

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Minutes
 Additional Board Meeting
 Via Zoom
 October 23, 2024, 1:00 pm MDT

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Don and Wendy Graves, Co-Presidents, at 1:03pm. Quorum was determined to be present (via Zoom), with proxies as noted below. Welcome to all board members, guests and proxies.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chapter Representatives:

Albuquerque: (unassigned)

El Paso: Kevin Floyd

Gila: Betty Spence

Las Cruces: Jackye Meinecke

Otero: Laurel Berry

Santa Fe: Barbara Fix

Taos: Jan Martenson

Executive Officers:

Co-Presidents: Don & Wendy Graves

Vice President: Jonathan Tanis, absent

Recording Secretary: Jane Kruse, absent;
 substitute Betty Spence

Documentarian: Kathleen Hall

Treasurer: Tom Stewart

Guests: Margaret Ménache, Newsletter Editor

- II. **Acceptance of minutes of summerboard meeting, July 25, 2024:** These were distributed by email on August 9, 2024. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Tom Stewart on August 20, 2024, seconded by Joan Woodward, and passed by 'yes' votes from 6 of 11 board members on August 22, 2024. These were uploaded to DropBox and linked on the website, along with all additional handouts for the summer meeting. Additionally, a signed version of the minutes was emailed by Lindsey Kirchhevel to Kathleen Hall, our documentarian, on September 3, 2024.

III. **Review of board motions and votes taken since the summer board meeting:**

- A. [Taken in March and inadvertently omitted from minutes of the summer board meeting] Sylvan Kaufman requested board support for a letter to be written on a timeframe that was not going to allow for us to read and approve the letter ahead of sending it. The

letter was in support of a very large grant application being made by Albuquerque BioPark, Desert Botanical Garden, Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery and a few other organizations to BLM for increasing capacity for native seed collection and propagation for restoration efforts and rare plant conservation.

Motion from the president by email on March 11, 2024: We move that the NPSNM board support this grant through a letter to be written by Sylvan on a timeframe that will not allow us to review the letter before being sent. Seconded by Jan Martenson on March 11, 2024. Motion passed quickly with support from 8 board members on March 11, 2024.

- B. Motion by Co-Presidents on August 26, 2024 that the NPSNM Board approve a letter of support for the establishment of Mimbres Peaks National Monument, as provided by Sylvan Kaufman, with Betty Spence's suggested correction. Seconded by Betty Spence on August 26, 2024. Motion passed with support from 6 board members.
- C. On September 6, in response to a letter written by Sylvan Kaufman regarding the Old Growth Amendment proposed by the Forest Service, the President proposed removing the acronym 'NPSNM' from the first sentence in the second paragraph, and made a motion on September 6, 2024, that the NPSNM board accept the letter with that change. Seconded by Tom Stewart on September 6, 2024. Motion passed on September 10, with support from 7 board members.

IV. New Business

A. Item submitted by Kathleen Hall: Public Engagement/Awareness

Kathleen Hall said that she was looking for board support for a project to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico in 2026, its Jubilee. Barbara Fix confirmed that NPSNM had been founded in September 1976.

Kathleen shared a screen with a list of ideas for celebrating the Jubilee, some used in the past, some suggested by others, some her own inspiration. The idea was to raise native plant visibility throughout New Mexico. The ideas included a reimagined logo for the organization, a PSA campaign, a campaign slogan (perhaps "Grow Native"?), merchandise, and a grant package to encourage groups that had never considered applying for a Carter grant, among others. Some funds might be required. The chapters could also develop individual projects, working with local schools, civic groups and clubs, or develop special materials for table kits. They might partner with local nurseries for seed/seedling give-away events. She would like to see a big surge in the planting of native plants all over the state during the Jubilee.

Specifically, she would like to put forward the following motion:

"I move that the board form a committee to plan and execute a campaign for the NPSNM Jubilee." Jan Martenson seconded the motion but proposed a friendly amendment: **"I move**

that the board form a committee to plan and oversee a campaign for the NPSNM 50-year Jubilee in 2026.”

Discussion

Don Graves mentioned that the Gila Chapter would be hosting the state conference in September 2026 and was already talking about doing something special for the 50th anniversary. Barbara Fix suggested that each chapter could choose a representative to the committee. Kevin Floyd welcomed the idea of celebrating the 50th anniversary and suggested that the committee might work chiefly on the statewide aspects of the campaign, while also providing a forum for chapters to share ideas. In terms of the timeline, the committee could be identified by sometime in the winter and get working by the time of the summer meeting. Jan Martenson noted that each chapter would have its own projects, while the Treasurer could help to determine what funds might be available for the statewide projects. Kathleen Hall said that she was willing to chair the proposed committee, but would not want to limit participation to just one person per chapter – the more the better. She could write an article explaining the proposal to be included in the January newsletter.

The motion with the friendly amendment passed unanimously with 9 voting in favor.

B. First item submitted by the Otero Chapter

Laurel Berry presented the following motion: **“I move to create an online newsletter supplement, for content that could not otherwise fit into the limited space of the printed newsletters, for the October and/or January issues, with a report of feedback and/or updates, from the newspaper editor, due at the winter board meeting.”** Seconded by Kathleen Hall.

Discussion

Don Graves reminded the board that the Otero Chapter had presented a number of discussion points regarding the motion in the agenda for the July board meeting, and he had recently circulated by email the newsletter editor’s comments on the subject. Tom Stewart said that he had found Margaret Ménache’s comments to be good ones. A newsletter could only be so long and had to have a certain format, with a brief blurb on each chapter. We could be using the NPSNM website to greater advantage to get the news out on what our chapter was doing. Jackye Meinecke said that, as a former writer, editor and publisher herself, she took to heart the authority of the editor to retain control of the content, tone and length of the publication. Moreover, there might be budget constraints to consider.

Laurel responded that the supplement would, of course, still be under the discretion of the editor. She did understand the newsletter editor’s idea of the importance of reserving some material for the future. Kevin Floyd noted that the material omitted from the last newsletter was not archival material but related to current events; what he envisioned as a supplement was a simple page or two, not formatted like the newsletter, that could be posted on the

website. Several board members pointed out that each chapter already had a page on the state website on which to post any information they wanted about their activities; moreover, the website had an annotated calendar that was a portal to more detailed information about each event.

Margaret Ménache was invited to speak. She explained that she had been forced to shorten some material submitted for the last newsletter to allow room to acknowledge the passing of Martha Carter. She reiterated her understanding that it was board policy for the newsletter editor to have full editorial control of the content of the newsletter.

The motion failed with 9 voting against.

C. Second item submitted by the Otero Chapter

Laurel Berry presented the following motion: **“I move that NPSNM create and own a Facebook group, that will cease at the 2025 conference in Las Cruces, unless renewed by the NPSNM board, that will contain subject matter on the annual state conferences, and that grants access with partial control to each hosting chapter prior to their turn at hosting.”**

Discussion

Jackye Meineke asked whether the intent was to create a historical package that future conference hosts could use. Wendy Graves said that the Co-Presidents had started a conference planning page on the website for that purpose. Laurel Berry explained that the intent of the motion was to publicize the upcoming conferences to social media users who were not NPSNM members and would not learn about them through the newsletter.

Kevin Floyd said that, as he understood it, the Facebook group would be specific to a given conference and would necessitate the chapter hosting that conference managing the Facebook group. Betty Spence commented, and Jan Martenson agreed, that not every chapter would have the skills or the volunteer hours to manage what would be a considerable task, in addition to all the other aspects of organizing a conference. Kevin said that much of the sharing of information on the conferences to non-members could be done through the social media the state organization already owned. Laurel Berry asked if he meant that the hosting chapter could contribute material about the upcoming conference to the NPSNM Facebook and Instagram pages, and there was general agreement on that idea from the board members.

The motion failed with 9 voting against.

Kevin Floyd, supported by other board members, asked Laurel Berry to pass along to the President of the Otero Chapter that we were totally in support of his goals of increasing our ability to communicate with both members and non-members, even though we did not accept the particular proposals. He would not want to discourage someone who was interested in improving the organization. Betty Spence said that she was a hundred percent in favor of the

goal of reaching out through social media to people who were not NPNSM members; for that very reason the board had voted in July to create a social media committee to come up with ideas to revive the organization's existing Facebook and Instagram pages. Don said that many of the ideas that Kathleen Hall had presented for the Jubilee would help to reach non-members. Laurel Berry said that she would take back to Russell Davis the sentiment that the board hoped the committee on social media could accomplish much of the mission without having to make it any more complicated.

D. Item submitted by the Santa Fe Chapter

Barbara Fix said that the Santa Fe Chapter was asking for the board's approval to redo the NPSNM wildflower posters. A member of the chapter, Allen Anderson, had a keen interest in updating and reprinting the posters and was willing to lead and donate \$5,000 to the project. The original files had not been found, so the posters would be scanned at high resolution and digitally updated. The Santa Fe Chapter would then make posters available to other chapters to sell. The copyright would remain with the state organization.

The chapter planned to change the margins of the poster to be a standard poster size; remove musk thistle because not native; add Latin names to the poster below the common names; darken the common names; change a few of the common names and update all Latin names on the handout to match SEINET; possibly improve some of the depictions; and update the copyright to 2024. The committee on the project consisted of Allen Anderson, Dona Eagle, Sylvan Kaufman, Bob Sivinski and herself.

She proposed the following motion: **"I move that the board approve the Santa Fe Chapter going forward on a project to revise and reprint the NPSNM wildflower posts and related hand-outs, to be funded by a donation from Allen Anderson."** Tom Stewart seconded the motion.

Discussion

Kathleen Hall asked how the money would be handled. It was clarified that the \$5,000 donation would be paid in to the Santa Fe Chapter to spend on the project.

The motion passed with 8 voting in favor and 1 abstaining.

E. First item submitted by the Co-Presidents: Recognizing long-term service to the board

Wendy Graves presented the following motion: **The Co-Presidents move that the board recognize the long-term service of Jane Kruse and Joan Woodward with a card each and a check for \$200 each.** Kevin Floyd seconded the motion.

Discussion

Don Graves explained that the awards seemed justified given the long-term service of these two people; Jane Kruse had served for 12 years and Joan Woodward for 14 years. Kathleen Hall wondered if it would not be more personal to give a gift rather than money. Wendy said it was true that Jane Kruse had indicated she would donate the money if it were awarded to her. The idea was raised of giving lifetime memberships instead of money. After discussion, it was agreed that since \$200 had been given to John Freyermuth for his long service, it would be evenhanded to do the same for Jane Kruse and Joan Woodward.

The motion passed with 9 voting in favor.

F. Second Item submitted by the Co-Presidents

Wendy Graves made a motion proposing that the following language should be added to page 4 of the board's Policies in Effect under the heading of Meetings after the paragraph beginning "Any board member can make a motion..."

"A member or group of members not on the NPSNM board may submit a proposal for consideration by the board if it has been approved by at least one chapter. The proposal or request to the board must be accompanied by the minutes of the chapter board meeting(s) demonstrating that a corresponding motion was proposed and approved at the chapter level."Kevin Floyd seconded the motion.

Discussion

Tom Stewart said that it was a good to know that an idea had some support from a number of members comprising the chapter leadership. Don said that it should be clear that the idea would come to the board as a proposal, not a motion, and the board could decide whether to take it up. Only board members, and that of course included the chapter representatives, could make a motion. Some concern was expressed that members at large who had not designated a chapter would be excluded by the language, but several members said it was clear that a NPSNM member at large, or indeed any NPSNM member, could appeal to any chapter for support for a proposal. Laurel Berry asked whether the motion meant that a proposal had to have a certain amount of support from the board of a chapter before it could be submitted to the state board. The Co-Presidents confirmed that that was the intent of the motion.

The motion passed with 9 voting in favor.

V. Other business

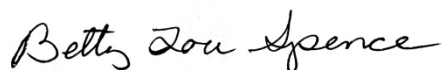
Kathleen Hall asked for a volunteer from among the board members to be interviewed by the middle of November for the state newsletter. Kevin Floyd volunteered. Margaret Ménache explained that the aim was to have the board members better known to the membership at large.

Jan Martenson said that she would be retiring as the Taos chapter representative at the end of the year and would be replaced by Terry Bumgardner.

Adjournment

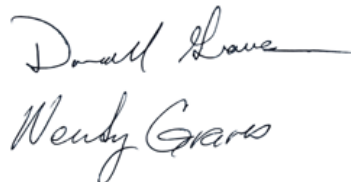
Adjourned 3 :00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Spence for Jane Kruse

Recording Secretary
Native Plant Society New Mexico



Don & Wendy Graves

Co-Presidents
Native Plant Society New Mexico