

Kansas Native Plant Society Fall Board Meeting  
Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center,  
2577 Pueblo Road, Canton, KS  
Friday, September 13, 2013; 12-2 PM

**Board Members Present:** Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Nadine Champlin, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Chelsea Erickson, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Susan Reimer, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright. **Guests Present:** Allen Casey, Bob Champlin, and Donald Erickson

**Welcome:** President Mickey Delfelder welcomed everyone. Craig moved approval of the July 13, 2013 board meeting minutes. Iralee seconded, motion passed.

**Budget Report:** Krista reported that the 2013 cash reserve (\$12,648.58) is lower than usual. Investments, at \$5,467.64, are up about \$1300. Generally by this time about half of membership dues are in, but currently they are lower. Donations so far are \$275.00. Both membership dues and donations are major line items for income. Three scholarships were awarded this year, two at \$400.00 each and one at \$200.00. Their value doubled, due to matching funds from the Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF). Krista said that funds allocated for website maintenance for the year have all been expended. She outlined the increasing work of Webmaster Jeff Hansen. For example, he writes the code for web pages, tracks email, and updates membership. He has added PayPal and state icon pages; he keeps the photo gallery, list of resources, events, and the homepage current. The webpage is now more than 900 pages. In short, Krista said Jeff is the nerve center for dissemination of KNPS information. Jeff said web work for the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) increased this year. Krista said the issue is that three more months remain at a cost of \$1000 for about 53 more hours of work. She moved approval of an additional \$1000 for web work for the rest of the year. Discussion followed. Craig asked if any of the 53 hours could be postponed to the 2014 budget. Krista said funding for web maintenance currently takes up half of our annual budget. Iralee asked if the publicity committee could help Jeff. Brad suggested having a target amount in the budget with a deadline for some of the work, like AWW. It was suggested that the next president consider this issue. Craig seconded Krista's motion with the addition that we try to stay within the budget. Motion approved, Jeff abstained.

Budget discussion continued. Jeff counts membership by those paid last year, through this year. Phyllis wants to see more join KNPS at AWW, maybe as people check in. Jane said she always asks those registering if they would like to join. Iralee suggested putting renewal information on AWW registration forms. Earl noted that the meetings are open to all, member or not. Jeff suggested charging an entry fee at AWW. Jane learned that Texas charges a huge registration fee for their annual meeting. Mickey suggested putting this topic on the January agenda. Jeff

said that a registration fee would give an accurate head count and could offset venue/speaker expenses. Phyllis moved to approve discussion of this in January; Earl seconded. Approved.

**Newsletter Update:** Nancy G. asked for volunteers to write articles about, and send photos of, AWW for the October issue. The due date is September 20. She also solicited ideas for a new column.

**AWW Committee Report:** Jeff reflected on AWW planning this year, suggesting in future we first choose a site. He said increased attendance this year meant reserving additional bison tram tours, expanding visiting hours to Susan's prairie, and adding more tables for Friday's cookout as well as for Saturday's annual business meeting. Brad did all the shopping for the Friday cookout. Jeff reviewed the weekend schedule. He said it is increasingly difficult to find inexpensive venues for AWW. The size of the group, having an accurate count of attendees, and driving distances for AWW events continue to be challenges. He asked members to volunteer to lead groups this weekend (about 10 people/group) for better participation. Susan said Dwight Platt will be at her prairie this afternoon. She also said she made plant lists for group leaders. Jeff thanked everyone who helped plan the AWW, notably Susan, Brad, Iralee, Craig, and Phyllis.

**Website Report:** Jeff (Please see Krista's Budget report above.)

**Membership Report:** Jeff reported 156 new members this year; 73 gratis, 917 regular members, but 192 have not yet renewed.

**Little Blue Committee:** Valerie said publication about Little Blue appeared on our website and in 15 newspapers, newsletters, or magazines. For Kansas Day (January 29) presentations were made in five schools and libraries plus four schools in Riley County. Ken, Phyllis, Nancy G., and Valerie are all active promoters. Little Bluestem has been planted in ten sites, including Southern Coffey County High School in LeRoy, KS. She noted especially the work of Ken O'Dell (KC Regional Leader) who financed both plants and signage for Little Blue at several sites in four counties: Wyandotte County Historical Garden at the Kansas City Kansas Community Collage; Miami County (3 sites): Paola Courthouse Gardens, Louisburg Parks & Farmers Market, and Somerset Ridge Winery; two Leavenworth County elementary schools, and Johnson County's Overland Park Arboretum.

**Awards Committee:** Mickey asked to postpone discussion of web-based photo contest issues until the January board meeting.

**Nomination Committee:** Mike Haddock said that all current board members agreed to continue for an additional three-year term. Evelyn Reed has stepped down; Mike thanked her for her years of service. The committee suggested holding that open position for a potential board member from western Kansas. Mike presented the slate of officers for one-year terms: Secretary: Nancy Coombs,

Holton; Treasurer: Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane; Vice President: Phyllis Scherich, Wilmore; and President: Mike Haddock, Manhattan. The slate was approved as presented.

**New Stewardship Standing Committee:** Action was postponed until the January board meeting.

**Red Hills Wildflower Booklet:** Phyllis said the draft is at the publisher and will come back for final proofing soon. Target date is November, 2013.

**Tri-fold Brochure of State Symbols (Sunflower, Little Bluestem, Cottonwood):** Mike Haddock, reporting for Ken and Joc, said that corrections were made; the brochure will be a handout. Mike made a motion to approve the brochure as designed and print five thousand copies at a cost of \$590.00. Susan seconded. Craig and Jane volunteered to donate printing costs to the society. It was moved to have Joc print 5K copies; Susan seconded. Motion passed. Mickey expressed thanks to the Freemans for the gift.

**Signed Email Request to Congress:** Nancy C. received an email alert from Ron Klataske (Audubon of Kansas) on August 28 that had an August 30 deadline. The email sought support to restore funding of various environmental programs eliminated by the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee in July, 2013. She forwarded the alert to Mickey, Jeff, and Craig who agreed to endorse the action on behalf of KNPS. Over 400 other national and regional organizations had already signed, including three others from Kansas: Audubon of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Kansas Wildlife Federation.

**Scanning Newsletters:** Jeff said scanning former newsletters would be a huge job. Mickey looked through all KWS/KNPS society newsletters (1978-2013) and said there is a wealth of information in them. Discussion followed on the need for a set of guidelines to scan all of them, the cost, the amount of pages, and the benefits. It would only need to be done once. Craig will inquire if Biodiversity Heritage Library might be able to scan and post past newsletters on its web site. He will report back at the January board meeting.

**Announcements:** M. Haddock, Craig, and Janet Bare are working on a book with 90 families of plants. Mike said they need photos for representatives of five of those families and circulated a list of species. Individuals with candidate photos were

encouraged to contact Mike or Craig for more information; a free copy of the book is offered. Shirley asked to discuss 2014 board meeting dates/locations. Members should reserve Saturday, January 25 or February 1 (snow date); a site was not set. Craig thanked Mickey for a two-year job well done.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Coombs, Secretary