

MINUTES SUMMARY
Colorado Native Plant Society
Board Meeting, October 22, 2011, Regis University

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Crystal Strouse, President. Quorum for voting was met.

Introductions/Announcements:

- Minutes of 04/02/11 Board Meeting approved by e-vote as of 4/28/11.
- New Conservation Committee Chair is Mo Ewing, as approved by e-vote 9/22/11. Discussion follows.
- New President of Northern Chapter is Jennifer “Jen” Ackerfield, replacing Pam Smith, who served as President for three years.
- New CoNPS Chapter is Gore Range, with members in Eagle, Summit and surrounding counties, whose petition was approved by Board e-vote as of 9/28/11. President is Nanette Kuich.
- Facebook has been updated by Katie Dykgreve.
- Aaron Davenport has been substituting for Webmaster Yongli, updating the website during her absence.

Chapter Reports:

- Boulder - not represented. Crystal announced that the chapter is seeking a new President to replace Pam Sherman, who has served over 3 years.
- Metro Denver President Jannette Wesley reported the new Chapter programs have been posted on the Metro web page. She is recruiting leaders for upcoming field trips, finding that asking each directly has a better result than sending out a group request.
- Northern President Jen Ackerfield noted, online, the upcoming Nov. 3 meeting with entomologist David Leatherman. She has set up a Facebook page for the Northern chapter and is awaiting the updated membership list from Linda.
- Plateau – chapter not represented.
- SouthEast – Written report by President Ann Zielinski, summarized by Nan, is appended to these minutes.
- Gore Range – New President Nanette Kuich, a geologist, reported the chapter is planning its first formal meeting. Over the summer, members participated in two NPS summer classes, organized by Emily Schweier, which incorporated geological content. They are working on field trips for the upcoming season and can draw on experience of the CoNPS board members if needed.
- Southwestern area – The previous SW chapter is no longer active, although there are 25 paying CoNPS members in the area. Bob Powell reported that the independent Four Corners NPS meets 4 times annually and hosts many field trips; it has considerable interaction with the New Mexico NPS.

Committee Reports:

- Membership - Transfer of the bulk of Membership tasks from Eric Lane to Linda Smith is going smoothly, she reports. Eric will continue on the committee to print the large membership mailings, and be available for special analysis. When a marketing team forms in part to help recruit new members, the Membership Committee may re-group and name a new Chair who will include recruitment as one of his/her primary roles.

Eric reported that about 30% of graduating Native Plant Masters who accepted free membership (a pilot project) did renew. Mo moved, Nan seconded and the Board approved continuing to offer free one-year memberships to NPM graduates.

- Conservation – Mo noted that CoNPS has responded to the BLM’s FEIS on the Over the River project (planned by Christo for the Arkansas River), as authorized by Board e-vote as of 6/30/11. He is contacting Senators Udall and Bennet, 5th Dist. Congressman Lamborn, and High Country News about the CoNPS opposition to the OTR, authorized by separate Board e-vote completed 10/19/11. He has written the first “Conservation Corner” for Aquilegia, encouraging member participation for that, and plans to continue involvement with the Mt. Evans goat situation.

Mo also asked for a volunteer to review the work-group reports on the merger of Div. of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks, sent out by Brian on 10/18 as a link, to evaluate whether to provide a CoNPS response during the public comment period ending Nov. 10, 2011. Bob Powell commented that we should hope for the best for the policy changes resulting from the merger. [Note: CoNPS comments on the merger were sent out in time to meet the deadline, per Board e-vote. - nhd]

[Note: Road Obliteration Project Weekend, a conservation work event at Garden Park near Canon City, is being coordinated this weekend, Oct 21-23, in part by Board members Ann Zielinski and Brian Kurzel.]

- Education/Outreach – Megan Bowes (unable to attend) sent report, which is attached.
- Field Studies – not represented.
- Horticulture/Restoration – Megan’s report attached.
- Media – Charlie noted that before Bob Henry departs the Editor role, he wishes to set up a newsletter committee; Crystal asks for volunteers. One person has inquired about assuming the Editor vacancy.
- Membership – covered above
- Sales – Linda reported that sales are improving, that there was a good selection of books at the Annual Meeting, and that she has additional book titles to feature on the website.
- Research Grants – Jan Turner reported that Catherine Kleier has agreed to assume the Chairmanship, replacing Jan. The committee is revising its guidelines for reviewing grant proposals, as explained in more detail by Jenny Neale, committee member.
- Workshops – Not represented. Steve Yarbrough is leaving the Chairmanship. Workshops discussion follows in New Business.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting – Bernadette reported that about 60 attended the Saturday proceedings, per e-mail from Gay Austin, Pres. of Plateau Chapter, which hosted the meeting. The afternoon fieldtrips were also well attended. However, not enough volunteers signed up for the scheduled Sunday workday for it to be held – perhaps because of the area’s peak fall color that departing attendees wanted to see on the way home.

Discussion followed if an earlier date could be set for 2012 to allow fieldtrips during bloom season. It was noted that many field botanists could probably not attend on an earlier date, and the work of the Rare Plant Symposium, traditionally scheduled the Friday before, needs to be late in the year.

Host for 2012 annual meeting – SouthEast Chapter’s turn. A date will be set as soon as possible.

- Treasurer's Report – Mo distributed a Balance Sheet with Grant Endowments on the back (attached to these minutes). He noted a) membership dues better than budget, b) merchandise sales, even not including the Annual Meeting sales, are up, and c) income from workshop fees is up. Preliminary figures indicate the Annual Meeting profit margin was excellent, due to low expenses. Currently, there is an approximate \$7,000 surplus in the budget for this year. Endowment balances fluctuate with the market, but are up at this point.

- Volunteer Appreciation - How to demonstrate appreciation to the organization's volunteers - those not just doing their jobs, but going beyond the call of duty? Traditionally, awards are made at the Annual Meeting, but the Board decided to not give them this year due to budget constraints. Discussion came down to the consensus that most Board members (probably the group giving the most time) do so because they wish to, not because they expect awards or gifts. At the Chapter level, each group can certainly do whatever they feel is appropriate. Crystal and Bernadette will collaborate for next year's Annual Meeting.

- Elections – The process for electing new At-Large Directors was not begun with an announcement in the 2011 Spring Aquilegia. Therefore, for the Board members whose terms would be complete as of this meeting, it was decided to extend their terms through the next election cycle in 2012. Thus, Charlie Turner, Bob Powell and Steve Yarbrough will remain on the Board, if they are willing. [Subsequently, all three have agreed. – nhd]

- 2012 Board Meeting Dates – Crystal will compile a list of possible dates for meetings in January, March, May and October, which will be sent out by Doodle vote for members to select as the days they would most likely be available for. One of the potential dates will be for a one-hour social following the Friday Rare Plant Symposium on Annual Meeting weekend, which has worked well in the past. [Note: per subsequent e-vote, the Board chose Jan 28, March 31 and May 26 for the spring meetings, with the fall meeting TBA. - nhd]
- Purpose of CoNPS Board and Responsibilities – Building on a previous poll on the role of the Board, Crystal noted major emphasis on supporting local chapters and maintaining a conservation community, reflected in the modification of the CoNPS mission statement last year. To accomplish this, Board members need to:
 - 1) ATTEND meetings or send a representative, per the By-Laws. If not able to attend, a Board member should send comments on the agenda to Crystal prior to the meeting.
 - 2) VOTE. Participate in pre-vote commentary so that an open discussion can take place as a vote is being formulated. When an e-mail poll goes out to gather votes, a deadline will be given – generally 2 weeks for an urgent issue, 3 for non-urgent.

- Workshop Chair and Coordinator – Discussion continued on the role and structure of a possible paid position of Workshop Coordinator. A number of details are yet to be defined. Crystal will put a revised Paid Coordinator proposal up for vote in the near future. Interview committee will include Bernadette, Mo and Crystal as a minimum. It was noted that the last 2011 CoNPS workshop, on Colorado's native Caryophyllaceae (pinks), is scheduled for December 3, to be repeated Dec. 4, at CSU Extension, Longmont.

- Defining Conservation – With a lengthy 2001 Conservation Committee list of objectives and functions to reference, the Board divided into groups of 3 to discuss what Conservation could realistically mean in the context of CoNPS. Team responses, in the form of flip-chart notes, were presented to Mo for his use in organizing the Conservation Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm. Adjournment was moved by Mo, seconded by everyone, and approved.

Minutes prepared by Nan Daniels, respectfully submitted to the Board.

=====

Attachments are on following pages of this document. (Originals or original copies are attached to the minutes filed in the Secretary's records.)

ATTACHMENTS:

Report from SE Chapter CONPS

October 22, 2011

Pilot Project: Local fund development will be finalized during the 4Q.

Field trips: 13 field trips completed. 160 participants

Educational activities: Total 195 participants.

Conservation activities: Garden Park Road Obliteration Project Weekend Oct. 21,22, and 23. "The Restoration of Garden Park" will be presented by John Giodanengo, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, and Brian Kurzel, Colorado Natural Areas Program with CO State Parks. Matthew Rustand, BLM, and Glenda Torres, BLM serve as the project's local BLM resources. Ann Zielinski, CoNPS coordinator, hosts 4 field trips for interested parties. SE CoNPS members Alex Torrenson of Western Native Seed, Daryl Mergan of Botany Surveys and Denise Wilson, Rare Plant Steward & WRV, provided technical assistance with plant surveys, seed collection and development of seed mix for the project. 75 volunteers expected to participate in the project weekend.

Pueblo State Park at Pueblo Reservoir Project: Survey, cataloging and collecting rare plants in the CO Springs Utilities Southern Delivery System water project. Due to the extremely dry conditions in SE Colorado, limited work has been completed to date; however, a collection field trip is planned for November.

Upcoming events: November 2011: SE Chapter Planning meeting and thank you for our trip leaders and educators.

December 2011: Weber and Wittmann Presentation and 4th Edition Colorado Flora Book Signing. Colorado Springs - details to follow.

March or April 2012: Global Warming: David and Deborah Clark will share their 20+ years research in Costa Rica.

Reports from Megan Bowes 10/22/2011

Education /Outreach:

- Gave a wetland presentation to the CO Water Garden Society at their annual GET WET meeting in April; revamped our CoNPS wetland display board; received \$100 honorarium (note: Mo can confirm honorarium amounts)
- Worked with CO Federation of Garden Clubs to develop a series of ~30 wildflower flash cards for a Douglas County girl scout troop; plan to add to these and make available online eventually; received \$30 (?) honorarium
- Working with Boulder County Nature Association and others to plan April 2012 Ecosymposium; theme is watershed biology. Boulder-CoNPS has historically donated funding and a membership and we hope to have more of a presence this year
- Scheduled to give Gardening with Native Plants—Creating Colorado Connections in early November; \$50 honorarium expected

Horticulture/Restoration:

- Assisted the Denver chapter with the June native plant garden tour; developed signs that can be used for future tours; generated ~15 new memberships
- Worked with National Wildlife Federation and Butterfly Pavilion to design, install and maintain a pollinator habitat garden at the South Platte River Environmental Education (SPREE) center at Denver Parks and Rec's Johnson Habitat Park; these efforts support federal funding of a new national Urban Waters Federal Partnership pilot project. NWF funding came from Dr. Scholl's; future funding is being sought for additional garden installs.