Welcome & Introductions

Attendees: Earl Allen, Rondi Anderson, Nadine Champlin, Krista Dahlinger, Mick Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Mike Haddock, Lorna Habegger Harder, Michael Heffron, Jeff Hansen, Brian Martin, Andrew Mitchell, Chad Phillips, Joan Pritchard, Susan Reimer, Cynthia Rhodes, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich

Guests: Gene and Jenny Anderson, Bob Champlin, Dr. Tom Eddy, Helen Winter

President Phyllis Scherich called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. The original meeting time had been swapped with our scheduled morning outing due to inclement weather.

Phyllis passed around the board member directory and asked everyone to verify their information. She introduced and welcomed our new board member Joan Pritchard from Wichita.

Krista passed out business cards for September’s Annual Wildflower Weekend.

Craig motioned to approve the January minutes as circulated, contingent on later updates that people can provide. Andrew seconded. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Budget/Financial Report

Krista said that we are on track with where we expect to be this time of year. No questions were asked. Earl moved to accept. Cynthia seconded. Approved unanimously.

We have $9,500 in business savings. Earl donated $100 of “interest” that we could have gotten with a 5-year CD that otherwise would have tied up the cash.

2017 Fall Board Meeting and AWW

Nadine presented a report on the fall Annual Wildflower Weekend which will be held Sept. 8-10 in Concordia, KS. The board meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 8, from noon to 2. The annual meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 8:30 to 12.

Nadine has met with renters and some landowners and, so far, our group has been quite welcome. Nadine reviewed the outing sites which include locations in and near Concordia, Delphos, Courtland and Scandia. They hope to have an educational workshop the week preceding AWW.

Nadine asked about who should sign a contract to access one of the properties and Craig said that he could sign as a registered agent on behalf of the organization.
A block of rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Express.

**Membership Report**
Craig reported that we are about where we would expect to be on membership compared to last year’s report. He and Jane just sent renewals to 119 former and expiring members and they are seeing a good return on those.

Lorna asked how are we bringing in millennials and younger members? Younger members who donate want to know exactly where their money goes. Do we (or should we) offer a premium level of membership that has money earmarked for a specific service or product? Craig replied that we need to think about what those premium products would be and how we would provide those services.

**Website & Events**
Krista reported that certain board members are actively participating in submitting content for the website. She encouraged everyone to email Matthew or her on how to replace content on the site.

Matthew reported that the retention and recruitment of members, plus the educational nature of the site, are all critical to our organization. Several committees have taken advantage of submitting content to the site and that's working well. Updating some content, like roadside management, is taking longer to update due to the cross-posting of links to other sites.

At some future date, we may still implement an off-the-shelf platform where each committee would have more direct method for editing.

Current intermediate editors are Krista, Matthew and Craig.

**Events**
Allowing the public at large to submit events through the website is working well.

**Awards**
Craig reported that we had four applicants for the **Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship**. Each application was evaluated by committee members and submitted to Mike Haddock and Craig.

Everyone was very impressed with the overall quality of the applicants, which included submissions from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and two from Emporia State University. The winner was Samantha Sharpe of Kansas State University whose research project is entitled “Rapid adaptation in a contaminated environment: Evolutionary adaptive response of old field grass Andropogon virginicus to heavy metals in an abandoned Lead and Zinc mine.” She will receive a check for $1000 to support her research.
July 1 is the deadline for the other awards, but there are no applicants yet.

Public Policy
Mike Kaye (not in attendance) has been working with Audubon of Kansas to see if there are ways that we can work together to promote roadside policy. He has revised the white paper and is looking at other legal aspects of this situation.

Education
Lorna reported that we are looking to have an educational workshop on the Tuesday before the Annual Wildflower Weekend. Concordia has outdoor theater and perhaps Brad and Lorna can do the programming. Lorna has contacted teachers in Concordia for Earth Partnership for Schools, but she hasn’t had any commitments yet.

Newsletter
Cynthia reported that the last newsletter, of 14 pages, was delivered to 697 patrons. She appreciates the writing and timeliness of the articles very much. The Summer/July issue begins the end of May with delivery after mid-July. She and Brian are always looking for additional submissions including stories on the Symphony in the Flint Hills, creative writing about outdoors, prairie, and native plants.

Craig said that he receives a lot of compliments in the office about how great the newsletter is. He thanks Cynthia and Brian for their hard work.

Brian solicited quotes from three other printers because the current one in Topeka is somewhat inefficient. He thinks we could save $450-$600 per year, plus bump the newsletter to 16 pages and save even more.

Earl made a motion to give Brian the authority to go with another printer, which was seconded by Craig. The motion approved unanimously.

Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council
Cynthia reported that the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council is not currently addressing any wildlife issues because the Legislature in Topeka is focused on the state budget.

Plant Resources & Stewardship
Brad's working on his report and Phyllis recommends that he present it at the next meeting.

Old Business
No old business was submitted.

New Business
Mick mentioned that Glenn Fell, Emporia resident, Flint Hills nature lover and long-time
supporter and promoter of KNPS, has moved to Colorado.

Phyllis asked about Lorraine Kaufman and if we could or should preserve her newsletter articles in some sort of publication.

We encouraged everyone to take Wildflower of the Year photos of Tickseed coreopsis / plains coreopsis for the fall AWW.

We briefly discussed 2018 Annual Wildflower Weekend locations or hosts. Perhaps it should be held at Wichita and Sedgwick County which contain a sizeable portion of our membership.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50.