



**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**Minutes of Summer Board Meeting**  
1-3pm PM, August 4, 2022  
Erna Fergusson Library Community Room  
Albuquerque, NM

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order at 1:14 pm 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: Betty Spence  
Las Cruces: Joan Woodward  
Otero: Helgi Osterreich  
Santa Fe: Tom Antonio  
Taos: Jan Martenson

**Executive Officers:**

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

**Guests:** Margaret Ménache, Newsletter Editor, Jonathan Tanis, Albuquerque Chapter, VP candidate, Kathleen Hall, Albuquerque Chapter, Documentarian candidate, Mary Adams, future Taos Chapter President, Kevin Floyd, El Paso Chapter President and future Chapter representative, Tom Prokopchuk, El Paso Chapter member, Sylvan Kaufman, Santa Fe Chapter member, Jen Gruger, Otero Chapter President.

**\*\*\*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.** February 18, 2022: Approved the minutes of the board meeting of January 2022. Passed 11 to 0, 1 not voting.
- B.** February 22, 2022: Approved funding of the Sapkota grant proposal from UTEP, which arrived late through no fault of the applicant. Passed with 10 approving, 2 absent.
- C.** March 31, 2022: Approved letter by Rachel Jankowitz to the Department of the Interior supporting the closure of federal lands near Chaco Canyon to mineral leasing for 20 years. 10 approved, 2 absent.
- D.** July 15, 2022: Accepted new contract for Lindsey Kirchhevel for 2022, describing new administrative duties and payments. Passed 9 approving, 3 absent.
- E.** July 23, 2022: Updated officer position descriptions in the bylaws. Passed with 9 members voting, 3 absent.

**Motion to validate email votes for certification of board minutes was made by Jan seconded by Tom A., PASSED unanimously, 11 voting members.**

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

- A. The Budget vs Actual for 2021** ---Copies of Treasurer's report available to board via email. Total operating revenue as of 7/31/22 was \$22,681.24. Budgeted for year-end is \$31,410.00, expected to be met with membership dues by year end. Anne reviewed each line item; the discussion on advertising revenue included the possibility that Lindsey K. could invoice advertisers as part of her duties. Gary has nothing to sell currently, we owe him postage.

Anne reviewed highlights of operating expenses: Total operating expenditures currently at \$20,052.01. PayPal expenses increasing but insurance decreased with new company. Operating account does not have cash flow problems. Note detail of contract services: increases due to cost of living increases and new contract for Lindsey. 25% of membership dues collected go to chapter, if chapter specified. Sara Digby has requested printing of more coloring books (budgeted at \$750.00).

Net operating revenue less expenditures at \$2629.23 as of 7/31/22.

**B. Nusenda and Edward Jones Accounts reviewed by Anne:**

		August 2021	Jan2022	August2022
<b>Nusenda</b>	<b>Checking</b>	\$18,742.23	\$27,262.83	<b>\$37,370.11</b>
	<b>Savings (Carter Fund)</b>	\$ 4920.73	\$4,868.43	<b>\$7387.76</b>
	<b>Unrestricted (Available for special projects)</b>	\$ 54,899.00	\$56,146.96	<b>\$54,050.50</b>
<b>Edward Jones</b>	<b>Restricted (Carter Fund)</b>	\$159,395.25	\$164,174.66	<b>\$133,063.14</b>

Anne noted some of the grant checks had not yet been cashed and had to be re-issued (\$10,582.76), so total unrestricted (checking account plus Edward Jones) is currently \$80,837.85.

- C. **Other Financial:** Edward Jones and Bonds: The unrestricted account rate of return YTD is down 3.49%; restricted (Carter) down 7-10%. Anne had provided an article from Edward Jones regarding the “Bear Market”. Discussion by board. Advice is to stay the course, “Don’t Fear the Bear”.

**IV. Conservation Report by Tom Stewart**

- A. **Rachel Jankowitz:** wrote the letter regarding Chaco, writes articles for Conservation Corner of Newsletter, attended Zoom conference, as did Tom Stewart and Tom Antonio, a Native Plant Materials Conference by the Institute for Applied Ecology. A highlight was a Doug Tallamy presentation on oaks. The oaks talk was rebroadcast by Tom A. to the Santa Fe chapter.
- B. **Tom S.** attended the spring Wetlands Roundtable, NM Environment department.
- C. **Albuquerque Chapter:** Jim McGrath and Sue Small. Attending Cibola, Zuni Mountains Forest Service meetings, concern about cattle running over National Forest wetlands, they have fired up others to be more active, now other organizations are attending. Forest Service is putting up fencing for Shush Kin Fen in Mount Taylor district — alkaline wetland rehabilitation.
- D. Little Water Canyon has a special population of Blue Spruce-Dogwood — got Wild and Scenic River designation.
- E. **Daniella Roth** has left position as state botanist with no replacement yet.
- F. Chapters should report issues to Rachel and newsletter.

**V. Administrative Report-Tom Stewart:**

A. Insurance Policy: we have had no losses in greater than 35 years. New company recognized this history with a less expensive policy.

B. Lindsey Kirchhevel: her contract has been renegotiated to include duties that will help with admin functions. Lindsey spends 17 to 24 hours on membership activity and less than 5 on Carter activity each month.

C. Tom made visits to Gila, Las Cruces, Alamogordo which included recruitment for president and other positions: Jonathan Tannis will consider the VP position, Kathleen Hall also expressed interest in Documentarian position. Tom and Anne clarified the skills needed for Treasurer position (Quickbooks, Excel); Deanna the accountant in Santa Fe could be helpful, the Edward Jones accounts could be handled as a Finance committee.

D. Tendrils: Tom sent out this communication tool sent out as a possible way to communicate for board and other active members involved in functioning society.

E. Chapter outreach: El Paso visit, Kevin Floyd introduction, Wetland Park visit, shore birds are there!

F. Working with Margaret on revised membership brochure.

**Margaret:** please credit when submitting a picture, the membership recruitment brochure is coming, and thanks to all who send info for newsletter.

A plea to all for images, and other, even small things. Margaret asks to be kept informed regarding chapters' leader positions, especially the person who knows about the activities. She brainstormed topic ideas, such as focus on chapters, favorite plants, etc. Give her updates for all positions so she can contact.

August 25<sup>th</sup> is next deadline for the newsletter so need updated job descriptions on the positions.

**VI. Barbara Fix, Membership Secretary:** Lindsey Kirchhevel report available in DropBox. Barbara commented on healthy increase in paid memberships. Total 927 active memberships, including 840 paying memberships.

Tom discussed keeping members -- does anyone know why some leave society after a year? Currently 2 emails, finally a paper letter are sent to remind folks to renew. May look into automatic renewals for those who agree to automatic renewals. Margaret may put a note in newsletter about membership renewals.

People fail to update Lindsey with changed email and physical addresses.

### **Break 2:40pm**

Jen asked for clarification about the upcoming elections.

Candidates for office must be made available for newsletter printing by August 25<sup>th</sup>. The voting will start Oct 1<sup>st</sup> when the newsletter comes out, it can be turned in via ballot from newsletter

or online. Clarification of write-in candidate procedure, bylaw position descriptions should also be in newsletter: write-ins and self-nominations must be supported by at least 5 other members to be valid.

**To date the possible candidates:**

President- (still searching as of 8/4/22)

Vice President-Jonathan Tanis (also will help with website)

Recording Secretary-Jane Kruse

Documentarian-Kathleen Hall (working with Barbara and archives)

Treasurer- (still searching as of 8/4/22)

The president position will be helped with Lindsey taking on more duties.

Jen asked if president needs to have some history with organization to function well, but Tom noted that the past presidents often came from the board. If there is no one on board able to serve we need to keep bringing in new members, need to breed leadership, create a “farm” for future presidents. Kathleen noted in volunteer organizations there is often a false impression that the governing members are content to stay in positions since they frequently just move around in positions. Discussed how term limits could prevent that perception.

**Other Chapter reports-**

- A. Santa Fe- Tom A. Chapter brought in “Braiding Sweetgrass” author Robin Kimmerer -- August 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm. Has a few tickets.
- B. Judith-ABQ- total of 144 for this NPSNM conference in Albuquerque.
- C. Jan-Taos- Mary Adams will be chapter president, Jan continues as chapter rep, there are new members. Mary has been heading up “wildflower walks” but because of fires the forest had been closed. She has created two “virtual” walks with text and photos that were sent to members in .pdf form. In April for Earth Day plants sold. The Taos chapter/Taos Land Trust Greenhouse was vandalized, tools stolen.
- D. Barbara Fix passed out form for when donations are given to chapters. Acknowledgement for contributions (\$50 or more) but the record must be given to state office.
- E. El Paso-Kevin Floyd -- International Oak Society Conference August 30-Sept 2

Next year conference likely to be in Alpine (site of TX state Native Plant Society meeting this year), hoping for about 50 folks (limited capacity), hoping for more hikes that may include visit to Big Bend and Davis Mountain conservancy. Considering September, possibly October 2023. "Exploring the Trans Pecos- Texas Wild West." Some Botanists in area may be able to help.

## IX. New Business-

- A. **Grants**--Jane and Tom need to update forms for next year, but all board members should be sure to encourage proposals from their area. Nominate teachers for their work for our teacher award.
- B. **Website** needs some help with content, let Madeline know of needs/corrections.
- C. Dave Anderson had suggested using plant lists with dates at the Alamogordo conference and Barbara suggested using the plant lists and list of those who attended and include liability releases. Put dates on plant lists.
- D. Discussion about extra newsletters available to chapters for recruitment need to be limited to perhaps 10 per chapter because of costs and waste. Brochures are much better and cheaper item for recruitment of new members.
- E. Suggestion of gift for John Freyermuth for years of service. He's already a lifetime member: \$200 with a nice card. **Motion by Anne, Second by Joan, with 11 voting yes.**
- F. Discussion about Herbarium Grant \$ to be voted on by board thru email. (Anne proposes using unused operations money as a donation to Carter Fund for herbaria.)

## Meeting Adjourned 4:02pm.

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

Tom Stewart

Recording Secretary  
Native Plant Society New Mexico

President  
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on August 25,2022 by a vote of the board of directors, with 10 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.