

**Kansas Native Plant Society  
2014 Spring Board Meeting  
Smoky Valley Ranch  
May 3, 2014; 10:00 AM – Noon**

**Board Members Present:** Iralee Barnard, Nadine Champlin, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Chelsea Erickson, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Susan Reimer, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich. **Guests Present:** Donald Erickson; Lin Reimer, a new member from Liberal, KS.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Craig introduced Matt Bain, Smoky Valley Ranch Project Manager, and thanked him for making this meeting possible. Matt thanked us for our interest; he shared ranch history and projects after the meeting. President Michael Haddock welcomed everyone. Craig moved approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2014 board meeting; Susan seconded. The motion passed.

**Budget/Finance Report:** Krista reported we are in good shape as of the end of March. So far this year several lifetime members have joined. Total assets as of March 31, 2014 are \$25,338.81. Craig moved that the treasurer's report be approved as presented. Iralee seconded the motion. Approved.

**Newsletter:** Mike read Nancy G's report in her absence. Several people worked on the spring issue. It was submitted to the printer ahead of schedule, but members did not receive copy at the usual time (the 15<sup>th</sup> of April). Karen Hummel, Layout Editor, communicated with the printers, hoping for better timing next issue, but if not, the possibility of finding a new printer should be addressed.

**AWW in Pratt Planning Report:** Phyllis passed out copies of the new *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Red Hills Wildflowers* of which she is an author. She also distributed plans for, and shared details of, the September AWW in Pratt. She is trying to make arrangements for bus transportation during the weekend. The cost is \$12/hour for the driver, plus \$2/per mile. There is a possibility of a sponsor for one bus. Various options for events, speakers, and meeting arrangements were discussed. Mike raised the question of the logistics of how the AWW registration fee would be collected ahead of time. Jeff will add registration cost information to our AWW forms. Planning is still in progress.

**Membership Report:** Craig, Mike, Jane, and Jeff met in early April to discuss ways to relieve Jeff of the entire burden of managing information on the website and responding to general queries received by KNPS through the website. A number of the ideas have been implemented already. As for membership, there are 619 paid members and 160 members from 2013 who did not renew. There are 106 gratis members. The majority of those who did not renew are students who have joined in the last year or two; only three long-term members did not renew. Craig suggested contacting them about renewing, rather than sending out a costly mass mailing to the 157 others who did not renew.

**Awards Committee:** Jeff will update the Non-Profit Funding Application Form on the website since this now resides with the Awards Committee rather than the Outreach Committee. Mickey reported on the photo contest web page for Valerie. She, Mickey, and Fred met to work on Shutterfly, the new website selected for the 2014 photo contest. Mickey will send out detailed instructions how to use Shutterfly for this year's KNPS photo contest to ensure it is user friendly. It was decided to move outreach funding to the Awards Committee.

**Events Committee:** No report.

**Plant Resources Committee:** Brad, Valerie, Nadine, Ken, and Michael met to discuss updating the website list. Brad reported that invasive plants will have limited space on the site.

**Public Policy Committee:** Fred reported that an inquiry was received asking if KDOT could be encouraged to deal with the invasion of eastern red cedars (ERCs) on the roadsides of US 169, US 59, and Prairie Spirit Trail. Fred said ERC removal was never part of prior discussions with KDOT, but asked the board for input. After discussion, Fred volunteered to prepare a draft for Mike to respond to the member acknowledging the issue and indicating that the Policy Committee will explore the way other states with robust Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management programs deal with the problem. Because the ERC problem extends to pastures and rangeland, an educational addition to the KNPS website about control of ERCs will also be considered.

**Publicity & Outreach Committee / Website Report:** Jeff is trying to cutback on KNPS web work. He said that managing various requests from web users, or from board members who volunteer to help cut down his work, has taken a lot of time. He suggested having a KNPS board member manage the volunteer pool. For example, Jeff said it would be nice to have someone contact all the regional leaders regarding events. Krista volunteered to try it for a period of time. Mike discussed the issue of committee expectations for web page

content. He said a lot of the pages will not need updating, but he suggested that committee members, especially committee chairs, check once or twice a year to review committee content.

#### **Old Business:**

**Summer Board Meeting - Minneapolis - July 12<sup>th</sup>:** Mike encouraged members and interested guests to explore a 640-acre native pasture in north central Kansas prior to the afternoon board meeting. The meeting will be at the Minneapolis Public Library following the outing.

**Kansas Wildlife Federation Silent Auction:** Mike reported that his February presentation (including donating a KNPS ball cap, poster, newsletter and new brochure) was well received. He said the KNPS ball cap and poster went for \$34 and his book (*Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas*) went for \$40.00.

**Scanning of Archival KNPS Newsletters:** This item, tabled at winter meeting, was postponed until the summer meeting.

**Continued Discussion of Possible Re-alignment of KNPS Committees:** Mike reviewed the winter board discussion of this issue. Krista said stewardship issues arose after seeing degradation in a sand prairie. She is using the newsletter to solicit information from local people about monitoring native plants in their area, but has received no response so far. Brad suggested making stewardship a part of the Plant Resources Committee with the following title: Plant Resources and Stewardship Committee. It was agreed to combine those two committees.

#### **New Business:**

**Committee Chairs Needed for Publicity & Outreach and Stewardship and a volunteer needed to assume responsibility for the annual brochure:** Jeff has retired as chair of Publicity & Outreach so a new a volunteer is needed. Outreach funding was moved to Awards. Jeff and Craig suggested reassigning tasks to existing committees rather than create new committees. Mike will look into this for the summer meeting. One possibility would be to combine events and publicity.

**Hiking Liability:** Jeff and Mickey received an enquiry from a social network that starts groups with like-minded themes. A Kansas City hiking group with several thousand website members was questioned by a lawyer about liability on hikes. Glenn Fell, part of that group, raised the question for KNPS. Discussion revealed that various groups or clubs require waver signatures before outings. Susan said she always signs a waver on a group liability form before going on private property with a club. Dee said a posted sign, like one seen at the entry to the Smoky Valley Ranch, relieves participants of liability. Mike said a standard website form for KNPS could be printed off, but legal advice might be needed. Mike will seek legal advice on how we should proceed with respect to liability concerns.

**Proposal to contribute toward re-printing costs of the Flint Hills Wildflower Pocket Guide:** Nadine and Iralee reported that the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) has very few copies of *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* currently available; the cost of reprinting is \$6,679. Several ideas were offered as to how partial funding could be either raised or taken from the budget to support reprinting. It was agreed to consider different ways to fund the pocket guides.

#### **Announcements:**

Mike announced that signs and banners can be produced by Matthew Richter, Prairie Art & Sign.

**Adjourn:** The meeting ended at 12:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Coombs, Secretary