



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Minutes of Winter Board Meeting

8:30 AM, January 25, 2020

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Conference Center

(Preceded by pot-luck dinner, 6pm, Jan 24)

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order at 8:44am by Tom Stewart, President. Introductions around the table. Quorum was determined to be present and proxies accepted.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Representatives:

Executive Officers:

Albuquerque:	Judith Phillips	President:	Tom Stewart
El Paso:	Marianela Milner	Vice President:	Sue Small
Gila:	Keller Suberkropp	Membership Secretary:	Barbara Fix
Las Cruces:	Joan Woodward	Recording Secretary:	Jane Kruse
Otero:	Helgi Osterreich	Treasurer:	Anne Curley
Santa Fe:	Rachel Jankowitz, proxy		
Taos:	Jan Martenson, later Kathryn Mayer proxy		

Guests: Tom Prokopchuk, El Paso Chapter, Russell Martenson, Taos Chapter

*****Please see complete reports in Dropbox for starred items.**

II. Review and Certification of Board Votes by email, including acceptance of minutes of September 2019 meeting:

- A. Minutes Board Meeting September 2019**
- B. Comments to National Forests Cibola, Carson and Santa Fe regarding Forest Plans**
- C. Increased compensation (5%) for Lindsey Kirchhevel**

Motion to validate email votes for certification in board minutes was made by **Barbara Fix**, seconded by **Jan Martenson**, **PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

III.*Finance: Treasurer's Report for 2019 Anne Curley, Treasurer**

- A. The Budget vs Actual for 2019** ---Copies of Treasurer's report were passed out to compare the year end column to the budgeted column. \$26,965 was proposed and \$32,619.83 is actual total operating revenue. Difference partially explained by membership income. Interest from Edward Jones was withdrawn at beginning of year for expenses. Sales of coloring books, posters were also higher than anticipated.

Expenditure changes expected in PayPal fees and QuickBooks, DropBox, some increase in insurance. Decreased contract expenses but significantly higher newsletter expenses for USPS fees. (Now Pressley Printing will handle the postage in their bill to us.)

Decreases in SW Cyber Port. JotForm was used by Santa Fe chapter for sign ups of conference and will be used by Otero. Rebates to Chapters looks lower than anticipated.

Net Operating is **+\$7043.68**

- B. Edward Jones Account:**

Edward Jones recommended rebalancing from higher risk accounts to more moderate growth (55% equities, 45% fixed bonds). The volatility returns could range between up 23% to down 13% in that higher risk account. Suggested to change the yield to 4.5 to 6.5% and much lower risk. Staying in American Funds for most part, which will avoid transfer charges.

Carter Fund has a 16% growth in 2019, however.

Two Nusenda Carter Fund accounts explained: Individuals donate to "Carter Fund" but may use variations on the payee line. To remedy this situation the board clarified:

We authorize acceptance of all checks for Carter Fund, Carter Conservation Fund, Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund, or NPSNM Carter Fund into our Nusenda accounts. Accepted unanimously.

The available for grants: **\$16,102.02** today (Jan.25, 2020).

Carter Expenses: Total **\$20,002.17**. This includes all Carter: grants, herbaria, SF Conservation award at conference, photo contest winner, teacher award, PayPal fees & some solicitation expenses. Of that, only \$3000 came out of Edward Jones. Carter income pays for Carter expenses. Carter Fund capital gains growth is available for the Herbaria grants (**\$3000**). Last year these were paid later in March.

No Teacher award this year: Discussed ideas to advertise, get the word out for teacher awards next year, because no one nominated this year, nor applied for this year. The NPSNM website has the application during the entire year but deadline not until end of year. Joan Woodward recommends we remind all chapters to encourage members to nominate. Jan Martenson recommends we put in the Google group to nominate teachers. Should also be in newsletter to remind about award.

The other account: Edward Jones Unrestricted: was also considered for re-balancing. Moving matured Walmart bond into equities to balance later in year. Total **EJ unrestricted \$50,247.56**.

Finally, the Nusenda balances make it possible to pay all January bills without cash from EJ.

C. Financial position as of December 31, 2019 (Edward Jones) and to date.

Summary of accounts reviewed by Anne:

Nusenda	Checking	\$ 13,944.95	currently
	Savings (Carter Fund)	\$ 9,884.20	
Edward Jones	Unrestricted (available for special projects)	\$ 50,247.56	Cash: \$ 1,555.79 Bonds: \$ 25,526.30 Mutual Funds: \$ 23,165.68
	Restricted (Carter Fund)	\$ 143,839.49	Cash: \$ 13,215.23 Bonds: \$ 10,241.85 Mutual Funds: \$ 120,382.41

IV. *Membership Report-- Barbara Fix, Membership Secretary, (report prepared by Lindsey Kirchhevel, Membership Coordinator):**

- A. Barbara Fix reporting: Current total is 750 (709 paid and 41 life memberships). Currently Albuquerque is largest chapter, followed by Santa Fe. Total membership dues received was \$26,965.00. Now in third year since dues structure had been raised.
- B. Now 2 emails sent to remind individuals to renew before a snail mail is sent — saving money.
- C. Discussion to clarify categories of membership and the rate for Student/Teachers.

Motion by Jan: Students \leq 26 years and teachers pre-school thru 12th grade to remain \$20.
Seconded by Joan, passed unanimously.

Motion by Joan to change the term Family to Household: **Seconded by Anne, passed unanimously.**

All membership dues are tax deductible. The above clarifications are effective April 1st (after next newsletter is available). Everyone needs to relay information to chapters.

V. Archiving Records, Barbara Fix:

Barbara planning Las Cruces trip with signed minutes, finance records, and chapter reports. Also including newsletters, grant applications and year end reports.

Plan to make list of what is already down there. Plan to evolve the system, could match the system on DropBox.

Considering other types of documents such as plant lists, which is already on web for some chapters. Think of something unique from chapters to archive to protect the history of society. The original articles of organization (1976) 43 years ago.

VI. Conservation Report, Rachel Jankowitz:

A. Report of the Conservation Chair for last 6 months

1. Contributed to comment letters written by Tom Stewart and sent by NPSNM, on the Carson and Santa Fe National Forest Draft Management Plans. (Tom also sent a letter to the Cibola NF on their Draft Plan).
2. Participated in Native Plant Conservation Coalition conference call on January 21st.
3. Wrote Conservation Corner articles for October and January issues of the NPSNM newsletter.

4. Led a field trip during the 2019 Annual Meeting to Terrero mine El Molino mill reclamation site.
5. No comment letters were written by Conservation Chair this time period, but chair will be working with Patrice Mutchnick on Gila Forest Plan which just came out.

Tom suggested getting information from chapters before each board meeting.

NPSNM web site suggestions discussed. Tom and Rachel will work on updating her recommendations.

Discussion of purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum*) growth in Rio Grande and who can help with control.

B. Additional conservation activities:

1. The Botany Bill- Native Plant Conservation Coalition: (NPCC) in both houses of Congress (53 sponsors) -a Bipartisan bill to 1) promote botany thru the student loan pay back for botany students. 2) authorizes BLM to hire botanists 3) Monies to communities, municipalities, tribes and non-profits to use grant money for conservation, botanical methods using native plants. (~80 million dollars)

2. Monarch/Pollinator Highways Bill: Getting tucked into another bill: to set policy for revegetation with local natives to benefit pollinators. Highways attract pollinators because they have native plants, not cultivated land. Controversy about pollinator kills because of collisions. Need more information.

3. Sue Small's initiative: Sue and Tom went to Belen town hall meeting with Xochitl Torres Small whose local agents were receptive to discussion about Botany bill. They ask, what will this do for my district? Sue and Tom plan to talk to Ben Ray Luján office also. At present the governor and legislature is receptive to our causes.

4. Another bill introduced into Senate: Mandate to use native seeds in National Parks.

5. Holy Ghost Ipomopsis update: this native is vulnerable on the road where it lives in one popular canyon campground area. Tom and Barbara have seen secondary satellite site is succeeding but is close to a Terrero mine proposed drilling site. Alternate route for access possible. Some protections in place but we should encourage more protections because as Barbara pointed out there are unknowns about the plant characteristics and growth requirements.

Break started at 10:36 am, reconvened at 11:10 am

VII. Administrative Coordinator's Report— Tom Stewart

Trying to distribute work that was Deb's:

- A. **Grants**-Jane, we are using standard application form which indicates the mission. Year-end reports now standardized.
- B. **Sue-Advertisers** we needed to get the invoices out to our regular advertisers who pay ahead of year of the advertisements which pays for a newsletter publication. Sue has agreed to look for new advertisers. Possible new advertisers: Organ Mt and other outfitters, eco-tourism tours, REI, nurseries, seed companies, such as Curtis and Curtis Seed Company, Granite, Western Native Seeds.
- C. **Bookkeeping**-Anne worked with Deanna, accountant last year (\$1200 in budget last year). Tom would like to keep that amount in budget to help with the filings required by law. Corporate report which cites the 990. She helped with the chapter finance report form to provide right information to be used by state NPS organization for federal filings. Net worth of the state organization includes all the chapter's income and expenses.
- D. **Dropbox**-Tom suggests using only for safe storage of records because of their request for \$ from individuals to buy new account to access our board information. Tom suggests we use the web page domain (up to 17 email accounts available) for board documents. In future we will use private website page to store the agenda, and other items for the board to access.
- E. **Contracts**: Now expire end of December (for example, Lindsey) which is the busiest financial time, and January payment then unapproved by board. Suggests moving contract period February to February. Discussion

Motion to pay Lindsey for the start of this year and move the contract renewal to March 1st was made by **Barbara, seconded by Jan, PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

- F. **Website** Tom had already been working on cleaning up various areas of the web. At the end of his term as president, Tom would like to work more on the website and maintain its functionality. Tom has attended work nights with SW Cyberport, the web domain folks.
- G. **Bylaws change Tom** briefly described the ease of changes in policies vs. by-laws. Could however create a co-presidency, but the membership must be notified 30 days in advance, which could be done by newsletter and email and then some filings with the state. They must be sent a new version of bylaws. So, it is possible to change the bylaws.
- H. **Joan expressed concern** if all tasks, that need to be addressed, are covered. The suggestion of writing job descriptions has been discussed by executive board members as something to work on this year. SOP is a more technical description for the board members, to know what the role of officers involves. Discussion

Motion to authorize a \$750 appreciation gift and a lifetime membership be given to Tom Stewart was made by **Barbara Fix, seconded Marianela, PASSED unanimously, 11 voting members**, Tom abstaining.

By acclamation the board would prefer Tom Stewart stay for another 2-year term. This would benefit the NPSNM by not only stabilizing the operations but also to steer the society toward long term goals.

VIII. Chapter highlights

- A. **2020 state conference update-Otero** Helgi passed out a handout with details of upcoming conference. Speaker suggestions were offered. They are trying to have registration ready for the next newsletter. Registration will probably be \$100 with the banquet an additional charge.
- B. **Albuquerque planned workshop & alliance with Friends of Valle de Oro NWR- Feb 15th.** Judith Phillips explained the Backyard Refuge workshop which is planned for middle February. Certification can be obtained at different levels. Includes planning for pollinators and decrease use of pesticides. Judith will be running a workshop in which a coach and 5 participants work on individual designs. Details available on website.
- C. **Sue Small:** conservation group for Albuquerque chapter has been involved with:
 - 1. The County of Bernalillo moratorium on a glyphosate has been in place for over year, and has now hired a consultant to use more Integrated Vegetation Management, switch from more conventional landscaping to natural native plants
 - 2. Tom and others have attended wetlands and national forest workshops around the state including the Cibola Shared Stewardship Collaborative (Mt Taylor, Zuni Mtn, Magdalena, Sandia Mtn Collaboratives)
 - 3. Isleta Reach Stewardship Alliance for Bosque restoration project. 2-year planning grant to keep Rio Grande as regenerative as possible.
 - 4. Group spoke with Deb Haaland. Land and Water Conservation Funding.
 - 5. Valencia County ground water. Bottling water export out of state, want to increase from 323 to 646 acre feet of water (210 million gallons)

Other areas water issues: CAP is considering offering Gila water to bottle. San Augustin Plains water. Valencia County precedent of this bottling could affect other areas of state. No beneficial use of the water so if it is bottled there is a commercial “benefit”, but is this a benefit for state?

- D. **El Paso & Las Cruces Chapter, Marianela Milner and Joan Woodward**-The El Paso chapter is in the conference rotation after Albuquerque, followed by the Las Cruces chapter conference. They asked group for input on consideration of combining those two conferences into one year, possibly doing a big trip to Big Bend, Alpine, Sul Ross University, Marathon, Marfa, Fort Davis, or other area in west Texas to look at Chihuahu Desert. Sul Ross could handle the group for a conference. Joan suggested they could alternate those southern chapters in the rotation. Tom encouraged a low-key approach to sponsoring conference, not a big attendance but goal should be covering expenses. Big Bend as an add-on option. This will be discussed further, poll other chapter members.
- E. Marianela says the El Paso Cactus & Rock Club and the El Paso Chapter- Native Plant Society will be going on a field trip to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Center in Ft. Davis. She will let NM know about other field trips they are planning.

Noon Lunch break at 12:21, Resumed 1:28

- F. **Gila Chapter** -Keller informed group the Jack Carter book “Trees and Shrubs” is down to less than 30 copies and will be revised and re-printed. Plant Sale is moving to August with no pre-sales, vendors will have opportunity to bring plants to an event. Helgi says their usual plant sale in April is not a pre-sale either, they order from Mountain States.

IX. Budget

Proposed Budget- Anne Curley reviewed the proposed expenses and income for the 2020 year.

Revenue: possibilities discussed: \$ from dues listed as conservative, used for operations.

Coloring Books-reprinting a possibility but this will also be an expense. It is also possible to reprint the posters. Jan had brought up reprinting the Northern NM gardening guide, possible to do this on demand (LuLu). This may be considered for another year. Gary Runyan has been selling posters at Nature Center, Plants of the Southwest, NPSNM newsletter in past.

Expenditures: Insurance, corporations fee about same. President’s contingency fund available for possible conference attendance, QuickBooks will be lower. Membership coordinator increase of 5% and GRT. Dues rebated to chapters is listed.

Motion to accept proposed budget with changes indicated by Anne Curley was made by **Barbara Fix, seconded by Joan Woodward, PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

X. Grants and Donations ***

- A. **Discussion of 2019 Year End Grant Reports (previous year)** and potential give backs to the society. Summary of grant reports from 2019 sent to board members and is available on DropBox. Two-page template report form used. Some discussions about form and deadline to report.

Potential give backs for chapters to get presentations. Each applicant is encouraged to indicate if a grant could result in a chapter meeting presentation. Tom clarified for Helgi that the presentation on Sunflower project will be for Albuquerque 2021 conference, not Otero's. Jane will send information to Margaret Menache for potential newsletter articles. Tom can note ideas for use on website. Joan suggested A GIS map may be valuable on website to show areas where we have funded projects. Chapters should take home potential ideas for presentations. Anne pointed out a desire to go out and see these projects and deliverables....

Discussion: Joan suggests a listing on website of society areas of future interests for funding. Tom-we are living up to our mission thru these grants. The grant donation appeal letter lists some of these projects, shows we are doing these things. Joan suggests adding a couple of lines to the grant application web page suggesting areas we are interested in funding for our grants. For example, the Holy Ghost *Ipomopsis* problem was mentioned as a potential study why it grows there, soil testing as possibility for study.

Discussion of 2019 grant money not used per proposal by Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. Informed by Donna Stevens-they intend to do it pending USFS OK.

Motion to allow her to use the money this year for the original purpose otherwise re-apply or return the money for this calendar year **made by Anne, seconded by Barbara, Passed unanimously.**

B. **Grant Proposals Summary for 2020:**

Discussion included the grant applications on the new form.

Perception of applications by board members included discussions regarding the mission of NPSNM and how the money was to be used as stated in grants. Several members were able to highlight the proposals based on previous experience with the entities applying. Board members also discussed the study methods and study design of several proposals, and money available in our budget for the year. Qualifications of potential recipients were discussed by the group and potential benefits to age groups. Discussion about using natives vs. traditional plants. Joan again made the point about cumulative examination of our studies, where we are and where we want to go.

Short Name	Name of Project	Organization/Institution and Person in Charge	Requested \$	Funded \$
A-Taos County Coloring Book	Taos County Native Versus Invasive Plant Educational Coloring Book	Taos County Cooperative Weed Management Area (TCCWMA) Shannon Romeling	\$1200	\$1200
B-Graze Days Railyard Park	Graze Days-A Native Grassland Restoration Project	Railyard Park Conservancy Shannon Palermo	\$1500	\$0
C-Pecos Sunflower Story	*Pecos Sunflower Storytelling Project	Christina M. Selby	\$1500	\$1500
D- <i>Allium</i> Pollinators	How Nectar Ecology Shapes Pollinator Communities in New Mexico's <i>Allium cernuum</i>	Auburn University Charles Ray	\$1230.74	\$1230.74
E-Wetlands Restoration Educational	Educational Outreach Regarding Wetlands Restoration in Northeast New Mexico	DeHaven Cattle Company, LLC Stephanie Brock	\$1500	\$1200
F-Dripping Springs IDs	*Native Plant Identification in Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument for Dripping Springs Trail	Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Patrick Nolan	\$600	\$600
G-Chihuahuan Restoration Seed Tests	Seed Testing for Priority Chihuahuan Desert Restoration Species	NMSU-Dept of Animal and Range Sciences Akasha May Faist (check)	\$1500	\$1500
H-Santa Fe Botanical Garden	*The Pinon-Juniper Woodland and Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve	Santa Fe Botanical Garden Scott Canning	\$1500	\$1500
I-Revive! Workshops for Girls	Revive! Recreating a Historic Garden to Spark Education Opportunities for Girls	Women's International Study Center Susan Tweit	\$1500	\$1500
J- Rio Fernando Propagation	*Rio Fernando Park Native Plant Propagation Project	Taos Land Trust Ben Wright	\$1500	\$1500

K-Forest Bound Vans	*Getting Kids into Forest-Vans Needed	Institute for Applied Ecology Melanie Gisler	\$1500	\$1500
L-Middle School Lesson	*Middle School Lesson on Evolutionary Relationships of New Mexico Plants	Asombro Institute for Science Education Stephanie Bestelmeyer	\$800	\$800
M-Gila Wilderness Restoration	Gila Wilderness Canyon Restoration & Non-Native Plant Removal	Heart of the Gila Patrice Mutchnick	\$1600	\$1500
Grant			\$17,430 Total requested	\$15,530 funded

Motion to eliminate B- Graze Days from consideration for funding this year was made by Helgi Osterreich **seconded by Rachel Jankowitz, PASSED with 11 voting members,** and one opposed.

Motion to decrease grant E-Wetlands Restoration by \$300 and M-Gila Wilderness Restoration by \$100 was made by Anne Curley, **seconded by Marianela Milner, PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

Motion to accept and fund the rest of grants as requested was made by Marianela Milner, **seconded by Kathryn Mayer, PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

C. **Herbaria:** Six-hundred-dollar donations (\$600) will to be given to each of the following 5 herbaria: University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso, San Juan College, Farmington and Western New Mexico University.

D. **Teacher Award.** No award to be given as there were no nominations.

E. **Grant Awards set at \$1500 Limit on** grants in past has been \$1500. Discussion about this amount not being so rigid. Perhaps we could attract bigger projects. If we recruited suggestions on the grant application page of website, we could target specific ideas. Discussion on ways to change our funding structure will be continued including the duration of bigger projects. Summer meeting another chance to discuss this and the future conference locations. Joan questioned if we should be advocating more for our causes and bigger ideas. Sue reminded group that MLG and good legislature this is good time to get things done. Natural Resources and Healthy Soils, for example. We should advocate as an entity, not as individuals.

F. Environment Day at Legislature-next week

Adjourned 3:30 PM

Committee reports and board meeting minutes are uploaded to:
Dropbox>Board Meetings>Winter Board Meetings>2020 Winter Board Meeting. Board
Members and Chapter Presidents have been given access. Tom Stewart can help if you have
trouble with Dropbox. You may contact him at tstewart@cybermesa.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kruse



Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico

Tom Stewart



President
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on February 12, 2020 by a vote of the board of directors, with 12
eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.