

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Minutes of Winter Board Meeting
9:00 am, January 7, 2023
Sevilleta NWR Field Station
Hybrid (Zoom and in-person) meeting

- I. **Call to Order** -Meeting was called to order by Don and Wendy Graves, co-presidents, at 9:15am. Quorum was determined to be (in-person or Zoom) present, with proxies as noted below. Welcome to all new board members, guests and proxies.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Representatives:

Albuquerque: Judith Phillips (Zoom)
El Paso: Kevin Floyd
Gila: Betty Spence
Las Cruces: Joan Woodward
Otero: Helgi Osterreich
Santa Fe: Barbara Fix, proxy for
Sylvan Kaufman
Taos: Mary Adams, proxy for Jan
Martenson

Executive Officers:

Co-Presidents: Don & Wendy Graves
Vice President:
Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse (Zoom)
Documentarian: Kathleen Hall
Treasurer: Tom Stewart

Guests: Jen Gruger, Otero President, Rachel Jankowitz, Conservation Chair
Absent: Jonathan Tanis, the new vice-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. Approved the minutes of the board meeting of August 4, 2022, approved August 25, 2022.
B. No other board votes by email since last board meeting.

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

III.*Finance: Treasurer’s Report, Tom Stewart, Treasurer**

A. **The Budget vs Actual for 2022** --- Treasurer’s report copies were available to board. Total operating revenue in 2022 was \$40,965.14, which was more than budgeted (\$31,410.00). Tom reviewed each line item, commented on increased revenue due to increased membership dues, coming in higher than expected, but lower advertising and product sales.

Tom reviewed highlights of operating expenses: Total operating expenditures at \$27,874.81 is less than budgeted (30,093.50). Tom cautioned Paypal increasing (taking 3.3%). New insurance company = lower expense. Printing of coloring books and some Milkweed books was completed. Contract services does reflect the 7% increase started last March.

Net operating revenue-expenditures at \$13,090.33 (budget estimate \$1,316.50 for 2022). Overall NPSNM has done well.

B. Nusenda and Edward Jones Accounts reviewed by Tom:

		Jan2021	Jan2022	Jan2023
Nusenda	Checking	\$18,204.61	\$27,262.83	\$35,424.52
	Savings (Carter Fund)¹	\$ 4,915.73	\$4,868.43	\$13,644.04
Edward Jones	Unrestricted (available for <u>special projects</u>, referred to as Corp 2²)	\$ 51,934.96	\$56,146.96	\$54,690.73
	Restricted (Carter Fund, referred to as Corp 1³)	\$149,444.30	\$164,174.66	\$130,220.33

¹Money from the request for contributions sent late in year. The letter costs about \$650 to print & send; and produced around \$13,000.

²YTD rate of return: -3.45%.

³YTD rate of return: -12.68%

C. **The budget for 2023 was reviewed:** Tom worked out a conservative Operating revenue budget: \$35,920.00 and Operating expenses budget at \$36,874.00 (-\$954.00). Tom clarified the dollar amount available, from the Carter Conservation, for the grants this year: \$21,000.

Motion was made by **Jane** to approve the budget for 2023 contingent to two factors:

1. Moving \$4000 from the excess operation money to be used for gifts and herbarium donations.
2. Clarification by Anne Curley of the numbers listed in contract services.

Don seconded and motion passed unanimously with **11 voting members**.

IV. *Membership Report**-Lindsey Kirchhevel prepared report, which is available in Dropbox. Presented by Wendy. Total membership is 832, which is an all time high. Jen had a question about the Otero numbers and Don encouraged any chapter with questions to contact Lindsey who can clarify and resolve any issue regarding membership.

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

Rachel made copies available to the board of the conservation report and reviewed items covered, including her letters to entities and newsletter articles. She included several chapters' conservation reports (ABQ, Taos, El Paso and Gila). She asked for anyone having information regarding the Gila plant removal for sales in Santa Fe. Don will follow up with Jim McGrath.

Unfortunately, Rachel took the opportunity to resign as Conservation Chair at this meeting. She will continue to serve until summer meeting hoping to ease the transition for a new conservation chair. She is also switching her chapter affiliation to Taos and will be able to continue her involvement with NPSNM thru Taos.

Discussion of the difficulty in running a conservation committee included collecting information from all areas of the state. Brainstorming ideas for new potential chairs, including possibly using this as an opportunity for student leadership.

Rachel will help the co-presidents write a Conservation Committee Mission Statement which will help clarify the role for the new chairperson. Don identified 2 basic tasks: 1. Identifying specific conservation problem areas around NM and 2. Communicating to the membership the areas of conservation concern.

VI. *Administrative Report-for 2022 from Tom Stewart, past president**

Tom presented the report of the past president activities thru to the present, see Dropbox. Some highlights were summarized: getting new insurance company, dba name acceptance for banking purposes, approval for Lindsey to do more administrative tasks, getting the election done with new officers and finally the bylaws were updated.

The bylaws were changed by the board during the summer meeting and these changes were made available to the general membership for 30 days (actually, more like 90 days) and so now they will be officially signed by the current co-presidents, Don and Wendy Graves and by Tom Stewart, current treasurer and past president and witnessed by the entire board.

Don asked Kathleen to describe the role of the new board position: Documentarian/Archivist. Kathleen described the importance of records to maintain the 501c3 status. She will be collecting the chapter reports, financial reports, and all other important records to be archived with hard documentation and “cloud” organizing in Dropbox. She is also interested in implementing the plan as presented at Alamogordo conference to get the plant lists and participants from hikes.

Break time: 10 minutes from 11:17 to 11:27

VII. Chapter highlights from chapter reps:

Albuquerque-Tom was hopeful the chapter would be able to go back to having the meetings at the Museum of Natural History. The UNM Herbarium is now being run by millennials and they had a fun open house for plant identification. Working on tumbleweed removal at Petroglyph National Monument.

El Paso- Kevin says the chapter is having monthly meetings. The annual conference is scheduled for September 22,23,24th. Just one -half day of sit down presentations and one banquet meal, it will be capacity limited. The other 2 days will be for field trips to get outside. Alpine Civic Center will be location of presentations. Working on accommodations, Fort Davis, about 40 minutes away, is a possible camping spot.

Gila-Wendy talked about the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. A graduate student in Landscape Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design was flown to Silver and will work on the master, long range plan as part of her graduate program. Don: Chapter working with Bat Conservation International by planting agaves for the Lesser Long Nosed Bat (nectarivorous & pollinator). Soon another 300 agaves will be planted in another round of planting. The Bat Conservation International also plants for the Mexican Long Nosed Bat in Texas so maybe El Paso and Las Cruces could be involved. SW Monarch study banded monarchs with Gila 3rd graders, and these were spotted in California.

Las Cruces-Joan says they have momentum with new members and connection with Audubon, SW Environmental. Officers have been recruited for chapter. They worked to plant the freeway area next to the humane society (grant) and working with the Friends of the Organ Mts-Desert Peaks Nat Monument for the Dripping Springs native plant garden (they lost water). Tall Tales for Short Plants with Russ Kleinman, Kelly Allred presentation is soon.

Otero-Helgi-new people wanting to participate even as officers: secretary, treasurer and membership. The new Alamogordo school is interested in a native plant garden. Chapter gave 2 student grants, both Native American. Jen also described the Notion website created by

Russell Davis. He created free Notion website which can be used to not only record a narrative, plant lists but also pictures of the plants. This follows up on the recommendation from the Alamogordo Conference presentation by Dave Anderson. Jen will send out a link to this “mini-website” for the Otero chapter. Also had a very successful plant sale.

Santa Fe- Barbara: In-person meetings are now on different nights than Taos. Tom Antonio (Institute of American Indian Arts) organized a presentation by Robin Kimmerer (Braiding Sweetgrass author).

Leonora Curtain Wetland Preserve in conjunction with IAE (Institute of Applied Technology) did weed control on the acres of Russian Olive and other species. The Santa Fe chapter added \$2000 grant for kochia management. El Rancho de las Golondrinas is managing LCWP not the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

Sylvan Kaufman working on acequia trail in Santa Fe. An overall plan, brochure describing the native plants along trail is in progress.

Taos- Mary: lots of enthusiasm, in-person meetings planned but some cancelations due to fires (Hermit’s Peak and Calf Canyon) encroaching on homes. The greenhouse has become important way for community to be involved in different ways including seedling distribution, plant sales, and a garden on the Rio Fernando Land Trust property. Master Naturalists out of Santa Fe program were adopted and took care of pollinator garden. A NPSNM member involved with Weed Committee as an example of members working with other organizations around town. The Herbarium of Montane plants had moved to SMU campus in Taos, which is now probably going to be sold. So, now we will move herbarium to UNM campus in Albuquerque.

They are working on the updated Sally Wasowski’s Northern New Mexico Gardens/Plant Guide. All info is retyped, but pictures and artwork will need to be replaced, moving ahead with this.

Lunch: 12:08pm to 1pm including a group photo taken of the current board members.

VIII. New Business.

- A. Science Teacher of the year award-Joan gave some history of this award and described efforts to recruit applicants. **Joan** recommended with a **motion** we give the \$500.00 award to Claire Noonan. **Tom seconded** this motion and the board unanimously agreed with **11 voters**.
- B. Grants—Herbarium grants will be given as before.

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.

Jane recommended considering at the summer meeting:

1. The Randall Davey Audubon Center Herbarium in Santa Fe for Herbarium donation.
2. Also recommend we consider Sunflower Scholarships later this year. And consider if Gila Symposium Travel should be considered.
3. Maybe more than one teacher award.

Jane also took the opportunity for discussion about **looking forward**, to mention the updates of the grant presentation on the web. OK to Contact Madeleine through co-presidents for web changes to forms. Tom has been asking for ways to make the website more fresh such as news, gardening.

Jane asked each chapter to take on following the grants in their area, coordinating when a presentation or newsletter article should be followed up on.

The board discussed all 20 grants submitted this year. Some grants were eliminated, and all grants were considered for reduction of requested amount. The board approved the funding of the following 14 grants at the amount noted below:

Short Name	Project Name	Organization/ Individual in Charge	Requested Amount:	Funded Amount:
23-A Unknown Mogollon Thistle	Unknown Thistle of the High Mogollon Mountains	Underwing Biological/ John Gorey	2000.00	1500.00
23-B Gypsum Mosses	Gypsum Mosses of the Chihuahuan & Mojave Deserts	John Carroll Univ/ Katelyn Gobbie	5000.00	2000.00
23-D Alpine Flora	Sampling the Alpine Flora of the Southern Rocky Mountains	Joseph Kleinkopf (UNM)	2000.00	1500.00
23-E Railyard Wildflowers	Wildflowers of the Railyard Park	Railyard Park Conservancy/ Izzy Barr	1000.00	900.00

23-F Native Plant Education	Native Plant Education for 3 rd & 4 th Grade Students	Asombro/ Stephanie Bestelmeyer	1000.00	1000.00
23-G Brokeoff Mts Flora	Flora of Brokeoff Mountains	Bryana Olmeda (INM)	5000.00	2000.00
23-H Arizona Willow	Browsing Impacts on Arizona Willow (<i>Salix Arizonica</i>) defense & growth	Northern Arizona Univ/ Shannon Lencioni	4480.00	2000.00
23-I Piñon Country Exhibit	Piñon Country Exhibit at Santa Fe Botanical Garden	Christina Selby	2200.00	1000.00
23-J Soil Microbial Communities	Harnessing Soil Microbial communities to facilitate Dryland Restoration	Univ TX El Paso/ Parikrama Sapkota	5000.00	2000.00
23-K Fern Checklist	Update to the Ferns & Fern Allies of the New Mexico Checklist	Harpo Faust (UNM)	3000.00	1500.00
23-N Zeta Day at Refuge	Zeta Day at the Refuge: An Immersive Experience for High School Students	Zeta Phi Beta Sorority/ Maya L. Shamsid-Deen	1409.00	1409.00
23-Q Restoration using Connectivity Modifiers	Plant Community Restoration using Connectivity Modifiers following Honey Mesquite Management in Southern NM	Molly Reichenborn NMSU (UNM)	4600.00	2000.00
23-R Socorro Bosque	Socorro Bosque Native Plant Enhancement Project	Save Our Bosque Task Force (Danielle Hensley)	2000.00	1000.00
24-T Dripping Springs	Dripping Springs Natural Area Garden Enhancements 2023	Friends of Organ Mts-Desert Peaks/ Patrick Nolan	2000.00	1000.00

The total to be funded for these 14 grants: \$20,809.

(Much discussion on our mission, mandate: how can we make native plants more affordable??more available??)

Kevin motions to approve grants as discussed and funded in the above table, **Betty seconded** this motion. **Passed unanimously**, 11 voting members.

Joan motions we give a one-year NPSNM membership to the grant award winners (14 individuals) and the 3 individuals nominated for the science teacher award. **Mary seconded** the motion. **Passed unanimously** with 11 voting members.

Mary motions to give \$150 to Jenna Paulson, the Special Ed teacher. **Kathleen seconded** and all members voted to approve this funding.

Barb motions to adjourn, **Tom seconded**, passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm.

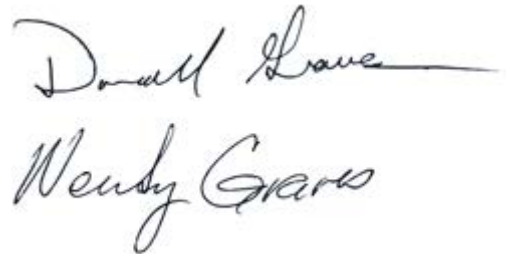
Committee reports and board meeting minutes are uploaded to:
Dropbox>Board Meetings>Winter Board Meetings>2023 Winter Board Meeting. Board Members and Chapter Presidents have been given access. Tom Stewart can help if you have trouble with Dropbox. You may contact him at tstewart@cybermesa.com.
Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kruse



Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico

Don & Wendy Graves



Co-Presidents
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted on January 26, 2023 by a vote of the board of directors, with 10 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.