



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Minutes of Winter Board Meeting

1:00 PM, January 16, 2022

Video Conference with Zoom
during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Tom Stewart, President. Quorum was determined to be present with no proxies for this meeting. Welcome to Betty Spence, new representative for Gila Chapter.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Representatives:

Albuquerque: Judith Phillips
El Paso: Marianela Milner
Gila: Betty Spence
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

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

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

- A. September 4, 2021: Approved the minutes of the board meeting of August 19, 2021.

- B. November 4, 2021 Approved Tom’s letter to New Mexico Energy Mining and Natural Resources Division in support of the proposed rule change to strengthen protection of state endangered plant species. Passed with 10 voting members.
- C. November 5, 2021: Approved Rachel Jankowitz’s letter to Lincoln National Forest about their revised draft land management plan. Passed with 10 voting members.
- D. January 6, 2022: Approved the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (1976), adding the Carter Conservation Fund as a DBA, and bringing the purposes of the organization up to date. Passed with 10 members voting.

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

III.*Finance: Treasurer’s Report, Anne Curley, Treasurer**

- A. **The Budget vs Actual for 2021** ---Copies of Treasurer’s report were available to board via email. Total operating revenue in 2021 was \$34,108.02, which was more than budgeted (\$30,770.00). Anne reviewed each line item, commented on increased revenue due to increased contributions and membership dues but lower advertising and product sales. Membership dues came in higher than anticipated.

Anne reviewed highlights of operating expenses: Total operating expenditures at \$23,540.68. Paypal expense is increasing. Some of the contract services and newsletter printing payments do not fall in this year. Coloring Books not printed but thistle books were printed.

Net operating revenue-expenditures at \$10,567.34 (budget estimate \$96.30 for 2021).

B. Nusenda and Edward Jones Accounts reviewed by Anne:

		Jan2021	Jan2022
Nusenda	Checking	\$18,204.61	\$27,262.83
	Savings (Carter Fund)	\$ 4,915.73	\$4,868.43
	Unrestricted (Available for special projects)	\$ 51,934.96	\$56,146.96
Edward Jones	Restricted (Carter Fund)	\$149,444.30	\$164,174.66

Checking account has good operating amount for year.

Edward Jones change in value YTD was 13.07% in Carter account, in unrestricted account it was 7.83%. Bonds maturing will need to be re-evaluated.

Transferring funds from Paypal into the Carter funds is confusing and an area Anne is working to clarify. Carter donations this year: close to \$12,000 but expenses for Carter \$1116. Appeal letter sent by Tom S. was successful.

C. **The budget for 2022 was reviewed:** Anne worked out a conservative Operating revenue budget: \$31,410.00 and Operating expenses budget at \$30,093.50.

Revenue: Vic noted advertising solicitation not done in 2021 and will be shifted to March/April going forward.

Expenses: Changes include increases in Paypal, marked reduction in insurance with new company, Hartford. Changes in contract services payments:

Motion was made by **Barb** to increase contract services payments by 7% for cost of living (except accountant), seconded **by Tom A.** and the motion **passed unanimously with 12 voting members.**

Our own domain is evolving which gives us several email accounts and may reduce the spam problems. Gmail sometimes leaves important messages out of the In box. Some chapters may want these email accounts and Vic mentioned accounts for president and for treasurer.

Special projects category: an additional \$300 for Milkweeds Guide which has been re-edited. Chapter could sell \$8 to members, \$10 to non-members.

Conservation Committee: \$150 line item revived for items such as fee for “Stewardship of National Areas” web meeting for conservation chair (Rachel) to use.

Other areas such as posters and other book items will be discussed under new business.

Tom A. motioned to approve 2022 budget as modified by Anne. Helgi seconded and motion passed unanimously with 12 voting members.

IV. *Membership Report-- Barbara Fix, Membership Secretary:** Lindsey Kirchhevel and John Freyermuth prepared report, which is available in DropBox.

Barb reports the membership shows that we are very close to the record number of paid memberships and have received the highest amount of dues revenue in our history. Also, we haven't lost as many as we have in the past.

Helgi has question and will contact John Freyermuth. Vic also has question regarding dues rebate numbers for Las Cruces.

V. *Conservation Report by Rachel Jankowitz, Conservation Chairperson:**

Posted in Dropbox in Winter Board Meetings/Winter 2022 Meeting.

VI. Archives, past and future - Barbara Fix

Barbara and Tom S. made a trip to the NMSU to view the NPSNM archives. They met with Dennis Daily and Jennifer Holguin. Barbara reviewed some of the documents in the archives (Newsletters, Chapter Annual Reports, Grant reports and YERs, Conservation letters, Conference information) but stressed importance of following the request of Dave Anderson. During the NPSNM conference last summer, Dave (he was the recipient of the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Award) encouraged documentation of plant lists during our native plant hikes. The Otero chapter had described using a scribe to keep such records.

The IRS only requires signed board meeting minutes to be kept in archives. Barb also mentioned the upcoming January 29th Celebration for the Archives.

Five Minute Break for stretch: 2:40pm

Barb motioned to donate \$200 to the Archives, this was seconded by **Anne** and the **motion passed unanimously** by 12 voting members.

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

Tom S. went over highlights from the report, with the most notable items being the change of insurance carriers, saving over \$2000, and amending the Articles of Incorporation to register the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund as a DBA (Doing Business As) with the NM Secretary of State's office. The full report is posted in DropBox with other 2022 Winter Board Meeting records.

VIII. Old Business

Newsletter, Ads - Discussion about timing for collection of money for the ads appears best if early spring, March. Vic will send out invoices for the past year-2021. Invoicing will continue next January for the previous year (2022) of ads.

Taos - garden book revision-Jan reports the northern book has been totally retyped. Some of Sally Wasowski's writing will be kept, and Jan will be putting in pollinator information but the book will need all pictures replaced. Jan wants to follow the format as used by Albuquerque. "Best Value" may be the printing company to use for this type of project.

Otero - lessons from state conference – Jen Gruger will send a report

Las Cruces reorganization - Carolyn Gressitt resigning as president and Vic, as acting president has moved to Virginia. Vic has worked as advisor on their board.

Mr. Gil Sorg will become president in March.

Joan described a poll which showed gardening is very popular with those who have joined in last few years. Field trips, with 2-3 overnights were also very popular with respondents. \$500 Grant being offered to NMSU students.

El Paso - Marianela feeling like she has hit a wall and will be leaving the position of chapter representative and treasurer for chapter....She will continue to try to coordinate with Las Cruces on conference. She has also contacted Big Bend chapter (Texas NPS), Michael Eason for a possible joint event.

Tom S.-Maybe there is a way for a small group to be an affiliate with NPSNM without being a chapter (no conference obligation, lower dues?).

Gila - Betty – only Zoom meetings this winter but a field trip is planned for City of Rocks. Silva Creek Botanical Garden has an operations team to get things done in the garden and a steering committee to plan the landscaping in the corners. Don working on the landscaping book about grasses.

Santa Fe - Tom A.-interested in doing a survey of members.

Jan discussed the possibility of being included in Zoom invites and Tom A. noted that these can be accessed on website. The program page of the GNPS has previous Zoom meetings published and Tom S. posts other Zoom meetings on the state website.

IX. New Business

A. Barbara has generated a new **release of liability form**. It includes a note about disease (Covid). Tom S. opened discussion about the liability of someone leaving a field trip and how this should be noted on the release form. Also, field trip leaders do not have guidelines. Discussion of how long a signed release is valid, is it signed at every event, who keeps these papers? Where are these papers kept? Membership form could have the waiver included. Albuquerque has membership cards which could show the release as part of the card.

B. Tom reviewed the **Articles of Incorporation** and some of the original (1976) and existing (2015) **Bylaws**. The bylaws have been changed several times and can be changed again if the NPSNM members are given a 30-day notice and then the board can vote to make changes. Tom reviewed several items in current bylaws which the board may consider updating.

C. The **Policies in Effect** were also reviewed for possible changes. He reviewed several policies that need to be updated and will present these changes in a later email. The board discussed 2 areas in more detail:

1. **Barb motioned to change the policies in effect:** “Any board member can make a motion which can be seconded by anyone other than the president or acting president.” As the president is a board member, this would allow the president to make a motion but still

not second one. **Betty seconded and the motion passed unanimously with 12 voting members.**

2. We have been voting to approve every letter sent by the conservation chair or president, based on the Chapters section of the bylaws (Section VI, 3) which says, "In the absence of express authorization of the Board, no chapter, chapter officer or chapter member shall have the power to act or bind NPSNM in any manner". Need to clarify if this authorization is needed per each specific public statement by the president or Conservation Chair, as has been the case lately.

Tom S. suggested that if it applies to state officers at all, it can be interpreted as assuming that officers previously authorized by the board to speak for the society as a part of their duties enjoy a general authorization until the board votes otherwise. There was no dissent. The board will be provided with a review copy of every public statement and a chance to concur or critique, but a formal vote by a quorum will not be required each time.

Joan wants to assure the policies show the president can be reimbursed for any expenses incurred just as the conservation chair can be reimbursed.

X. Sustainability: Tom S. The Bylaws state a 2-year term for all officers and he will complete his third term at end of 2022. He will not be on the ballot for a fourth term as president.

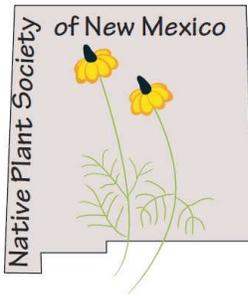
For sustainability of the society Tom has identified 3 areas we need to address:

1. In addition to a technical manager of the website (currently Madeleine) the site needs a couple of people regularly checking for obsolete material, to make it more dynamic, to provide more current content to the technical manager, and to encourage members and non-members to visit the website.
2. For emails that come in we need someone to monitor the mailbox, to route and/or answer questions using a decision tree.
3. Get Deanna the accountant/compliance contractor more responsive and communicative regarding how we deal with State, Feds, etc.

For the election this year: the bylaws state we have a nominating committee, and the president designates the committee. Tom would like this to be in place before the election period beginning in July, so that newly elected board members can attend the summer meeting.

Part 1 of this board meeting **adjourned at 4:55pm** January 16, 2022.

The board met for Part 2 on Saturday, January 22, for the grant review process.



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Minutes of Winter Board Meeting

PART 2

9:00 AM, January 22, 2022
 Video Conference with Zoom
 during the Covid-19 Pandemic

XI. Grants-

- A. Anne summarized the financial picture for the 2022 year regarding the topic of discussion today—the funding of grants.
- B. **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.

Jan motioned to approve the Herbaria donations with an inquiry if the Herbaria have additional needs. Vic seconded and motion passed unanimously with 12 voting members.

Other Herbaria: Tom A. discussed situation of the **Randall Davey Audubon Center Herbarium** with Roger Peterson and he will continue to give us updates. He also discussed NM Natural History Museum. Chick Keller is part of Pajarito Environmental Education Center and we will ask him about any plant-related needs for support.

Jan mentioned that the Taos chapter has herbarium cabinet, overseen by John Ubelaker, Professor Emeritus at SMU. Taos Land Trust is developing one for Rio Fernando Park, using a grant from the Carter Conservation Fund awarded in 2021.

- C. Science Teacher Award – no nominations this year.
- D. Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Award-TBD, conference Aug 5-7, Albuquerque chapter: A Land Ethic for Seven Generations
- E. Grant summary of last few years:

Year	Grant Requests	Grants Awarded	\$ Total Awarded
2017	20	11	\$11,998.18
2018	9	8	\$10,942
2019	21	13	\$14,948
2020	13	12	\$15,530
2021	15	11	\$13,500
2022	5	5	\$ 9,442

2020 Summary: 12 grant requests funded at \$15,530 with one rolled over from 2019.

-5 YER (year end reports) received at end of 2020: C, J, L, M and the 2019-C

- 7 YER received at end of 2021: A, D, E, F, G, K, I (they were not able in 2021, hoping for 2022. Grant H YER not received but mostly done 2020)

Action: a. Articles have been submitted by some but could ask 20-A, 20-D, 20-G.

b. A 2022 YER update for the project 20-I Revive! Recreating a Historic Garden to Spark Education Opportunities for Girls.

c. Tom A. will research out to Christine Salvador and see if the sign at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden was purchased etc. (project 2020-H The Pinon-Juniper Woodland and Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve)

2021 Summary: 15 grant requests, 11 funded (\$13,500), 9 completed (one returned \$),

Action: a. Newsletter articles that can still be requested: C-21, F-21, G-21, I-21 (poster), L-21, M21. (Several articles have already been submitted.)

--General discussion on YERs, are we getting the information we want? Does the YER report give us a way to evaluate the project? Tom S. noted the previous difficulties with follow-up on contacts and how the YER completion shows a willingness to stay engaged with us, and they are good partners for the NPSNM. Jan notes we need a signature or line of who completed the YER.

--How should we track the entities we have given grants over the years? --Jane can begin to breakdown the grant information into the categories along our mission statement so we can see how our funding fits into the categories.

Anne suggests we have a board member or local chapter assigned to grants to survey or oversee the project. Thanks to Betty and Tom A. for follow up on 2 grants in their chapter.

Joan suggests mapping our grants with an interactive piece on the website. This could improve our awareness within chapters and to other members. Tom S. reminds board members to keep their chapters informed about grants in progress and encourage grants to be written from their area.

Tom S. discussed a project from 2020 which at first, we were perhaps reluctant to fund because of our own bias with a cattle company's motive. But as Tom pointed out it was a great project with a great article for the newsletter (Wetland conservation at Rancho DeHaven). In addition, the NPSNM hit eastern New Mexico with their grant funding, which does expand our reach to ranchers, state and federal land managers.

Betty - how can we expand our reach to our own community, for example maybe other cattle people may be interested in this restoration project. How can we spread the information about our grants across the state and to different groups? Perhaps extension offices and master gardeners, and the Quivira Coalition are groups we can engage with regarding our grants.

Tom A. asked about Taos Coloring Book which has been published and Jan has copies.

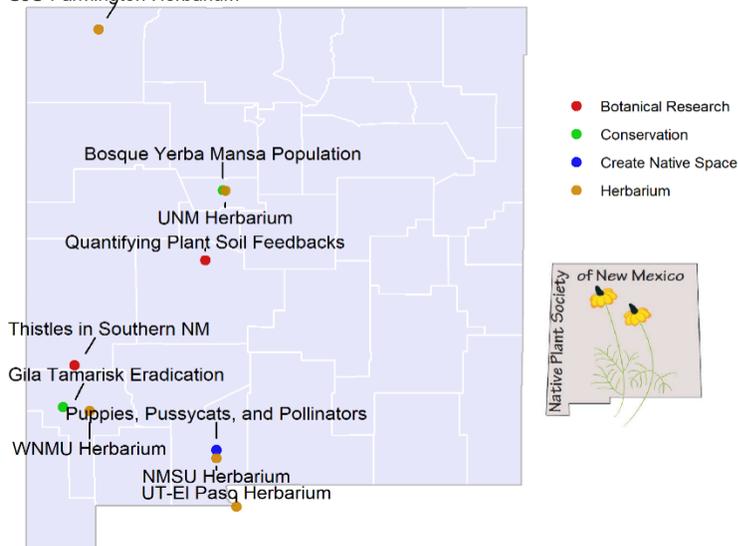
A. 2022 Summary: 5 grant requests for total of \$10,442.

Short Name	Project Name	Organization/Individual in Charge	Requested Amount: (Funded Amount:)
22-A Bosque Population	Bosque Botanical Population Assessments	Yerba Mansa Project Dara Saville	\$997/ \$997
22-B Gila Tamarisk	Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River	Upper Gila Watershed Alliance	\$2000/ \$2000
22-C Thistles in SNM: <i>Cirsium grahamii</i> and <i>vinacium</i>	Status Update on 2 Rare Mt thistles of Southern NM: <i>Cirsium grahamii</i> & <i>vinaceum</i> .	UnderWing Biological LLC John Gorey	\$2000/ \$2000
22-D Puppies, Pussycats & Pollinators	Puppies, Pussycats and Pollinators: Native Plants at the ASCMV	Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV) Elaine Stachera Simon	\$1000/ \$1000
22-E Quantifying Distance in Plant Soil	Quantifying the Distance Decay of Soil Feedbacks in two NM Desert Species	University of Georgia Melanie Merritt	\$4445/ \$3000 or more?
		Total allocation for grants:	\$10,442/ \$8997 (possibly +\$1445)

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

2022 Grant Application

SJC-Farmington Herbarium



The board discussed all 5 grant requests for the current year 2022, which came in at 3 different funding levels. After much discussion:

Jane motioned to approve the grants at requested amounts, except for 22-E to be funded at \$3000, with the following stipulations:

22-C: herbarium specimens should be collected for WNMU

22-D: consider placing some signage indicating these are native plants or acknowledgment somewhere at facility

22-E: the board would like to know if the sequencing is the only work done in Georgia and all other work (seed collection, soil collection, germination) was done at Sevilleta. The board is also concerned if the germination rate will be adequate to complete the study. If the board receives this information and an invoice of the sequencing is provided, then the board could approve the additional \$1445.

Motion seconded by Tom A. 11 voting members yes, 1 abstained.

XII. Tom S. wanted to discuss other ideas to spend money:

Anne notes the grant funding at this time is \$8997 plus \$3000 for Herbaria, \$500 Conservation = \$12,497 plus potential for additional \$1445.

Joan suggested Facilitating the Rare Plant Program-19 rare plants that can be sponsored including Allred's Flax. Organization can donate money, \$10,000, the money goes to IAE in NM. Provide long term restoration, stabilization for a rare plant. (Center for Plant Conservation website). The \$10,000 can be a one-time grant and may be matched by Center or can be a 5 % each year.

Another idea to investigate further: the Center for Plant Conservation's Rare Plant Academy serves as a training ground for young plant conservationists. To encourage the next generation of NM plant scientists, NPSNM annually could work with NM universities and/or agencies to nominate or help financially support an individual to participate in this intensive training program, led by national experts. <https://saveplants.org/cpc-rare-plant-academy/>

Los Alamos-Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC), they are doing education programs, Tom A. was asked to do a tree identification. They are doing a nice newsletter.

Helgi-Alamogordo public schools getting students involved with planting natives.

Barb will be giving Pecos schools the Holy Ghost Ipomopsis tattoos and notecards.

XIII. Tom A. had brought up idea of hiring an administrative assistant. Tom S. caveat to that idea is the expense if done the way we did earlier, recommending it be specific in scope and on an hourly basis. Tom S. also warns the "machinery of the organization" needs to be learned by more than one person, as he and Anne painfully learned when Deb Farsen left us.

Joan proposed giving a reimbursement of \$400/year for expenses of conference to President. Reimbursing President for expenses may make the position more attractive.

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 AM.

Committee reports and board meeting minutes are uploaded to:
Dropbox>Board Meetings>Winter Board Meetings>2022 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

Tom Stewart

Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico

President
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on February 17, 2022 by a vote of the board of directors, with 12 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico 2021 Grant Application

