

WNPS SSC Board Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, November 19, 2017 2-4:30 pm  
Sue Butkus' House,  
4813 N Frace Ave, Tacoma

Due to traffic on highways, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Bill Brookreson. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, Jane Ely, Jane Ostericher, Sue Butkus, Gail Trotter, John Neorr, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, and Allan Borden.

**Review of Minutes from August 13, 2017:**

The minutes were approved by acclamation of members present.  
No additions or changes were made following brief discussion at this meeting.

**Reports:**

**Election Report:** ballots sent out - 12 by regular mail and 179 by e-mail. 36 ballots received to tally and 33 ballots counted for the five board members listed on the ballots (Bill Brookreson, Jane Ostericher, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Allan Borden, and Jane Ely).

**Treasurer's Report:** Jane Ely provided three financial reports for the meeting. One table showed the transactions by date, with amounts, account, and description. Separate information on the Spring and Fall Plant Sales included nursery and bank expenses for 2015, 2016, and 2017, and the income versus expenses for those years. Jane Ely also provided the WNPS South Sound Chapter 2017 Budget and Actual expenses report through the date 11/19/2017. Further transactions to the end of calendar year will be noted.

We begin the new 2018 budget year, and the Board proposed some increase in accounts where an increase is anticipated. Additional funds for calendars, chapter programs (including special events and speakers in Tacoma or Olympia), grants in the community (for native plantings at schools, or native plant walks by high school students), marketing and outreach, website, plant sales, and study weekend are anticipated, and should be included in the budget to commit funds if needed during 2018. Even though the Board allocated \$500 to the 2018 Restoration account, any project expenses planned for restoration account funds will need to be approved by the Board first. A motion to approve the budget was made by Bill Brookreson and seconded by John Neorr; the budget was approved by voice vote.

**Plant Sale Report:** Bill B. and Jane E. lead discussion about the Oct. 28, 2017 plant sale. The sale went well, except for issues with tally of plant purchase slowing down the checkout process. Byrna Klavano (who has been at many of the plant sales) will put together a detailed task list involving the tally of plants being purchased, in order to help with the cashiering at the plant sale.

**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 (dates of use to be included in negotiated use contract between the chapter and the State) and building access by keycode; Dan and Pat Montague (long-time chapter members) are moving to Island County; and concern to improve staging and delivery of plants for plant sales.

**Programs Update:** Sue Butkus submitted a written report that detailed the series of programs planned from September 2017 to May 2018 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.

**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 for three weeks in September; the Mt. Rainier Institute native plant identification in September; Salmon Homecoming (Puyallup Fish Hatchery) in October; and the South Sound Chapter plant sales in April and October. Bill will 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.

**Hike Update:** Cyndy Dillon submitted a written report of hikes that have happened and planned hikes. Cyndy recently lead hikes around the Dupont picnic area and at Lake Wilderness in the Black Diamond area. Audubon would like a combined hike with us and Cyndy is working on this. Cyndy welcomes more hike suggestions to new areas.

**WA State Fair:** John Neorr submitted a written report. The booth was staffed by 51 volunteers for 152 hours during the fair (and 25 hours for booth setup and support). Voluntary contribution of \$250 to Northwest Outdoor Alliance for managing displays in Fair buildings. Chapter purchased table cover with WNPS emblem and brochure display for future public events.

**Grant Update:** John Neorr submitted a written report, showing the grants approved to projects and the actual monies dispersed. Generally monies awarded were less than budgeted; so the Chapter needs to do better job to reach out to qualifying projects.

**Education Update:** Jane Ostericher did not provide a written report at this time. Bill Brookreson stated in his Chair report that three presentations of the Common Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest Lowlands were made to the Mt. Rainier Institute and the National Wildlife Federation Steward Training; and a informative hikes with Timberline High School students identifying lowland native plants. Jane still coordinates 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.

**Native Plant Weekend 2018:** Bill shared details of the planning of this event happening May 5-7,2018 in White Salmon in his written Chair's Report. Bill is handling the speakers for the event, while Don Hardin is coordinating the hikes to be available to those registered. Registration is expected to start in early January 1, 2018. Bill will have a list of lodging in the area very soon.

**Reimbursement Process:**

Jane Ely showed us the form for reimbursement and asked that people consistently use this because the auditor at the state level needs something to show how money was spent. It has been around for some time but people have neglected to follow through with its use.

**Next meeting:** Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 1:00 to 4:00 PM in Covington (John Neorr)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allan Borden