KNPS Winter Board Meeting  
January 14, 2017 -- 12:00-2:00 pm  
Ottawa University - Argubright Hays Classroom Mowbray Student Union

**Welcome & Introductions**
Attendees: Earl Allen, Nadine Champlin, Krista Dahlinger, Mick Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Nancy Goulden, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Lorna Habegger Harder, Mike Kaye, Andrew Mitchell, Mark Neubrand, Chad Phillips, Matthew Richter  
Guests: Bonnie Neubrand, Bob Champlin, Joan Pritchard

Craig welcomed everyone at 12:05. He acknowledged that we postponed last week’s meeting due to an impending ice storm. The winter meeting is the time to discuss budgetary issues and see how last year’s fiscal condition turned out and to look ahead at this year’s budget.

There is one new item for agenda. Craig made pitch at the Annual Wildflower Weekend membership meeting for new members and Joan Pritchard of Wichita volunteered. Joan is a master naturalist, interested in prairie restoration and owns a small farm near Udall. Her website and blog are at JoanPritchard.com

The board has capacity to add members mid-term. Craig motioned to add her as board member for a three-year term beginning in 2017. Minor discussion was held on if Joan’s term would match the term for board members beginning October 2016. The answer was yes, it would. Motion carried unanimously.

We went around and introduced ourselves.

Craig recognized Dee and Phyllis Scherich to thank them for making the arrangements to meet at Ottawa University even though they were not in attendance.

Craig asked for any corrections to the minutes from the previous meetings. There were none. Craig asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from both the fall board meeting and fall membership meeting. Lorna moved; Mike Haddock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Budget/Finance Committee**
Krista presented the 2016 budget. Highlights include:

- **Assets and income:**
  - Approximately $25,000 in available cash; approximately $9,000 in Legacy Fund and just shy of $5,000 in Bancroft scholarship fund. Total assets approximately $33,600
  - Legacy Fund has accumulated 5.09% in the past year.
  - Received $18,600 in membership dues
  - 7 new lifetime members in 2016; half of their dues goes to scholarship fund
○ Netted about $1,000 at the Annual Wildflower Weekend through registration and silent auction
○ Total income in 2016 approximately $26,000
- 2016 expenses were $14,500 which were $5,000 below what was budgeted.
- In total, our income was about $12,000 greater than our expenses in 2016.
Craig said we did a good job managing expenses and sticking to budget. Many members contributed time and monetary support. Earl moved to accept the report. Matthew seconded. Carried unanimously.

Krista presented the 2017 budget. Estimated income is $26,000 with estimated expenses just under $20,000. In discussion, Jeff asked if we were sending out brochures. We are sending them out only on request. There was additional minor discussion on different elements of the budget, but no changes suggested. Earl moved to accept the budget. Mike Haddock seconded. Carried unanimously.

**Mary Bancroft Scholarship Mutual Fund**
People are embracing this as a place to donate a little money and know that it goes into an endowment. Ruth Steinke (member, age 95) recently made a generous donation.

**Membership Committee**
Craig presented his report on the membership. There are still many people responding to renewal reminders and Craig feels like sending the letters is worthwhile. Income from members have gone up because of people joining as lifetime and contributing members. Membership is right about where we expect to be. The Student membership category sees the greatest amount of loss. Jane and Craig spend a lot of time tracking membership numbers and working on membership renewals.

Lorna said that Scott Vogt said we could include a Dyck Arboretum plant sale coupon in our new member packet. Craig will follow up with Lorna after the meeting.

Earl updated the board on the Legacy fund purpose, which is a rainy day fund in case we get a drastic drop in membership.

No motion required on this report.

**2017 Board Meetings**
Phyllis had sent an email detailing our two-day combined spring/summer board meeting on May 19 and 20 in and around Cottonwood Falls. We will visit several sites in the area to view the native plants, including a private property near Cedar Point and the new Preston Outdoor Education Station at Camp Wood. Friday evening we will attend the Emma Chase Friday Night Music in Cottonwood Falls. If you are planning to attend I suggest you make a room reservation in Cottonwood Falls area as soon as possible. All units are reserved on a first-come, first-served
basis at Millstream Motel; identify yourself as a KNPS member. Many other bed and breakfast offerings are available. Check http://chasecountychamber.org/lodging.

**2017 Fall Board Meeting and AWW**

Nadine reported on the plans for the Annual Wildflower Weekend to be held in the Concordia area on September 8 - 10. Highlights:

- Board Meeting Fri, Sept. 8 12:00 - 2:00
- Annual Meeting Sat, Sept. 9 - 9:00-12:00
- Will avoid Highway 36 treasure hunt
- Will try to get a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express
- Chamber of Commerce is excited we are coming
- Meet at Cloud County Community College; not charging us for the room (theater and lobby); don’t have to prepay at the cafeteria
- Board meeting (Friday) will be at chamber office; no charge; downtown near main street
- Outings: TBD, but maybe Jamestown
- Evening: new sports bar
- Speaker: Dale Strickler, past-college professor and his seed collection for Star Seed

We took a 15 minute break.

**Other Committee Reports**

**Website Committee**

Krista reviewed the current state of the website, for which she, Matthew and contractor Jay Anderson have been working on a new plan. Previously Jeff was the point person for the site, but now Jay is our administrator and is available to make updates.

The website is maintained out of membership dues and gets over 60,000 visits per year. It is a valuable tool for outreach.

Krista looking for volunteers to update which could equate to several hours per month.

Matthew used a projector to demonstrate a new submission form for website content. In theory, content requests will come from committees that will have already vetted and edited the content. It will be Jay’s responsibility to publish the content and not to provide editing services.

Matthew reminded us that we are constantly building on the legacy of the existing site; it’s a collective memory of who we are and what we’ve done.

Eventually, the website committee will work toward an editing system, possibly contained within an entirely new website, that allows for committee members to add content to the website without any oversight by Jay.

Matthew will send out a link to the forms to the committee chairs.
Matthew and Krista are currently intermediate editors for submitted content. They are asking for volunteers--with experience in writing and editing--to act as additional editors.

Matthew will email the Word document to the group that people can start using now.

**Awards Committee**
Mike reminded us that we have three awards with application deadlines of July 1 and Mary Bancroft Scholarship application deadlines of March 15.

**Public Policy Committee**
Did not present.

**Education Committee**
Lorna has volunteered to take over the chair of this committee from Iralee.

Lorna had met with Phyllis, Susan and Iralee to discuss the education options for the committee. One topic discussed in detail was the possibility of incorporating an activity for the community at large during the Annual Wildflower Weekend. This could take the shape of a wildflower walk that invites novices, college students, public school students, and/or families. We could also provide in-the-field activities teaching about the prairie and prairie plants. For example, the Earth Partnership for Schools has in-the-can activities for different age levels.

Craig encouraged the committee to work with the AWW committee to explore this.

**Newsletter Committee**
Mick read the report from Cynthia who was not able to attend because of illness. Highlights include:

- After a year of producing the KNPS Newsletter, we think the editing and layout processes are proceeding smoothly.
- Thank our writers and contributors for their timely responses
- Themes for upcoming issues

**Plant Resources & Stewardship Committee**
Brad has a lot of stuff to update on the site and he’ll use the new form/word doc to do that.

Brad is continuing to work on Top 10 Trees.

Nancy motioned to adjourn at 2:25 and it was seconded by Andrew.