator, Kym Anderson, the treasurer, Jack Carter, and Deb Farson. Bob seconded. Passed unanimously. The committee will present recommendations to the Board at the July 31, 2014 Board meeting.
- 2) **Approval of 2014 Budget: All.** Bettie made a motion to approve the proposed budget as presented in the budget workpapers from Kym Anderson showing a deficit of \$8,085 for 2014. Bob seconded. Passed unanimously. Jack said that grants should not be included as expenditures from the operating revenue. When they are included it appears as if NPSNM is operating in the red, when in fact we are operating within the annual budget. This idea will be discussed with Kym Anderson to determine if and when this change can be implemented.

b) Conservation Committee: We still don't have a committee chair. After concern was expressed by a few Board members about mowing along roadways by the Department of Transportation, Barbara volunteered to talk to the DOT representative, Jennifer, about the balance between mowing the roadsides and conservation of native plants.

c) Book Sales: Renée West for Rachel Jankowitz, Book Sales Chair: Book revenues were \$1,824 for 2013. The checking account balance was \$5,254.88 on 12/31/2013. In addition there was a balance of \$125.76 in the savings account. After discussion about whether to continue selling books at the State level of NPSNM, Bob made a motion to discontinue the State book sales and liquidate the stock. Linda seconded. The book sales checking and savings accounts will be closed and funds will be moved into the operating account. It was suggested that instead of providing an inventory of books on the NPSNM website, book reviews could be posted instead. The motion passed with one opposed. Pam will ask Tom Antonio to talk to Rachel about the inventory of books and how much space will be required for storage until the inventory can be liquidated.

d) Website: All: Jack commented that the NPSNM website is not engaging and he would like to see us hire a professional to help us create a more engaging website. The Gila chapter of the Audubon Society has been working with Terry Mendelsson and Jack suggested we might want to consult her. Kathy moved that a committee be formed to investigate ideas for redesigning the website with a focus on creating links to photography files and the cost of such redesign and to find professionals who could implement the redesign. Jan seconded. The current program is in Wordpress which is the easiest to use. The committee can also look into other programs, but whatever program is selected, emphasis should be placed on facility of updating and adding information to the website. Jan volunteered to chair the committee.

e) Workshops: The Sedge workshop that Bob organized in 2013 was well attended and had a net profit of \$185.83. There were a total of 29 people that registered and attended, 8 of whom were new members. Bob will be doing two workshops in 2014: grass id with Kelly Allred and one on Backyard Habitats taught by Tessa Grasswitz.

f) Newsletter, All: There was some discussion about replacing the black and white back and front covers of the printed newsletter with color versions. John volunteered to research costs for color covers with Presley Printing.

New Business

- A. Chapter Reports:** Otero, Gila, Taos, San Juan Four Corners, Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and El Paso chapter representatives submitted their annual reports. All reports will be posted on the website.
- B. Next Board Election, Renee West:** Renee said that the by-laws require five elected Board members, but the Board needs clarification regarding the responsibilities of the paid contractor position of membership coordinator versus those of the elected Board position of membership secretary. Linda offered to send Lolly's recommendations regarding this issue to the Board for their consideration. The official ballot needs to be posted in the next newsletter with a deadline of March 1. Bob suggested contacting past chapter presidents to see if they would like to serve on the Board. There was discussion about getting someone from Asombro or other educational institution to serve on the Board.
- C. El Paso Chapter, Annual Meeting 2014 announcement:** The annual meeting will be held in El Paso on July 31st through August 3rd, 2014. The theme will be *Good to the Last Drop: Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment*. The meeting will have three tracts- one that is related to cacti, one oriented toward special interests, and one that will have a more scientific focus.
- D. Discussion of Possible New Policies, Barbara Fix:** Barbara distributed copies of pertinent Robert's Rules concerning email policies. Bob made the motion that emails concerning important matters should be sent to chapter presidents as well as chapter representatives and Board members. Charles seconded. Passed unanimously.
- E. Evaluation of Donation Proposal:**
Taos Chapter, NPSNM: Greenhouse Cover Redesign to Better Adapt Native Plant Propagation. Pam made the motion to fund the donation request for \$1,000 from the Taos chapter to purchase a redesigned cover and sidewalls for their greenhouse. Barbara Fix seconded. Passed unanimously. This donation is not part of the allocation designated for the grants.
- F. Evaluation of Grant Proposals:**
- 1) Asombro Institute for Science Education: Native Plant Day at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Bettie made the motion to fund this grant, John seconded, passed unanimously to fund the grant for \$500.
 - 2) NM Museum of Natural History and Science: Exploring New Mexican native plants in *A Walk Through New Mexico* at the Museum. Bob made a motion to deny the grant. Linda seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - 3) Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center: Nature Discovery for Kids Program with Albuquerque Preschool Co-op. John made a motion to deny the grant. Bob seconded. 1 opposed, motion passed.
 - 4) Audubon New Mexico: Augustus Fendler Memorial. Barbara made a motion to fund the grant. Linda seconded with a stipulation that the sign must include an acknowledgement that the project was funded by the NPSNM. 3 opposed, motion passed to fund the grant for \$800.
 - 5) Richard Felger: Potential Grain Crops from NM Native Grasses. Bob moved to ask Renee to call for a vote. 1 opposed, grant funded for \$1,000.

6) Joseph Franke: Pollinators of Gypsophilous Plants in New Mexico. 2 opposed, grant funded for \$1,000.

G. Meeting Adjourned: 5:05 pm, February 8, 2014.

H. Meeting Called to Order: 8:45 am, February 9, 2014.

Evaluation of Grant Proposals, Continued.

- 7) William R. Norris: The vascular Flora and Bryophytes of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, Catron County, NM: Specimen Curation. Unanimously approved funding the grant for \$954.70.
- 8) Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge: Resilient Grasslands: How the Interaction of Bison and Climate Influences the Resilience of Shortgrass Steppe Vegetation. 6 opposed, grant funding denied.
- 9) Jeffrey P. Rose: Evolution and Biogeography of *Polemonium* (Polemoniaceae) with Special Emphasis on the *Polemonium foliosissimum* Species Complex. Bob made a motion to request that the grant recipient donate an electronic copy of his thesis and the resulting journal article as well as duplicate herbarium sheets to the University of New Mexico herbarium. Passed unanimously to fund grant for \$1,000.
- 10) Robert Shriver: Explaining direct and Indirect Effects of Climate Change on Desert Plant Communities by Means of Physiological and Functional Traits. Unanimously denied funding.
- 11) Brian Witte, Botanical Research Institute: Curation and Digitization of the Bob Hutchins Legumes (Fabaceae) of New Mexico Collection. John made the motion to fund the grant. Linda seconded. Passed unanimously to fund grant for \$1,000.

Bob made a motion to transfer \$1,000 from the general operating fund to cover the cost of the donation request and \$2300 to cover the cost of all grants. Jan seconded, passed unanimously.

- I. Jack distributed copies of a document he put together with ideas for disseminating information on the importance of protecting the flora of New Mexico. One program that he and Martha are initiating is to give a copy of their book *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* to donors who make a contribution of \$100 or more to the Carter Conservation Fund. The goal of the second plan is to reach out to schools and junior colleges that have botanical education programs. They would consider making a gift of a classroom set of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* upon receipt and approval of a proposal indicating how the books would be used either in an existing studies program or one to be initiated using the books.
 - J. In 2013, two electronic votes were taken by the Board. The first was to renew Lindsey Kirchhevel's contract as membership coordinator for another year. On November 25, 2013, John made the motion to renew the Consulting Services Contract Agreement with Lindsey Kirchhevel for a period of one year covering the year of 2014, January 1 to December 31, 2014. Pam seconded, motion passed with a quorum of votes. The second motion was made by Renee on December 17, 2013 and was that the NPSNM contract with Deborah Farson to be our new Administrative Coordinator. Kathy seconded, motion passed with a quorum of votes.
- K. Meeting adjourned:** 9:55 am, February 9, 2014.