

**Kansas Native Plant Society  
Winter Board Meeting  
Breukelman Science Hall, Rm 156  
12-3 pm  
January 22, 2011  
Emporia, KS**

**Members present:** Earl Allen, Jocelyn Baker, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Allen Casey, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Michael Heffron, Jeff Hansen, June Kliesen, Frank Norman, Susan Reimer, Evelyn Reed, Dave Welfelt.

**Welcome:** President Craig Freeman welcomed everyone and made a few announcements. He thanked Tom Eddy for making arrangements for our meeting. David moved that the minutes of the September 17, 2010 Board Meeting be approved, June seconded. The motion passed.

**President's Report:** Craig noted that KNPS is off to a good start this year with an increase in new members, especially those recruited by Michael Heffron. He followed with an update on committee meetings.

**Review of 2010 Budget:** Krista summarized the 2010 budget using pie charts of income and expenses. PayPal facilitates dues memberships and has increased web purchases. Donations to the general fund, the legacy fund, and color newsletters have increased. Steve Timme's book, "Wildflowers of Southeastern Kansas" provided \$832.22; the 2010 silent auction at the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) raised \$829.50. Almost \$19,000 came in as income; total assets by December 31 were \$26,091.29. Some income will be transferred into investment accounts. The costs of office supplies, newsletter printing, and mailing fees have all gone up. The newsletter and the website are our biggest expenses. Fred moved, Jeff seconded that the 2010 budget report be approved. Motion passed.

**Discussion and Approval of 2011 Budget:** Krista reviewed the 2011 draft budget, which showed estimated income of \$17,980, estimated expenses of \$19,545, and a deficit of \$1,565. The draft budget would reduce allocations for the Bancroft Scholarship to \$500 (from \$1000 in 2010) and for Special Project to \$1000 (from \$2000 in 2010). After a brief discussion of those and other budget lines Earl moved we accept the budget with the understanding that minor changes could be made on merit. Michael seconded. Following additional, brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Craig will ask the finance committee, chaired by Earl, to examine the Society's future finances and to offer any recommendations as seem necessary at a future meeting.

**Brochure Report:** Joc passed around a copy of the 2011 brochure saying that printing costs are the same as last year. The new brochure will be out mid-February.

**Newsletter Report:** Nancy G. informed us of some difficulties with the printer on the last two issues of the newsletter such as printing delays and not making enough copies. However, she is pleased with the product. She sent an email to the printer to express her concerns but has yet to receive a response. She reported that a displeased member referring to the lead article in the new January 2011 newsletter thought we were promoting wind farms, even with the disclaimer. The theme of the January 2011 newsletter is prairie and art.

**Website Report:** Jeff reported a 40% increase in web visits from 2010 over 2009 (69,000 and 50,000 respectively). Major on-line accomplishments include increased store sales, on-line membership renewal via PayPal or by downloading a printed form, Event locations integrated with Google maps, and new eco-region images, AWW, and regional events. There have already been 50 events listed this year compared with a total of 100 for 2010. Jeff said the discussion list, currently at 480 members, is the main way to contact people and distribute information. Jeff presented several ideas for consideration, such as creating a database of regions (each composed of 4 to 8 counties) in an effort to build regional communities across the state. We now have 572 dues paying members and 74 gratis (non-profit organizations) memberships. Craig indicated he would work with Jeff to prioritize Jeff's recommendations and have the Board make decisions about how to proceed.

### **New Business:**

**Report from the Roadside Vegetation Management Committee:** Fred said the committee proposed a bottoms-up approach and recommended a positive tone in communications with the public and public officials. Cathy Tidwell and Diane Barker worked on four ideas for RVM: develop publications on problems and solutions, offer sample letters "to the editor" for public use, prepare roadside posters, and make a pocket handbook that private owners as well as county commissioners might use. Allen Casey presented a slide show prepared in connection with The Xerces Society showing RVM practices in IA and MN. The committee proposed to make a video for distribution to groups. The Xerces Society is willing to partner with KNPS. Allen said that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) website has lots of updated information. The committee recommended conducting a roadside photo contest by counties with prizes and postings on KNPS website. They also recommend getting in touch with other organizations on roadside management to increase statewide awareness. Craig said he would like to get the Board's endorsement "in principle" on the report. He would like to prioritize the suggestions and take advantage of other existing resources. Nancy G. said she could not endorse the report "in principle", questioning the extent to which KNPS members would be willing to go out and persuade others on these issues and whether they would

use the resources the committee report envisions. She suggested doing a survey soliciting membership opinion. Susan said that we were not forcing anyone to take an activist role but rather providing resources for those who wish to talk, write, or speak to commissioners, a sentiment echoed by Jeff. Iralee said interest in roadside vegetation management within KNPS started in the '80s and has come up periodically since. Craig asked how large a role KNPS should take in advocacy. Jeff agreed that this isn't a new issue. Fred said he has no problem advocating RVM but agreed we should not develop materials that would not be used. Frank said that township, county, or state officials do not always know what other agencies are doing. It would be nice to have procedures coordinated. Craig said the committee has done a really nice job of exploring the issue and suggested using the report to develop a survey to see to what extent our membership would endorse these recommendations. Jeff said we could also use the newsletter to advantage. Frank questioned how the survey could be done effectively. Craig proposed that he, Mickey, and some committee members sit down and discuss how this could be done. Nancy G. indicated that she would be OK if we could survey people before approving the committee report.

**AWW Survey Results from Publicity and Outreach Committee:** Mickey reported on his 25-question AWW survey previously disseminated in the newsletter and on Facebook. In looking at the responses to open-ended questions, Jeff noted a call for more social gatherings, a Master Naturalist program perhaps in coalition with Dillon Nature Center, and the need for more events outside of eastern Kansas. Topeka Audubon wants to do a bio-blitz that Frank indicated would be a major effort. It was also suggested that KNPS have an electronic marketing tool to keep the membership informed of all KNPS has to offer.

**Recommendation for the Wildflower of the Year for 2013:** Nancy G. moved, Shirley seconded that the new state grass of Kansas, Little Bluestem, be the Wildflower of the Year for 2013. Motion passed.

**Update on Virginia Native Plant Society trip to Kansas:** Craig announced that the trip is set for June 11-18 and that the VNPS is seeking help from KNPS members who might like to act as tour guides for specific sites they plan to visit on June 11 and 12. Craig will obtain additional information from VNPS.

**Future meetings:**

April 23, 2011: Spring Board Meeting, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita; 12-3 pm.

July 16, 2011: Summer Board Meeting, Kansas State University Library, Manhattan; 12-3 pm, includes lunch. 9-11am on Konza Prairie; 11-11:30 am green roof on campus.

September 16-18, 2011: AWW Lawrence

**Adjournment:** 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Coombs, Secretary