



Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Minutes of Winter Board Meeting
9:00 am, January 13, 2024
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 9:08 am. 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: Dana Loy
El Paso: Marianela Milner via zoom,
proxy for Kevin Floyd
Gila: Betty Spence
Las Cruces: Joan Woodward
Otero: Elva Osterreich, proxy for
Laurel Berry
Santa Fe: Sylvan Kaufman
Taos: Kathryn Mayer via zoom,
proxy for Jan Martenson

Executive Officers:

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

Guests: Margaret Ménache, Newsletter Editor, Barbara Fix, Santa Fe chapter, Karen LeComte, Otero Treasurer, David LeComte, Otero chapter.

*****Please see complete reports on NPSNM website for starred items.**

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

- A. Minutes of our summer board meeting, September 21, 2023 had already been reviewed, completed, signed and archived by email (October 22, 2023) and by snail mail (11/6/2023).

B. No other board votes by email since last board meeting.

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

III.*Finance: Treasurer’s Report, Tom Stewart, Treasurer** (current committee members are Jan Martenson, Joan Woodward, Russell Davis). Treasurer’s report copies were available to board.

A. The Budget vs Actual for 2023 ---

1. Total operating revenue in 2023 was \$43,348.09, which was more than budgeted (\$35,920.00). Tom reviewed each line item, commenting that increased revenue was due largely to donations.
2. Tom reviewed highlights of operating expenses: Total operating expenditures at \$38,716.37 is less than budgeted (\$40,704.00). Tom reported an increase in administrative office supplies, especially the cost of stamps. Printing and Shipping of newsletter is the biggest expense (greater than chapter rebates from dues). For the contract services expense, we will have clearer picture in 2024 with the increase in Lindsey’s responsibilities.
3. Net operating revenue-expenditures at \$4,631.72. The NPSNM is doing well despite our generosity with using operating surplus on grants and gifts. Overall NPSNM has done well.

B. Nusenda and Edward Jones Accounts reviewed by Tom:

		Jan2021	Jan2022	Jan2023	Jan 2024
Nusenda	Checking	\$18,204.61	\$27,262.83	\$38,634.70	\$36,824.91
	Savings (Carter Fund)¹	\$ 4,915.73	\$4,868.43	\$9,734.00	\$12,265.90
Edward Jones	Restricted (Carter Fund, referred to as Corp 1²)	\$149,444.30	\$164,174.66	\$131,953.28	\$138,577.22
	Unrestricted (available for <u>special projects</u>, referred to as Corp 2³)	\$ 51,934.96	\$56,146.96	\$54,519.70	\$56,985.53

¹Money received from the letter request for contributions sent out late in year.

Tom noted the fundraising letter sent late in year (\$854.60 for 2023) is currently in operating expenses. A **motion was made by Joan, second by Sylvan** to move the expense of the fundraising letter to the Carter fund expenses (Carter checking account) for the budget year 2024. **12 voted yes for this motion.**

- C. The budget for 2024 was reviewed:** Tom worked out a conservative Operating revenue budget: \$36,725.00 and Operating expenses budget at \$36,329.00. (\$396.00Rev/Expenses). Various items were discussed including the new expense for room and board for the Board members at Winter Board meetings at Sevilleta and the increasing cost of postage. The Zoom account expense was also discussed. Margaret would like to be able to use the NP Society's Zoom account for her work on the newsletter. On-line registration for conference by El Paso (Square) was discussed for future use by Taos. Don mentioned the use of QR codes can reduce the need for printing more registration forms.

Adjustments to the 2024 budget will be made and Tom will send out a final version.

Motion was made by **Tom** to approve the board modified budget for 2024.

Elva seconded and the motion passed unanimously with **12 voting members**.

- D. Investment picture & Carter Fund:** Tom clarified the dollar amount available, from the Carter Conservation, for the grants this year: \$16,000 (includes the \$3000.00 for herbaria, \$500 Teacher Award, \$500 Conservation Champion).

IV.*Membership Report**-Lindsey Kirchhevel prepared report, which is available on the website. Presented by Don. Total membership is 843 (52 life members), which is an all-time high. Total membership up 11, lifetime up 5, from record high year of 2022.

Deletions of memberships: renewal reminders are sent twice via email and then a hard copy letter. Chapters get a notice from Lindsey about these deletions. Don encouraged the chapters to follow-up on these deletions to keep the memberships.

Joan noted the system by El Paso Rock and Garden club: they have a good procedure for an automatic renewal of memberships. Discussion among board members included the presentation of the different ways to "subscribe vs submit" (option to automatically renew).

Don wants a group to research the pros and cons of automatic renewal. Marianella will look at the possibilities for changes to the registration with Betty. Jonathan was interested in helping with implementation if we decide to take this direction. Marianella will get Kevin involved via email.

Tom suggested looking at how the chapter provides activities as a potential mechanism to retain members. Wendy presented how a survey enlightened the Gila chapter on the interests of members, Joan also found the Las Cruces survey provided useful information, for example, surveys have indicated members enjoy and desire more social events. Surveys can also provide information about who the members are, and why they are members.

Kathleen and Margaret will work on a potential survey to find out more about our members. Joan will make available to them the survey done in Las Cruces.

V. *Conservation Report by Sylvan Kaufman, Conservation Chairperson:**

See written report. Sylvan sends thanks to chapter conservation members for responding to her emails and she has a plan for a Zoom meeting with the conservation representatives this winter.

Although it is preferable for written comments (letters) to be run past the board before sending to agencies, sometimes the response time is limited.

The conservation news will be kept up to date via coordination between Sylvan and Madeleine, web manager.

VI. *Administrative Report-for 2023 from Don and Wendy, available on NPSNM website.**

Correction on #16: More newsletter pdfs have been found and linked into the digital archive. Currently the web page has digitized newsletters from the last quarter of 2007 going forward to the present.

The Chapter visits were the highlights of work done by Don and Wendy during the last year.

Break time: 10 minutes from 11:05 to 11:15

VII. Old Business

- A. Barbara Fix provided a follow-up on the board recognition gift to Rachel Jankowitz-for her years of work on the conservation committee.
- B. Update on digitizing and indexing the NPSNM Newsletter archive—see attachment 07.
 - 1. Wendy reported finding an Albuquerque company to digitize, if we remove staples, for about \$250. That would complete newsletter digitization.
 - 2. Don and Wendy Zoomed with Nan Badgett, an indexer. She was used by the Arizona Native Plant Society and they are happy with her work. Her charge is \$4 per page and we need to decide if all 16 pages or less would be indexed.

3. Don and Wendy proposed 2 actions: First have a staple removal party so that the digitization could be completed. Second a small group would work with the indexer to make decisions about the indexing of all or part of the newsletters.

Margaret: says be sure the pdfs are readable. Indexing going forward needs to be considered. Margaret wants to be part of the indexing group. She also noted that if the newsletter is on the web, then a search can be done on web search engine. Wendy and Jonathan also had questions about the indexing product and who wants to be involved.

Motion to digitize all newsletters to the web, as presented by Wendy, was made by **Elva**, and **second** by **Betty**, passed with **12 voting members saying yes**.

A committee of Margaret, Kathleen and Barbara will work on the digitizing and the indexing discussion has been tabled.

- C. **Newsletter in 2024**--Margaret Ménache--Thanks to all for giving articles. Margaret initiated discussion: what is the function of newsletter? Since the newsletter deadline is so far ahead of planned activities it is better for chapters to send info about what they are doing (less about what they are proposing to do, as this can change between deadline and publication). Send photos for visual engagement. If newsletter is sitting at tabling events it is a good place to demonstrate what society is doing. Other newsletter functions: memorials or tributes and other recognitions, such as chapter funding given to students. Margaret encouraged recruitment of letters from the Carter grant recipients.

Be sure photos have good resolution and are properly credited. The newsletter can be used for announcements, for example as in the conservation committee, and does not need to be a full article. Margaret also clarified she will follow up on the grant recipients who stated they would write articles. Advertising is done on a yearly basis. Ad placement in 4 issues with business card size is \$100. Advertising could also be extended to areas we may discover through the survey. For Taos we could use the newsletter for their conference agenda to avoid duplication of printing costs.

VIII. Chapter highlights from chapter representatives:

A. Taos- Kathryn via Zoom: Appreciates being able to participate today on zoom because of snow. Thanks to Margaret on the newsletter for wonderful presentation of Taos.

1. Chapter meetings are scheduled March 6 through November 6. Speakers have been booked for the first five months with a break in August to recover from the state conference.
2. Planning for the conference in Taos, July 25-28, is in high gear. Room rates have been set at the Sagebrush Inn & Suites, but awaiting descriptions of the five room categories available before being posted online. Conference facilities on site.

3. Note that the first full day of the conference, Friday, July 26, will be a day of hikes, field trips and workshops. Be prepared to start hikes and some field trips very early on Friday to avoid mid-day storms and crowds. Reception on Thursday and Friday evening.
4. Speakers on Saturday and banquet Saturday night at Country Club.
5. Sunday there will be self-guided tours.
6. Silent auction items are welcome from everyone around the state! Please contact Catherine Langley and let her know what you will be bringing: cjlangley1@gmail.com (713) 261-3594 5.
7. The "Native Gardening in Northern New Mexico" booklet is nearing editorial completion. Thanks to everyone who contributed, proofread, and helped. When we have a publication date, we will announce it. Copies will be for sale at the conference.

B. Albuquerque-Dana:

1. ABQ Offers well-attended, in-person monthly lectures at the Natural History Museum.
2. Providing service opportunities for members, including working at our information table at several events and caring for the pollinator habitat that adjoins a city park.
3. Continued building relationships with the Forest Service, National Park Service, the BioPark (City of Albuquerque Botanical Garden and Zoo) Valle de Oro Wildlife Range, UNM Herbarium, Open Space (City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation).
4. Plans for next year are already started: Building alliances with other nonprofit environmental groups. (Collaborating with the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico (Audubon), the Xerces Society, and DarkSky New Mexico to build public awareness of connections between native plants, bugs, and birds).
5. We're also planning better promotion of service involvement for our members, recognizing that the changing demographics may limit the ability or enthusiasm for this for some.

C. El Paso- Marianela via zoom: She appreciates zoom as an option for her today.

1. Hosted the 2023 Annual Conference Sept 21-23 in Alpine, TX. Around 90 attendees enjoyed learning about the ecosystems of west Texas through a day of presentations and a day of field trips. Had nine presentations. Jamie Ackerman had received the Carter Conservation Champion award and he donated all the money to the Judy Ackerman Scholarship Fund at UT-El Paso which will hopefully grow to an endowment.
2. The El Paso Chapter started combining meetings with the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club in November. The meetings will be the first Saturday of the month at 10 am, and will take place at the Garden Center at Memorial Park (3105 Grant Ave, El Paso, TX 79930). Merged in November.
3. The chapter sponsored five UTEP students who presented at the Chihuahuan Desert Education Conference November 15 and 16. The chapter made two donations to the Judy Ackerman Memorial Fund to support scholarships to UTEP environmental science students.
4. Native Plant Sales at the University of Texas at El Paso. These 2 one-day events are an opportunity for the El Paso Community to buy and learn about the Chihuahuan Desert Plants.
5. Volunteer at the spring and fall FloraFest.
6. Kevin will be contacted to provide more info about after conference survey.

D. Gila- Betty:

1. Programs: Oct. 20, "Delinquent late-night pollinators: A story about nectar bats, agaves and what's happening in the Gila," presentation by Mallory Davies Nov. 17, "Rare thistles in the high Mogollon

Mountains: An update on Graham's Thistle," presentation by John Gorey. We have had successful Hybrid presentations. The recorded talks are posted on Gila web site (and U-tube channel).

2. Field Trips: October 14, "City of Rocks Plant Walk" was an invitation to our members from Friends of City of Rocks, led by Bill Norris. –

3. On October 27, the Education Committee presented a hands-on introduction to native plants in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden for approx. 35 Jose Barrios Elementary School 4th-graders and their teachers.

4. At the November 17 meeting, chapter elections were held for at-large board members. Three new board members were elected and two re-elected.

5. Our annual Holiday Party was held on December 10 in the historic Silver City Women's Club building and was well attended.

6. We launched a capital campaign to raise \$79,000 for implementing Phase One of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Master Plan with fundraising appeals to members on October 4 and November 27. We applied for and received a NM Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant for \$49,865 for Phase One. We have passed our goal with the grant and the donations we have received.

7. Native Bees presentation is planned for January. In February the history of the Silva Creek Garden will be covered.

E. Las Cruces-Joan:

1. Hybrid zoom meetings are successful, workshops are successful. The survey has led us to creep into Gila geographic area for activities.

2. Received Carter grant to repair irrigation of replant Dripping Springs. Work group.

3. Instagram account Facebook accounts-(400 daily followers) as opposed to 100 registered in chapter.

4. We have been commenting on the resource management plans for a rare perennial spring on State Land and advocating for a land exchange of the parcel into Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument for further protection. This severely degraded spring may also c with archeological shelter sites and the Butterfield Stage route, which increases everyone's enthusiasm to bring it back into function. Restoration of this area is coordinated with multiple agencies, nonprofits and interested parties including historians and archeologists.

5. We have been supporting the Herbarium in many ways. NMSU wants to cut funding for the curator. Letters of support and additional funding are being requested.

6. Doubled grants to NMSU 1st- Range Management, hopefully some will lead plant walks.

7. Conference in 2025, planning has started.

F. Otero-Elva

1. New president, Russell Davis has a lot of responsibilities and Elva will return to the role of Vice president.

2. 21 events were conducted, with a combined attendance of 146 attendees. There were 19 chapter events, not including the Alpine conference, and the grant committee meeting. 10 members attended 5 or more events, which accounts for 62% of attendance. 27 out of 42 attendees/members (64%) whom participated in events, went to 2 or fewer events.

3. Advertising free hikes, open to non-members, through flyers, Facebook, the newspaper, etc. yielded no results from the public. Participation in public events, like Earth Day, the Succulent Bar, and the county fair, had much greater interaction from the public.
4. Grants/Scholarships: The Otero chapter awarded one grant for \$3,000 to Ms. Bryana Olmeda, a graduate student at UNM for funding toward her study of the flora of the Brokeoff Mountains. Otero chapter also gives to the herbarium in Las Cruces.
5. Native plant sale is a great event, this year was held in fall. We did not make as much money, held at fair.
6. Wreath work-shop-we cut our own native plants for wreaths. Great event for December. The Succulent Bar event was also fun.

G. Santa Fe-Sylvan:

1. Hoping to find more volunteers to spread out the work. Eight speakers on topics including fossil plants, to new invasive plants, to NMDOT restoration projects. Five field trips – Cactus flowers, PEEC Penstemons, a garden tour, a wetland, and the ski basin. Two potluck socials. Two outreach events (Earth Day at the Santa Fe Extension office and a Sustainable Living fair).
2. More than 150 volunteer hours included work on restoration and other projects at LCWP and the Acequia Trail and Cactus Garden.
3. Very rough estimate of 40 attendees/meeting, 20 attendees/field trip. About 10 active volunteers.
4. The Chapter received a donation for LCWP restoration which was given to Yvonne Hickerson from IAE, and it made a donation from its funds to the David Salman Garden at SFBG.

Lunch: 12:47pm to 1:45pm

Group Photo of the Board

IX. Grants and awards –

- A. Science Teacher of the year award: Three applicants received this year and were reviewed. **Don motions** to award \$500 to Chuck Buxbaum (Sandia Preparatory in Albuquerque), **Joan seconded** this motion. **Passed**, 11 voting members, 1 abstained.
- B. YER-Jane recommends the board members review the YERs of 2023, and encourage each chapter to learn more about any grants that may be conducted in their chapter area.
- C. Herbarium grants will be given as before:

\$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.
- D. \$500 will be allocated for the Taos chapter to select their Conservation Champion this year.

E. New Grants: A total of 8 new grant requests were received this year. Wendy presented an aggregated preliminary vote sheet for the board to consider for grant discussion. From this presentation several board votes were taken:

1. **Motion to award some money to grants A,C,D,E,G was made by Don, seconded by Kathryn, 12 voted yes.**
2. **Motion to Decline grant to B was made by Wendy, second by Joan, 12 voted yes.**
3. **Elva motioned to fund F, this was seconded by Joan, amended by Jane to only partially fund, 12 voted yes.**
4. **Joan motioned to partially fund H, Elva seconded, but vote on this motion was deferred until funding of the rest of grants completed.**

Project Name	Organization/ Individual in Charge	Requested Amount \$:	Funded Amount \$:
24-A Ecosystem Resilience and Native Plant Restoration	Parikrama Sapkota/Univ of Tx-El Paso	5000	2500
24-B Artistic Apothecary	?	5000	0
24-C Fern and Fern Allies of New Mexico	Harpo Faust (UNM Herbarium)	4000	2500
24-D NMHU Melody Dormitory Rain Garden	Tomasz Falkowski (NM Highlands Sustainability & Conservation Committee)	1798	2000
24-E Seedlings to Saplings	Carol Ann Fugagli (Upper Gila Watershed Alliance)	1000	1000
24-F Kingston Environmental Education Garden	McKinney Briske (Kingston Ghost Town Museum)	5000	1000
24-G: Brokeoff Mountains Floristic Study	Bryana Olmeda (UNM)	5000	2500
24-H Photo Exhibit, Natural History of the Gila Symposium	William Norris, Jim McGrath, Natural History of the Gila Symposium.	990	180
The total to be funded for these 8 grants:			11,680

Elva motions to approve grants as discussed and funded in the above table, **Joan seconded** this motion. **Passed unanimously**, 12 voting members.

X. New Business.

A. Wendy expressed a concern on how to get the message out to individuals who want to opt out of getting a hard copy of the newsletter, due to a desire not to contribute to the waste stream.

Board discussion: The hard copy newsletter is more attractive to advertisers. It is a tangible connection to society for those who do not attend meetings and other events.

B. Don suggests we establish a nominations committee for the board elections to happen in 2024 and ways to maintain continuity. Board elections will be done in 2024. Good idea to not have everyone leave the 5 board positions at the same time. Jane suggested all chapter representatives look for individuals in their chapters who may be interested in a board position. Don reminded everyone that their model of sharing a position can work for other positions. Positions open are recording secretary and possibly more.

C. Wendy wanted to discuss another level of membership, perhaps called institutional membership, which could include an ad in newsletters. Discussion. Need small group to discuss name of the level, amount and if ad would be included or number of discounts to conferences.

D. Ad hoc committee on advertising includes Kathleen, Tom and Margaret. They will look into how to make ads available and paid for. Do we need an additional volunteer, or should the Treasurer continue to handle this? Can we put ad information on a webpage and maybe make it possible to purchase an ad online?

Tom motions to adjourn, **Kathleen** seconded, passed unanimously with 12 voting board members. **Meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.**

Addendum to Board Meeting was made via email on January 15, 2024:

Sylvan made the motion to have the 2024 applicants for the NPSNM teacher award be given a one-year gift membership to NPSNM, along with each of the successful 2024 Carter Grant applicants. This was **seconded by Jonathan and 12 board members voted Yes via email.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kruse

Don & Wendy Graves

Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico

Co-Presidents
Native Plant Society New Mexico

These minutes were accepted January 30, 2024 by a vote of the board of directors, with 9 eligible members voting in approval after a complete review and all corrections were made.