Kansas Native Plant Society
Winter Board Meeting
January 16, 2016 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Great Plains Nature Center Wichita, Kansas

**Board Members Present:** Rondi Anderson, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Fred Coombs, Nancy Coombs, Nadine Champlin, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Michael Heffron, Brian Martin, Mark Neubrand, Susan Reimer, Cynthia Rhodes, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Valerie Wright, Anthony Zukoff

**Guests:** Jay Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Bob Champlin

**Welcome & Introductions**

KNPS President Phyllis Scherich started the meeting at 12:30 with a thanks to the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) for making the space available.

Phyllis recognized recent accomplishments of several board members whose activities make the public more aware of KNPS:

- The GPNC recently hosted a signing for Craig Freeman and Michael Haddock’s new book (along with co-author Janét E. Bare)
- Iralee Barnard continues to receive positive publicity for her recent book “Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska”
- Audubon of Kansas’s annual magazine *Prairie Wings* featured an article on Jeff Hansen

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mike Haddock moved to accept the 2015 fall board meeting minutes; seconded by Valerie.

**Committee Reports**

Phyllis passed around a sheet for people to review committee assignments.

**Budget/Finance Report**

Krista presented the budget. KNPS finished 2015 with approximately $20,800 in checking and Paypal, plus an additional $6,900K in the Legacy Fund.

Actual income was nearly $4,500 more than budgeted at the beginning of 2015. The 2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend held in Manhattan netted $1,021 for the general fund and throughout the year, administrative expenses were less than anticipated. Expenses for 2015 were just under $22,000 which was nearly $3,000 less than had been expected.

Craig Freeman moved to accept the Budget report and Valerie seconded.

**Website Report**
Jeff had sent a website turnover document to Jay Anderson and Matthew Richter. For now, they will manage the different aspects of the website until a decision is made on a new website.

The website committee will create separate lists of short range goals (for the existing website) and long term goals (for a new website), including distributed content publishing/editing and email campaign management.

In the short term, Craig made a motion to allot no more than $3,000 for Jay Anderson to take on the role of webmaster through June 2016. Iralee seconded and the motion passed with Rondi and Michael Heffron abstaining. Further expenditures will be discussed at the summer board meeting.

A lot of discussion was held on website best practices, including different content management systems (CMS). Jay Anderson proposed a custom CMS; Mickey mentioned looking into WordPress. Mickey made a motion to form an ad hoc website development committee of Mickey, Jeff, Craig, Matthew, Michael Heffron, Rondi, and Krista, with Jay Anderson as a non-board member consultant. Valerie seconded and the motion passed with Rondi abstaining.

The ad hoc committee should form the short- and long-term goals documents and come to the summer board meeting with a recommendation for the website.

**Facebook Presence**
Mickey explained his effort to increase the organization’s social media presence on Facebook. Initiatives include a weekly “Wildflower Wednesday” post featuring a description and photos of a native plant. He will also post native plant articles to increase the public’s awareness of native plants and KNPS in general. He will provide a progress report at the summer board meeting.

**Executive Committee**
The committee reported on their acceptance of the resignation of board member Chelsea Erickson. She will remain as the coordinator of the Hays Membership Region. The committee also reported on the resignation of Ken O’Dell from the board. The Nominations Committee will submit names for potential replacements at the fall board meeting.

Phyllis asked everyone to review the committee assignments and consider filling the vacancies left by Ken and Chelsea’s departures.

**Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council**
Cynthia Rhodes is now the voting rep on KNWAC. Rondi Anderson volunteered to become the non-voting rep and the board accepted this recommendation.

**Summer Board Meeting**
Anthony Zukoff proposed that we hold the summer board meeting in Garden City. The meeting would be an extended weekend containing outings to such venues as the
Sandsage Bison Range, Horsethief Canyon Reservoir and other locales. June 4th was suggested as the date. The board was generally receptive, although several people mentioned that they would not be able to attend that weekend.

**Membership**
Craig and Jane proposed to put part of lifetime memberships into the Legacy or Scholarship Fund. (Minutes from fall meeting suggested Scholarship Fund). The Budget/Finance and Membership Committees of the Kansas Native Plant Society make the following recommendation to the KNPS Board of Directors: The Budget/Finance Committee had approved that beginning January 1, 2016, 50% of each $500 life membership received by KNPS will be invested in the Legacy Fund, and the other 50% of each life membership will be deposited in the general fund and used to help pay for general operational expenses.

Craig then handed out the membership report. 2016 renewal notifications went out in November and renewals in pace with 2015.

Everyone accepted the report from the committee.

**Annual Wildflower Weekend**
Rondi presented an overview of the 2016 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) to be held in Fort Scott with the theme of “Stewardship.” Most of the details are in place, with the board meeting to be held at the Fort Scott National Historic Site (at no cost to KNPS) and the Saturday membership meeting to be held at Scott Community College.

Krista and Rondi will discuss coffee and donuts.

As we were running short on time, Craig made a motion to continue for 15 minutes; Michael Heffron seconded.

A brief discussion was held on the topic of keynote speaker, with several names being offered.

Rondi asked if there was interest in having a plant sale at the meeting, although we would need someone to attend the tent. Phyllis sent this and the other open items to the AWW Committee for consideration.

Board members are encouraged to contact Rondi by email with questions.

**Awards**
Anthony offered to join the committee as a judge for the AWW photo contest. Mike Haddock stated that he needs to get back on the judges list.

Fred asked to boost the budgeted amount to $2000 for scholarships.

**Wildlife Federation Conservation Awards**
Cynthia will email information about the conservation awards.

**Education**
Iralee presented information about the Prairie Pollinators event at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on June 18th and 19th. This will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service and the 20th anniversary of TPNP. There will be a children’s table with activities, coloring and walks. Susan Reimer, Lenora Larson, Dave Welfelt, Cindy Ford, Frank Norman, Matthew Richter, and others have volunteered to help that weekend.

**Events**
The new KNPS informational brochure was presented with plenty for board members to take home.

By executive order, Phyllis extended the meeting by 15 minutes.

**Newsletter**
Phyllis showed a preview of the 12-page newsletter. The next issue was completely redesigned by Brian Martin and Cynthia has worked hard as the new editor. It’s currently at the printer and should arrive in mailboxes by the end of January. Cynthia thanked the writers and editors; the process went pretty smoothly. Please send comments to Brian and Cynthia.

The preview did not include the *Echinacea* KNPS logo in the cover page header, so there was some discussion about returning it for the next issue.

Michael Heffron asked about writing an article about the course he teaches, but he wants to make sure that it doesn’t violate our charter.

**Plant Resources & Stewardship**
Nadine wants to create a top 10 pollinator plant list. Rondi suggested creating lists of plants that: 1) should not be planted, 2) some that don’t spread, 3) some that would do well statewide. Rondi, Nadine, Mickey, and Brad all offered their availability to help, and the final document should be routed through the Plant Resources Committee.

**Public Policy**
Nothing new to report right now.

**Publicity & Outreach**
Due to Chelsea’s resignation from the board, we need to find a new chair. Nobody stepped up and Phyllis said that she would temporarily take on this responsibility.

**Old Business**
The agenda indicated we would discuss the Prairie Pollinator’s event, but it was covered earlier in the meeting.
**New Business**
Phyllis has a copy of a Penstemon Grant grant she found online.

**2016 Budget**
We quickly reviewed the proposed 2016 budget with an estimated $20,000 in dues and an estimated $7000 in other income. Estimated expenses are approximately $20,000.

Per the previous motion during the website discussion, Susan moved to modify the budgeted amount for website maintenance from $6,000 to $3,000. Seconded by Cynthia. Accepted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3pm.