

WNPS SSC Board Meeting Final Minutes
Sunday, August 5, 2018 1:15 – 3:40 pm
Bill Brookreson House,
702 Columbia Ave., Fircrest

Due to traffic on highways, the meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by Bill Brookreson. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, Gail Trotter, Gail Sklar, John Neorr, Deb Naslund, and Allan Borden; Jane Ely, Jane Ostericher, and Sue Butkus were excused absences. Lee Fellenberg participated by phone.

Review of Minutes from March 11, 2018:

No additions or changes were made following brief discussion at this meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by John Neorr; seconded by Cyndy Dillon, and approved by Bill Brookerson.

Reports:

Nomination Committee Report: Bill Brookreson reported that Rita Hummel has expressed interest in the Treasurer position. Gail Sklar has offered to be vice chair for Pierce County. Jane Ostericher will continue with publicity chair. If no other candidate is found, Gail Trotter is interested in Chapter Chair position (leaving volunteers and conservation positions). A list of positions and candidates will be out in the September newsletter; and any new nominations included after the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Ely provided three financial report documents for the meeting (she was sick and did not attend). One table showed the TRANSACTIONS BY DATE, with amounts, account, and description. Jane Ely also provided the WNPS South Sound Chapter 2018 BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENSES report through the date 8/02/2018. Further transactions to the end of calendar year will be noted.

Bill Brookreson introduced the tables for Board consideration. John Neorr made a motion to accept the tables; Cyndy Dillon second the motion, and Bill Brookreson called for the vote to accept the treasurer report, which passed.

Grant Report: John Neorr presented his report describing five projects funded in part with monies granted by the Chapter. The South Hewitt project is complete with its final report. Four other projects still need final reports to complete. John stated that small projects find ways to fund with contributions, labor, and materials, following grants that kickstart the project. Monies are available to be given to a proposal, which can be reviewed by the grant committee via email. Bill Brookreson complemented John's report as an example suitable for the State officer review.

Volunteer Update: Gail Trotter submitted her report at the meeting. She listed Nature Conservancy work parties with 4 to 12 volunteers participating; the booth at the Washington State Fair scheduled for three weeks in September; the monthly work in the native plant garden at the Lord Mansion in Olympia; and the South Sound Chapter plant sales which occur in April and October. Gail Sklar gave two presentations in 2018; and native plant tablings by Deb Naslund and Gail Trotter at Northwest Trek in April 2018. The Sustainability Expo in Tacoma in April 2018 and Eye on Nature in April to June were new

opportunities for public presentations. The South Sound Chapter help to co-host the Native Plant Weekend in the Columbia Gorge in early May 2018 that had 190 participants. Bill will continue to put the volunteer opportunities in the coming monthly updates. Another idea is to ask people who live close to table an event. This works well for events at the Tacoma Nature Center and people can coordinate with Cyndy to get things before the events. Bill may keep the display boards at his house just for convenience of pick-up.

The State Officer keeps track of volunteer hours for the IRS report. Bill Brookreson does tracking of volunteers on an overall basis. Bill should be provided with the information about events, number of volunteers, and the number of public involved in the events.

Chair's report: Bill Brookreson submitted a written report. Topics that he covered included: the Coach House use for South Sound Chapter monthly meetings and plant sales (provided certificate of insurance from the State); work with Pierce Conservation District for early purchase of plants for October 6, 2018 plant sale; success of Native Plant Study Weekend on May 4 to 6, 2018; Bill Brookreson chaired the State Stewardship Committee.

Programs Update: Bill Brookreson presented Sue Butkus written report on the programs planned from September 2018 to May 2019 to take place in Olympia or Tacoma. These programs are being confirmed so that Bill Brookreson can prepare the monthly newsletters with speakers names and topics of presentation. From the prepared speakers roster, Bill Brookreson discussed a planned presentation in Tacoma in September with a joint potluck, and joint meeting and potluck in Olympia in January 2019.

With Sue Butkus stepping down from the program chair at the end of the program year, we discussed how to prepare for a person to coordinate the program presentations, equipment, and advertising, and the hosting the speaker for a dinner with members. There is a commitment by the Board to provide computer support to the program coordinator. Gail Sklar is willing to step forward to work as a program chair to take over for Sue Butkus and emphasized the need for computer and member-support to accomplish the many tasks of the program.

Hike Update: Cyndy Dillon submitted a written report of hikes that have happened and planned hikes. Cyndy recently lead hikes around the Pt. Defiance and Lake Sylvia. Audubon would like a combined hike with us and Cyndy is working on this. Cyndy welcomes more hike suggestions to new areas and state parks. Bill Brookreson suggested Federation Forest as a low elevation hike towards the east; and Pack Forest as a potential site for a hike nearby.

WA State Fair: John Neorr submitted a written report. The upcoming event will need to provide water to maintain the native plants at the booth; can the conservation district help with effort? There is a need to keep track of native plant info available. Recruitment of staff volunteers will continue. Some of the native plants will go to the fall plant sale, and some plants that are no longer suitable for sale will go to the conservation district. John Neorr made a motion to spend the \$466 to purchase plants, and the Board approved the motion by vote.

Education Update: Jane Ostericher did provide a written report at this time on the Valhalla School pollinator garden. John Neorr took the lead to create planting plans and species lists. Jane Ostericher lead in planting four pollinator gardens at the entrance to the school. Jane continues to coordinate with schools as a resource of information about Native Plants. We have two kits K-6 and 7-12, also information on line. Jane often point teachers in the right direction for information. Jane is also in charge of arranging for the 5 minute education segment before each presentation. Jane was asked to present the education kits at one of these 5 minute segments so members can know what is happening with outreach to the schools. Bill Brookreson called for the vote to accept the education report, which passed.

Native Pollinator Workshop: Bill shared early details of a potential workshop regarding pollinators. To establish this program, we need help and knowledge from Audubon Society chapters, WSU coop extension, and beekeepers. Part of the process would involve an established location of gardens and research literature to convey the importance of this habitat feature.

Chapter Bylaws: The Board should prepare a final draft version of the bylaws and complete this review and update for the near future.

Once the Board minutes are reviewed and finalized, they should be sent to Lee Fellenberg to be included on the South Sound website.

Deb Naslund's email address is vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allan Borden