



## **Native Plant Society of New Mexico**

### **Minutes of Winter Board Meeting**

9:00 AM, January 16, 2021

Video Conference with Zoom  
during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by Tom Stewart, President. Quorum was determined to be present with no proxies for this meeting.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

##### **Chapter Representatives:**

Albuquerque: Judith Phillips  
El Paso: Marianela Milner  
Gila: Keller Suberkropp  
Las Cruces: Joan Woodward  
Otero: Helgi Osterreich  
Santa Fe: Tom Antonio  
Taos: Jan Martenson

##### **Executive Officers:**

President: Tom Stewart  
Vice President: Vic Crane  
Membership Secretary: Barbara Fix  
Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse  
Treasurer: Anne Curley

Guests: Rachel Jankowitz Conservation Chair, Jen Gruger President Otero Chapter.

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

#### **II. Review and Certification of Board Votes by email, including acceptance of minutes of January Winter Board meeting:**

- A. Approved Minutes Board Meeting August 28, 2020: passed on September 22, 2020.
- B. Approved Rachel Jankowitz' letter to Travis G. Moseley, Supervisor Lincoln National Forest comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Non-Invasive Plant Management passed: Oct 31, 2020.

- C. Approved Rachel Jankowitz' letter to Sarah Scott, BLM Manager regarding the Farmington Mancos-Gallup Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement passed (9/9/20):

**Motion** to validate email votes for certification of board minutes was made by **Joan, seconded by Barbara, PASSED unanimously, 12 voting members.**

In addition, the board recognized the NPSNM election results completed December 1, 2020. Board members elected: Tom Steward, Vic Crane, Barbara Fix, Anne Curley and Jane Kruse.

### **III.\*\*\*Finance: Treasurer's Report for 2020 Anne Curley, Treasurer**

- A. **The Budget vs Actual for 2020/2021** ---Copies of Treasurer's report were available to board via email. Received \$32,426.21 total operating revenue in 2020, which was more than budgeted (\$27, 825.00). Anne reviewed each line item, commented on increased revenue due to advertising (work of Sue Small), large social media donation and clarified that posters are the main product revenue source. Membership dues came in higher than anticipated.

Tom clarified the board meeting meets after the beginning of the year fiscal year starting in January. Chapter financial reports must be for calendar year.

Anne reviewed highlights of operating expenses: Total operating expenditures at \$27,542.70. Some of the contract services payments are from this year.

Net operating revenue-expenditures at \$4883.51 (budget \$194.00 for 2020), compares to last year. We are in fine shape with expenditures and revenue. Crazy year but we did well.

**The budget for 2021 was reviewed:** Anne worked out a conservative approach on projected revenue while leaning toward overestimate of expenses to give society a comfortable flexibility for the next year. Operating revenue budget: \$30,020.00 and Operating expenses budget at \$30,673.70 (-653.70 but in black with +\$2000 with donation). Contract Services includes 2% cost of living for membership services. For the newsletter editor, the finance committee recommends \$300 per issue (\$50 raise). Budget for 2021 for contract services is \$8241 (vs \$7575.00 budget for 2020).

**The motion by Anne to raise payment to the newsletter editor by \$50/issue or \$300 total, seconded by Jan was passed unanimously with 12 voting members.**

**B. Nusenda and Carter Accounts review:**

<b>Nusenda</b>	<b>Checking</b>	\$18,204.61
	<b>Savings (Carter Fund)</b>	\$4915.73
	<b>Unrestricted (available for special projects)</b>	\$51,934.96
<b>Edward Jones</b>	<b>Restricted (Carter Fund)</b>	\$149,444.30

Edward Jones change in value YTD was 9.19% in Carter account, in unrestricted account it was 3.23%.

To balance budget with the intent to spend money on printing, Anne suggests taking \$750 from Edward Jones unrestricted funds. A clarification budget will be posted. This will put us \$96.00 in black with the \$750 projected change in budget.

Jan and Tom: discussion about the advertising revenue. *Suggested an SOP to define roles of individuals involved in obtaining the revenue from advertising.* A small advertising committee will include Vic Crane. *Also discussed the reprinting of the Thistle guidebook.* The Milkweed guidebook is more difficult to have printed.

**Tom A. motioned to approve 2021 budget, this includes reprinting booklets including coloring books from unrestricted Edward Jones funds, Barbara seconded and passed unanimously with 12 voting members.**

**C. Summary by Anne of Edward Jones Accounts:**

Goal of Carter account is Balanced Growth and income at a 50/50 mix with moderate growth and conservative risk. Rebalancing started last year. We had a 9.19% return in a volatile year. The mix currently is 68.37% fixed and 31.63% Equities(?). Bonds vs Equities mix is about 45/55.

Carter money detail: “loose money” is \$10,868.41 and total over \$150,000. Need approximately \$18,000 to fund grants, herbaria, awards. In past we generally used “loose money” for grants, not selling shares. Anne has a plan to time some payments such as herbaria so that the money comes from the right place.

Joan started a conversation: \$10,868 loose plus \$3965.82 in dividends, but we have talked about special projects like the media project of Barbs. The idea of initiating projects that would speed up our mission goals. Can we be more proactive this year: Could we add an amount, for example \$1000, to launch a sponsored research project. Joan will send an email to be included in the board meeting minutes. More discussion on this delayed to New Business.

Tom: with other "gifts" we may be down to about \$12,000 for grants.

Anne: Breakdown of Unrestricted funds: \$3100 in cash in Ed Jones unrestricted. The Nusenda checking balance has \$18,204.61 for expenses for start of this year.

**IV.\*\*\*Membership Report-- Barbara Fix, Membership Secretary:** Lindsey Kirchhevel, Membership Coordinator provided the following highlights, and the complete report was reviewed.

- There was a net loss of 33 paid and life members during 2020, all in the basic membership categories. All chapters affected.
- 88 complimentary memberships bring our total to 805.
- 104 new members joined, 10 more than last year.
- Rebates to chapters from 2020 dues will be \$6673.75.
- Lost 2 lifetime members (Jack Carter and Mimi Hubby).
- Joining and paying online vs. by mail is increasing every year.
- In second half of 2020, Lindsey the membership coordinator started saving us money by sending 2 renewal reminders before sending a single letter on paper to the holdouts. This has been more effective than sending two paper letters right off as before.

Joan: discussion about youth membership and family vs household membership is still not showing correctly on the PayPal vs the website. Madeline may be working on this.

Lindsey has asked the background be lighter so that it can be read easier.

**V. \*\*\*Conservation Report was emailed to board by Rachel Jankowitz, Conservation Chairperson:**

**A. Report of the Conservation Chair for last year:**

1. Wrote and sent letter of April 15 to the Supervisor of the Gila National Forest, commenting on the draft Revised Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.
2. Attended a virtual public meeting, then wrote a letter to the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, commenting on the Farmington Mancos-Gallup Draft Resource

Management Plan Amendment and associated Environmental Impact Statement. Revised because the deadline had been extended. This letter was sent to the agencies on September 9.

3. Wrote and sent letter of November 4 to the Supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest, commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Non-native Invasive Plant Management.

4. Wrote Conservation Corner articles for spring, summer, fall and winter issues of the NPSNM newsletter.

**B. Additional conservation activities: See complete reports in Dropbox\*\*\***

**From B. Fix:** We shared the Governor's proclamation of Native Plant Day of New Mexico (August 15<sup>th</sup> this year) with local nurseries. Three offered discounts on, two made contributions to NPSNM chapters (Plants of the Southwest: 10% of their net proceeds from the Santa Fe & Albuquerque stores that day-Hooray for Gail!)

The Santa Fe chapter also sent a letter of support for Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's proposed revisions to the state endangered plant list-RJ

**From T. Stewart:** Provided NPSNM comments to EMNRD about their proposed "Forest Action Plan".

Received approval from our Board to sign onto a letter to Bureau of Land Management opposing approval of a surface mine planned by American Magnesium for the Florida Mountains in Luna County, NM. The BLM has now withdrawn the approval of that mine.

**From S. Small & Jim McGrath:** Little Water Canyon protection and many other activities. See report.

**Las Cruces Chapter** teamed up with Southwest Environmental Center and Audubon to bring a planned, massive, illegal off-road vehicle rally in the Rio Grande to the attention of the land manager, the International Boundary Waters Commission, and the Dona Ana County Sheriff. The Commission then denied the permit for the event (October, 2020).

**Santa Fe Chapter** has announced they have honored Rachel Jankowitz with a lifetime membership.

**VI. Administrative Report-from Tom Stewart, President**

1. Taxes were filed on time in October (on extension of due date).
2. Unable to mail Carter Fund appeal as usual and substituted a letter of gratitude to all donors of last 3 years. Followed up by offering a private viewing of the Carter-funded film, "Saving Beauty."

3. Extended the biennial election through November this year and set terms of office to begin on January 1. Perhaps the outgoing president would run winter meeting and then pass on the gavel.

4. Realized a problem with mass emailing by any service last summer (filtered out as spam by many services) and have tried to remedy by using our own domain name in return address. Only partly successful. "Vertical response" is the mass mailing entity we use.

5. Madeleine Woodward applied to be our website helper and was gladly accepted. She is knowledgeable and efficient, although she has to balance with other work. Paid hourly. Suggested changes should be sent to Madeline and also cc to Tom. Tom will get out her contact information to chapter and presidents.

6. Although the money made on ads helped fund our newsletter this year, we don't have a good, formal system for promoting, pricing and billing for the ads. At least 4 people involved. We need to rebuild the system. Vic, Margaret and Sue will be asked to improve the system.

7. Tech Soup has saved us money on QuickBooks this past year, and QB has been renewed at the same low price. Now have added free copies of Microsoft Office for the president and treasurer. Other officers and directors can avail of it on request.

8. Now that Madeleine is handling website updates, we need more material from the chapters to keep the site timely. We want to interest and inform visitors from the public. For instance, suggested places where families can go to see native plants either in cultivation or easy walks in nature. Jan had discussed in past and would like others to send info where are the places to see native plants. Joan would like to see the Zoom talks, could these be posted on the website.

9. Insurance premium up significantly this year. *We will remind them of our excellent "loss history" and consider shopping the coverage if they don't make some adjustment.*

**Break: 11:21 am, Return at 11:34pm**

#### **VII. Other Chapter highlights:**

**Gila**-a new arrangement with city: they will reimburse the chapter for continued maintenance of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Jack Carter's trees and shrubs book is on the way. \$30 retail.

**Taos-Jan:** Greenhouse project is going well, ongoing relationship to share the facility with the Taos Land Trust, see article in newsletter, regarding grant award.

*Working on an electronic version of Southern Rocky Mts Gardens guide. A crew of folks is working on typing, new pictures.* The original Native Planting Guide for Northern NM was by Sally Wasowski (deceased). Following precedent of Albuquerque with Virginia Burris getting a grant for retyping the Central NM Gardens guidebook. El Paso/Las Cruces also have such a book.

**Las Cruces:** Joan presented an idea about NPSNM donating to seed libraries. The Seed libraries may package and print the labels for donated seed.

**Otero:** Jen reported the program for summer conference is basically the same. The planning group will start to meet again in February. Some discussion about expanding the release of liability form. Big unknown about execution given the fact we don't know what will happen with Covid vaccines.

**Albuquerque:** Judith described alliance with Valle de Oro NWR, one of grants this year. Giving financial support for backyard habitat program signs.

#### **VIII. New Business:**

**Joan-**we should proactively use grants, put out grant proposals. Rachel had an idea regarding "knowledge gap" and having students assess impact of Carter grants and report to strategize our future years. Tom says we can decide what we want to sponsor in our granting program. Could be request for proposals for graduate and undergraduate projects.

The memo will be distributed to board after the meeting.

**Vic's** idea for grants would create a two-tier system, some lower funding, some higher.

#### **VIII. Grants-**

**A. Herbaria-**\$600 donations will 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.

**B. Teacher Award-**Estela Thompson, Santa Rosa High School: **Barb made the motion to award her \$500, Anne seconded and 11 available members passed this motion.**

**C. Discussion regarding the Year End Reports (YERs) received for the 2020 grants.** Of the 13 reports requested 5 of the projects were completed. 1 project (K-Forest Vans) requested their funds be rolled into a different project for 2021. The completed projects have contributed to newsletters or other presentations.

Of the remaining 7 projects (A-Taos Coloring Book, D-Allium Pollinators, E-Wetlands Restoration, F-Dripping Springs, G- Chihuahuan Restoration, H-Santa Fe Botanical, and I-Revive!) the board recommends a follow-up letter sent in April. The letter would outline the expectation to complete another YER after completion of the project.

#### **D. Discussion regarding the Grants received for 2021 funding:**

The board came prepared to discuss the 16 proposed grants in detail. The board had been directed to rank the grants with a number: 15 most preferred grant down to 1 point for least favorite. Tom S. suggested the conversation open with Judith picking a favorite grant and describing her reasons for picking.

Some discussion regarding the grant review process: Tom A. some grants longer than 5 pages, difficult to read if too long, suggested the formatting limit, also noted it is difficult to “rank” using 15 to 1 scale. Noted some grants would do better if they did not include some items in their budget such as mileage, gardening tools.

As the conversation broadened to include all board members it was determined the group could agree on 3 categories: grants we really want to fund, grants we would like to fund and grants we would be OK not funding. The board considered the conversation regarding our available funds, reducing the funding for some grants and declining to fund some of the grants. **Helgi motioned to fund 11 grants, according to the following table, Tom A. seconded the motion and 11 voting members approved the motion.** (Judith had to leave early.)

Short Name:	Project Name:	Organization/Individual in Charge:	Requested \$:	Funded \$:
A-21 Tyrone Community	Tyrone Community Park Native Plant Exhibit	Tyrone Property Owners Association/ Peter Wyman	\$1500	\$1500
B-21 NMSU Bryophyte Herbarium	Safeguarding the bryophyte herbarium collection at NMSU	NMSU Herbarium/ Zachary Rogers	\$1475.53	\$1500
C-21 Native Plant & Pollinators	Native NM Plant Restoration to Conserve Native Pollinators	La Cosecha CSA/ Dr Paul J. Polechla	\$1490.40	\$1000
E-21 Rio Fernando Park Herbarium	Rio Fernando Park Herbarium	Taos Land Trust/ Ben Wright	\$1358.95	\$1000
F-21 Gila Tamarisk Removal	Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River	Upper Gila Watershed Alliance/ Donna Stevens	\$1500	\$1500
G-21 ABQ Backyard Refuge	Launching ABQ Backyard Refuge Certification Program	Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge/ Aryn LaBrake	\$1000	\$1000
I-21 Plants for Sacramento Butterflies	Host Plants for Recovery of the Sacramento Mts Checkerspot Butterfly	Institute for Applied Ecology SW/ Melanie Gisler	\$1500	\$1500
J-21 Natives in Compacted Soil	A Demonstration Plot of Native Grasses, Legumes, and Forbs in Compacted Soil	Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners/ Tom Dominguez  (Pam Wolfe)	\$1519	\$1500
L-21 Educational Signs for Graze days	Educational Signs for Graze Days	Railroad Park Conservancy/ Shannon Palermo	\$1140	\$500



M-21 Eco-Riparian Hydrology of the Middle Rio Grande	Eco-Riparian Hydrology of the Middle Rio Grande	NM Institute of Mining and Technology/ Dr Benjamin Duval	\$1500	\$1000
N-21 Eagle	Project EAGLE Everyday Approach for Gozhóó Living Environments	Chiricahua Apache National Order Mission and Alliance/ Nantan Saenz	\$1500	\$1500
			\$21,983.88	\$13,500

**Grant Year End Reports for 2020 Grants:**

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 Romelig	\$1200 \$1200	In progress with coloring book
C-Pecos Sunflower Story	*Pecos Sunflower Storytelling Project	Christina M. Selby	\$1500 \$1500	Complete, will show movie at state conference and has given other presentations
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	In progress, but can and will present at state conference
E-Wetlands Restoration Educational	Educational Outreach Regarding Wetlands Restoration in Northeast New Mexico	DeHaven Cattle Company, LLC Stephanie Brock	\$1500 \$1200	In progress, will try again in 2021
F-Dripping Springs IDs	*Native Plant Identification in Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument for Dripping	Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Patrick Nolan	\$600 \$600	In progress

	Springs Trail			
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	In progress, part of funds used for testing, will try 2021
H-Santa Fe Botanical Garden	*The Pinon-Juniper Woodland and Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve	Santa Fe Botanical Garden  Scott Canning	\$1500 \$1500	In progress
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	In progress, Hope it works in 2021
J- Rio Fernando Propagation	*Rio Fernando Park Native Plant Propagation Project	Taos Land Trust  Ben Wright Rita O' Conneoo	\$1500 \$1500	Complete, applying for 2021 grant.
K-Forest Bound Vans	*Getting Kids into Forest-Vans Needed	Institute for Applied Ecology  Melanie Gisler	\$1500 \$1500	In progress, but has requested \$ be rolled into project for 2021
L-Middle School Lesson	*Middle School Lesson on Evolutionary Relationships of New Mexico Plants	Asombro Institute for Science Education Stephanie Bestelmeyer	\$800 \$800	Complete, but modified the project. Will write an article for our newsletter.
M-Gila Wilderness Restoration	Gila Wilderness Canyon Restoration & Non-Native Plant Removal	Heart of the Gila Patrice Mutchnick	\$1600 \$1500	Complete, data to be written up for publication.
C19-20	Tamarisk eradication	Upper Gila Watershed Alliance Donna Stevens	\$1500 \$1500	Complete, has already provided an article for newsletter, pictures. Applying again for 2021 grant.
Grant			<b>\$15,530 funded</b>	

**Motion by Tom A., seconded by Jan, all agreed to adjourn at 2:33pm.**

Committee reports and board meeting minutes are uploaded to:  
Dropbox>Board Meetings>Winter Board Meetings>2021Winter 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](mailto: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 20, 2021 by a vote of the board of directors, with 11  
eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections was made.

*Print in italics notes subjects to revisit in the future for continued attention.*