

## Minutes of WNPS SSC Executive Board meeting on Nov 13, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Cyndy. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Sue Summers, Lee Fellenberg, Cyndy Dillon, John Neorr, Reba Olsen, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, and Byrna Klavano. Guests were Jeanne Ponzetti and Anna Thurston.

Minutes of Aug 28, 2011 meeting were corrected then approved.

Anna Thurston presented material on the Native Plant Salvage Alliance program. She is looking for people to take over the program. WNPS 's mission is similar to the program. The program could be adopted by one person/organization or be run with partner organizations. The board feels it is an important program but no one on the board could take it on. WNPS doesn't have the resources to be the lead entity. Grant money would be needed to pay for a director. Bill suggested a meeting with other interested organizations to see if collectively the program could continue. Bill and Bonnie volunteered to attend a meeting that Anna could organize.

### Committee Reports

1. Plant Sale: Committee was formed. Next meeting will be in January, approx 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. The Coach House will probably be used again. Sale tentatively will be 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May. The committee should discuss if location should be in Tacoma due to more population. They should discuss goals of a plant sale and then submit goals to the board. Publicity should be tackled at the first meeting.
2. Western Washington Fair: John presented papers on the Fair wrap up. For next year, Anna will still be in charge of plants, Woodbrook will provide plants under the arrangements of this year, and Byrna would like to be more involved. Getting more volunteers to cover shifts would be desirable.
3. Presentations at meetings: John discussed up coming presentations, one being the film 'Green fire'. His written report had more ideas for presenters.
4. December society meetings: Presentations of society projects, Stump the Chump for native plant related questions, potluck and raffle of door prizes. \$100 was approved to be used on the 2 Dec meetings for refreshments and door prizes.
5. Volunteer coordinator: Reba has just taken on this project. She was directed to read the job description that she had made while chairperson. ☺ She wants to form a data base with members and their interest in volunteering. Different lists of suggested volunteer activities were offered. Bill suggested that she also compile the list of those who volunteered during the year and a thank you be given at the Dec meetings.

Financial Reports: Sue's handouts were reviewed and approved. The comparison of the May and Oct plant sales was discussed. Continued tabulations will be followed with interest. \$400 was approved for signage and other prep materials for the plant sales.

2012 Budget: A 2012 Budget was not made prior to meeting. Some line items from the 2011 budget were discussed for revisions. Sue will draw up draft and email out. Discussion on use of the plant sales money for scholarships, grants, or AmeriCorp help were tabled until next meeting.

2012 Board meeting dates: suggested dates will be emailed for discussion/approval. Meetings will be held at Byrna's home.

Jeanne Ponzetti from the WNPS State Strategic Planning committee: Jeanne gave a quick review of the board composition and overview of State services during the last 35 years. Her hand out gave present services for chapters and a 10 year strategic plan for the state board. She took feedback from us on our needs and concerns.

Due to the length of the meeting, reports on the Oct 22 WNPS State Board meeting and Oct 24 GTP meeting were postponed. Restoration projects were not reviewed. Cyndy will email board members for input on necessary items.

As an addendum, Cyndy has submitted reports on the WNPS State Board meeting and the GTP meeting as follows:

1. October 22, 2011 WNPS state meeting

a. Kahlotus Ridgetop in Franklin County is now a national natural landmark, which will protect this part of the Palouse prairie.

b. WNPS supports the American Alps legacy which seeks to add North Cascades ecosystem to the national park.

c. The Columbia Highland Initiative aims to allow safe passage of wildlife between the Cascades and Rockies and establish new national conservation, recreation, and wilderness areas in Colville National Forest.

d. DNR has funded the Natural Heritage Program, providing scientific support for conservation issues, through June 2012.

e. WNPS will invite a grant request to classify 2 new Lomatium species.

f. 7 of 12 chapters were represented. Most chapters have 10-20 field trips a year (Central WA chapter asks each board member to lead a field trip). The Wenatchee chapter collaborates with land trusts, Master Gardeners and Audubon on programs. The Salal chapter runs a native plant demo garden. The Columbia Basin chapter consults for groups in areas such as landscape design. The Central WA chapter ran a workshop at an arboretum.

g. WNPS is hiring a webmaster on trial to provide technical expertise and attract younger members. A monthly newsletter will highlight a specific chapter and feature articles by chapter chairs. Board member Mark Turner will maintain a Facebook site.

h. As the endowment approaches \$100,000, WNPS will develop a policy to use some of the funds.

i. The 15 year Native Plant Steward program has trained 512 graduates who volunteered 111,000 hours. No program will be offered in 2012.

j. Upcoming activities: Native Plant Appreciation week April 29-May 5; Botany 2012 by Olympic Peninsula chapter at a time to be determined; WNPS study weekend in Walla Walla, June 29-July 1.

2. October 24, 2012 Green Tacoma partnership meeting with Kory Kramer

a. Kory asked how to keep native plant stewards involved, possibly in periodic meetings or field trips.

b. He is considering a one day Habitat Steward class.

c. As the new GTP coordinator he is trying to prioritize activities including interaction with other groups, identifying plant sources and holding areas, increasing awareness through signage, expanding outreach, documenting volunteer hours, reviewing Critical Area Ordinances and working with Lincoln High School on native plants.

Respectfully submitted, Byrna Klavano

