

**Kansas Native Plant Society
2014 Winter Board Meeting
Hale Library Room 503
Kansas State University, Manhattan
January 25, 2014; noon-3:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Earl Allen, Jocelyn Baker, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Chelsea Erickson, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Ken O'Dell, Susan Reimer, Valerie Wright. **Guests Present:** Rondi Anderson, Abi Anderson, Diane Barker, Donald Erickson.

Welcome & Introductions: President Michael Haddock welcomed everyone. Craig moved approval of the September 13, 2013 board meeting minutes. Valerie seconded; motion passed.

Budget/Finance Report: Krista reported the total income for 2013 was \$21,541.83. Membership dues (\$14,640) were more than half of that. Total expenses for 2013 were \$23,154.75, the most costly being the web (\$7,833.02) and the newsletter (\$5,660.05). Craig moved to accept the treasurer's report for 2013; Shirley seconded. Motion passed. For the 2014 budget Krista projected a total income of \$20,877.00 but predicted total expenses at \$22,170.00. A full discussion of various ways to keep within a balanced budget in 2014 followed. Craig said the Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) has opted out of joint funding of scholarships with KNPS for 2014 because GHF is the recipient of a recent donation earmarked for scholarships. Krista gave a full review of the work that goes into creating our website, which has expanded in content to over 1000 pages. She urged spending only what we take in per year. The proposed 2014 web budget is \$6000.00. The overall consensus reflected considerable praise for the quality of the website, a desire to prioritize the duties of the webmaster, pay for specific work to maintain the current high standards, and to stay within the allotment while offering fair compensation. Web costs increased in 2013 because Jeff researched, prepared, and posted all aspects of the 2013 AWW. It was agreed that all committees should present final copy for web distribution. Earl proposed sending newsletters electronically to save printing/mailing costs. Mickey noted that Bancroft scholarship money comes from the general fund. It was decided to keep that line at \$1000.00. Valerie asked how to request donations for scholarships. For AWW registration, Earl proposed charging \$20.00 for non-members and \$10.00 for members. Earl moved to accept the 2014 budget. Fred seconded; motion passed. Craig abstained.

Newsletter Update: Nancy G. said to look for interviews with charter members in upcoming issues. She also pointed to the Stewardship Committee's request in the current issue that KNPS members submit articles on stewardship topics.

2014 AWW Planning Report: Mike reported for Jeff and Phyllis that the AWW will be the weekend of September 19-21 in Pratt, and that Phyllis and Dee have already done considerable research on local facilities. They propose hiring a Pratt Community College bus to facilitate site visits. Ken Brunson, one of the authors of the new Red Hills pocket guide and Red Hills Project Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, is helping with plans. Dr. Bill Hunter of Pratt Community College is helping with meeting space.

Membership Report: Craig reported for Jeff that sending renewal notices to retain existing members is very important and is cheaper than getting new members. Nancy G. requested a demographic breakdown of our membership. Shirley noted the importance of involving members in KNPS and suggested articles about individual members for the newsletter. Chelsea suggested doing a sample survey in the next newsletter. Craig said the membership committee could consider these issues, including how to solicit members.

Awards Committee: Valerie presented "Shutterfly" to consider using as a digital option for the 2014 photo contest. This could enable the membership to vote on the photographs. The committee would administer the site and members would post photo contest candidates themselves. Valerie suggested the committee meet soon to test the site.

Events Committee: Shirley urged people to please submit events to her for the 2014 brochure by February 5. Events may be submitted on the KNPS website.

Plant Resources Committee: Ken said his committee recommends selecting a native Wildflower of the Year two years in advance; Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium*) is the 2014 choice. Green Antelopehorn (*Asclepias viridis*) will be the 2015 plant, and Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) will be the 2016 plant. Brad said *Zizia aurea* prefers wet areas, provides early season color, and grows in 36 Kansas counties. Valerie asked if promoting a species native to certain areas would cause concerns, like hybridization, beyond its range. Valerie hopes the plant resources committee will post invasive species information on the web.

Public Policy Committee: Fred reported the primary activity consists of representation on a small committee that has met with the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and KDOT staff with a focus on improving management of roadside vegetation. The reception has been uniformly sympathetic and the staff of KDOT is still implementing some of the recommendations developed six years ago.

Publicity & Outreach Committee / Website Report: Mickey reported for Jeff: 127 events were added in 2013, there were 136 PDFs (newsletters, minutes, AWW mailer, resources, etc.) and there were 78,000 page views.

Old Business

Joc reported on distribution of the new tri-fold brochure. It is on the website and Jane brought extras to the meeting. Craig reported on his inquiries to the Biodiversity Heritage Library regarding scanning archival KNPS newsletters. He said we would have to digitize it ourselves; this issue will stay on the agenda for further discussion.

New Business: Mike opened a discussion of committee and chairman assignments. Mike asked the board to consider if any of our standing committees might be combined, and used Events and Publicity/Outings as an example. Krista mentioned there might be overlap between Public Policy and Sustainability. Mike asked the board to ponder any changes for consideration at the spring board meeting. Mickey offered to co-chair the Nomination Committee with Craig; Earl volunteered to join it. Phyllis assumed responsibility for chairing the 2014 AWW Committee; Krista asked to be removed from the committee and Shirley asked to join it. Brad will succeed Ken as chair of the Plants Resources Committee; Ken will remain on the committee. It was decided to retire the ad hoc Little Blue Committee. Craig and Jane will visit with Jeff about relieving him as co-chairs of the Membership Committee. Craig reported on tentative plans to hold the spring board meeting on May 3 at the Smoky Valley Ranch. There are plans to offer an outing at the ranch and another outing May 4 at Lake Scott. That weekend would be open to all KNPS members. The summer board meeting will be in Minneapolis, July 12. The Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) has requested working more closely with KNPS and other similar organizations. Mike volunteered to make a presentation on native plants for KWF February 22. KWF also requested donations for their auction. A KNPS ball cap, poster,

newsletter, and the new brochure on state plants will be sent with Mike. The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Coombs, Secretary