

The meeting was held via teleconference 4/24/2013, 7 p.m. MDT, 6 p.m. PDT. The minutes are submitted by Nancy Miller, Secretary of the Idaho Native Plant Society.

The meeting was called to order by President LaMar Orton at about 6:10 p.m. MDT once members were connected. Members were connected using Skype ids and/or phone landlines listed below. The Skype session was managed by Jody Hull. A quorum of directors was present.

Board of Directors roster

Chapter / Officer	Director	Phone	Skype id	Email	
Calypso	Derek Antonelli	208 762 2575	derek.antonelli1	Derek email	present
Loasa	Kelvin Jones	208 886 7051		Kelvin email	not present
Pahove	Karie Pappani	208 658 4529		Pahove Chapter President email	present
Sawabi	Bob McCoy	208 241 5851	hidesertrat	Sawabi president email	not present
Upper Snake	Allen Perkins	208 529 0820		Allen email	not present
White Pine	Sonja Lewis	208 883 2638	sonjalewis-i-am	Sonja email	present
Wood River	Carol Blackburn	208 886 7051		Carol email	present
President	LaMar Orton	208 734 7959; 208 308 6840	lamar.orton2	LaMar email	present
Vice President	Stephen Love	208 681 8742	monaquita.love	Steve email	not present
Secretary	Nancy Miller	208 301 0560	nancy.j.h.miller	Nancy email	present
Treasurer	Elaine Walker	208 336 3983	tulara.drive	Elaine email	present
Past President	Janet Benoit	208 683 2407		Janet email	present

Member-at-Large	Mel Nicholls	208 233 0714	mel.nicholls44	Mel email	present
Sage Notes Editor	Jane Rohling	208 938 3529	jane.rohling	Sage-editor@idahonativeplants.org	present
Membership Comm Guest	Ardys Holte		ardys.holte	Ardys email	not present
Meeting admin	Jody Hull	208 323 0516	j_hull	Jody email	present

LaMar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the State Board web page:

http://idahonativeplants.org/inps/boardmeet_2013_01_23.pdf. LaMar asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the January meeting. Carol Blackburn moved and Elaine Walker seconded that the minutes of January 23, 2013 Board meeting be approved as posted. The motion passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** for First Quarter 2013 was provided by Elaine Walker, INPS Treasurer. Amounts and primary categories are provided here. **Total Income** \$3711.09 (includes dues, ads, calendar sales, ERIG donations). **Total Expenses** \$3603.20 (includes dues to chapters, Sage Notes editing and printing, Annual Meeting expenses, PO Box/postage, website hosting, bank/PayPal fees, sales tax). **Assets** \$12,785.63 (includes Checking, Savings, amount due from chapters). **Liabilities** \$6,122.25 (includes Sage Notes editing/printing, unclaimed and un-awarded ERIG funds). **Net Balance** is \$6,663.38. She reported we have completely closed out the Key Bank accounts. Elaine will check the ERIG Funds listed as she had a question about them. Craig Miller will not submit an invoice for February issue editing. Sonja Lewis moved and Nancy seconded that the report be accepted for review. The motion passed.

The **Membership Reports** were provided by the Treasurer and are current as of 4/15/2013. Renewals which have not come in for 2011-2012 (Calypso 13, Loasa 11, Pahove 78, Sawabi 52, Upper Snake 26, White Pine 43, Wood River 6, At Large 8). As this totals to a significant number Nancy requested that we send out a renewal letter. Sonja said the White Pine board had discussed and agreed; that the chapter president had sent emails/letters. Pahove indicated that some of their renewals will come in at the Plant Sale because of the members-only Friday night sale. Nancy moved and Derek seconded that the INPS Treasurer send a letter to those who had not renewed for 2012. The motion passed.

The **2013 Annual Meeting – a joint meeting with the American Penstemon Society** will be held June 21-24, 2013. The INPS website home page has links to the meeting information, the registration form as well as an update on lodging. Chapter presidents were sent an email to send to members. Facebook webpage also has links. The online version of February issue of Sage Notes has initial information. Steve Love, chair of the meeting, was not present. LaMar reported that as of Friday April 19, 2013 there were 38 INPS registrants for the meeting.

LaMar gave a status report on the proposed **joint annual meeting with the Eriogonum Society in 2014**. The board had approved pursuing the possibility at the January board meeting. Since that time the Eriogonum Society board has also approved pursuing the possibility of a joint meeting.

The 2014 INPS annual meeting will be hosted by the Upper Snake Chapter. LaMar and Steve will work with that chapter on the details necessary to implement the joint meeting. This will probably be held at Twin Falls. Several possible field trips were mentioned, one of which has a previously undescribed Eriogonum species. Some of the areas have been viewed recently and many plants were in bloom or would bloom soon. Karie talked about the cost. Nancy also was concerned about the cost of both the conference and lodging. We cannot wait to decide after seeing how the 2013 Annual Meeting works out as the 2014 meeting site will be announced at the 2013 Annual Meeting. LaMar would have room for campers at his property and has electricity to some parts of the gardens. Meetings would probably be held at the College of Southern Idaho which is nearby.

An INPS Board meeting will take place at the Rare Plant Conference in October 2013. The conference will be held in Boise on October 23-24, 2013. (Wednesday and Thursday). Beth Colket sent LaMar an email detailing when and where meetings might be scheduled. The two times that the board meeting could be held are late Tuesday afternoon (October 22nd) at the BLM office (before the social) or Thursday evening October 24th at the MK Nature Center. The board needed to decide which time would be best or if other options needed to be pursued. North Idaho members were asked about potential attendance. Janet Benoit and Sonja Lewis are not sure if they will be attending in person. Both Derek and Nancy can arrive for a Tuesday afternoon meeting. We tentatively scheduled 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday October 22 at the BLM office which is about a 25 minute drive from the MK Nature Center where the social will be held. Nancy asked about teleconference capability and requested it be included in planning discussions as any non-attendees will need to teleconference into the meeting.

Sage Notes

Jane compiled notes and emails relative to Sage Notes and other publications. These were attached to the agenda. LaMar emphasized that the board needs to decide the direction we are going to take for Sage Notes. It also needs to consider the possibility of

1. Additional fees for mailed copies of bulletins and/or journals?
2. Increased fees for advertisers?
3. Increased marketing to advertisers?
4. Limiting Sages Notes journals to a set number of pages? As Jane points out this fixes publishing, mailing and printing costs and helps budgeting of both time and money.

Some options for publications which he mentioned are as follows:

1. Continue with four publications of Sage Notes a year as in the past. This will require a new publisher and probably a new printer more than likely at more cost than in the past.
2. Publish quarterly bulletins of just a few pages (4-8). (on website only or mailed?)
3. Publish 3-4 bulletins per year (on website only) and one journal per year similar to the journals now published. Additional fees for mailed copies. (Jane's recommendation)

4. Publish the journal semiannually and bulletins semiannually.
5. Other options?

Jane joined the Board for the *Sage Notes* discussion. She had not received much feedback from her earlier emails. There are many concerns which are complicated and interconnected. Jane will definitely resign after the completion of the May issue as she cannot meet her needs or those of INPS. If we are to recruit a new editor we need to know what kind of document and timeline we are recruiting for. Jane's recommendations were for

- a series of shorter bulletins with simpler layout for news, announcements, etc. and
- a journal that is longer, has more features, is more technically focused – but only is produced once or twice a year.

She pointed to Oregon NPS bulletins as an example. Consistency in layout, number of pages, etc. are important factors in being able to budget both time and funds. Quotes we have received from other printing companies for a publication such as *Sage Notes* is now have come in significantly higher. It is possible that a shorter bulletin could be delivered via email or online only. Janet Benoit pointed out that one purpose of *Sage Notes* is to communicate between chapters what is going on state-wide. Another is articles to educate the readers on issues and concerns related to native plants.

We discussed the need for the membership committee to be part of the discussion as increased costs will undoubtedly mean raising dues or charging a surcharge for printed copies. *Sage Notes* has varied from 20-28 pages since Jane became editor. She recommended a set number of pages. At this point we do not know printing cost based on pages (or on some other factors such as amount of color or type of paper). Is there a postage break based on the weight of 20, 24, or 28 pages? We have not researched online printing companies. Elaine had reported that \$14 currently goes towards *Sage Notes* for every copy produced. This includes editing and printing/ mailing. Student and senior membership categories do not cover this cost and individual memberships only leave a minimal amount over this cost for other activities. There was discussion of availability and speed of broadband access especially in rural portions of Idaho if we were to go to strictly online access.

LaMar asked what content do members want? He suggested a survey, not just about *Sage Notes*, but also about INPS activities in general. Derek moved and Karie seconded that we survey the membership. Sonja commented about the appropriateness of the *Sage Notes* name, but it was mentioned that sagebrush was a plant of many parts of Idaho, both north and south. Karie brought up seeing a 1979 newsletter and suggested a 35th anniversary in 2014. The motion passed. LaMar discussed doing the survey online and that the Survey Monkey software might be used. He said the Eriogonum Society did a survey recently and got good response. LaMar will take the lead and hopes to design a survey which doesn't take more than 10-15 minutes. Nancy suggested that if for some reason the online survey doesn't seem possible then possibly the Aug/September *Sage Notes* could be dedicated to issues and surveys.

Sonja didn't think the general membership was aware of printer problems. Jane gave some background. She felt that digital printing gave the best price now. Elaine said that we were printing about 400 for members and agencies such as arboreta, etc.

Confidential information was discussed and is hidden from the minutes. It will be restored when it is appropriate to do so.

INPS currently has 9 lifetime memberships. Janet Benoit provided some history of the developed criteria. Karie moved and Carol seconded that the awards be given. LaMar is very supportive because he knows the recipients' level of involvement. Elaine talked about the minimal financial impact of two members who are in the senior category. Karl Holte was the recipient of the last award. Jody was asked about the history. She said many earlier recipients have not stayed involved, have moved or have passed away. Karie encourages other chapters to consider recognizing the longtime and/or significant contributions of members. Sonja talked about memorials to some of the White Pine charter members who have passed away. Karie said Pahove chapter is planning when and how to give the awards. Mel said a certificate was prepared for Karl Holte; Mel will send a copy to Karie. The motion passed. LaMar thanked Karie for her efforts. Jody also helped considerably in preparing the nomination packet. Nancy asked about the revision of the criteria document which she had sent Karie. This will be on the agenda for next meeting. LaMar will send it out and we will discuss formalization of the process if it is working well and if we want to continue these awards. This may be discussed via email prior to the next meeting.

Governor Otter has signed a proclamation designating **April 28-May 4 as Native Plant Appreciation Week**. A PDF version of the proclamation can be printed from the website. Chapters should try to advertise this week as much as possible. We discussed how we can have a coordinated state-wide effort during Native Plant Appreciation Week. Nancy and Janet Benoit mentioned prior attempts to co-ordinate the event with Washington and Oregon NPS. Sonja suggested looking at the best time for Idaho and if it matches Washington and Oregon. Nancy asked if a committee could be appointed. Many thought a poster would be a good idea to send to nurseries, libraries, agencies, etc. Nancy moved and Sonja seconded that we have a committee to promote NPAW. The motion passed. Nancy, Sonja will be on the committee and will ask others to join. Karie suggested photo submissions be used.

The **election of INPS President and Secretary positions** was discussed. LaMar has agreed to serve another two-year term as President. Nancy does not wish to run for a third term. LaMar appointed a four-member nominating committee consisting of Karie, Jody, Derek, and Karl in January, but the committee did not find anyone to be a candidate for secretary. Karie had announced at Pahove chapter meeting and had also included in a mailing to Pahove chapter. Derek had announced the search at a White Pine meeting and talked to individuals. Jody said that in the past it worked best to get suggestions and then to attempt to persuade those who were considered to be possible candidates. LaMar reported that he was talking to potential candidates. We need to hold the election as soon as possible. A document has been prepared for mailing which includes an explanation of the objectives of the Bylaws committee, links to the proposed Bylaws document, a ballot listing candidates and a ballot for adoption of the amended Bylaws which the Board approved.

Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee

At the January board meeting the board approved the committee's recommended changes. The membership needs to vote on the changes before the annual meeting. The document with objectives/explanation is on the ballot which is waiting for officer nominees. Janet questioned this process and discussed what she remembered about the last process.

Conservation Committee

Justin Fulkerson, chairman of the conservation committee, has moved out of Idaho and has resigned as chair. Derek Antonelli has been appointed to serve on the committee. Board members were asked to give Derek suggestions of others to serve on the committee. Derek is primarily interested in the botany aspects and would like someone more interested in the policy issues to join the committee. LaMar has a possible person in mind.

A letter that the Montana Native Plant Society intends to send to USDA was included with the Agenda. MNPS has asked if Idaho would be willing to join in sending this letter. We have similar issues here in Idaho with the introduction by agencies of non-native plants. Derek was concerned about the relevance of some of the historical data presented and whether the person the letter is addressed to is the correct person in the hierarchy. Karie moved and Carol seconded that the conservation committee make corrections to the letter and send it in concert with the other states. Sonja questioned both new introductions and restrictions on old introductions. Derek pointed out that the broader the scope the less impact it would have. The Montana writer is not willing to change the letter much. LaMar would like to support the process. He mentioned a recent meeting with BLM where it was proposed to plant *Kochia prostrata*. The motion passed.

ERIG Committee

Janet Bala, chair of the ERIG Committee, sent a request in an email to LaMar that the committee be allowed to award \$2000 this year. They have 7 applications in the \$500-1000 range. Several are standouts. \$1000 was allocated at prior Board meetings. There are ERIG funds which have not been spent and funds which have not been requested by past grant recipients. A deadline is now specified in new grant proposals. Janet Bala has researched past awards and has contacted prior awardees to indicate to them that there is now a deadline which is applied to older awards as well. (Janet had informally talked to an attorney who had indicated a post-award deadline could be applied to the awards.) Our quarterly financial report shows \$3152.32 in unclaimed ERIG funds (2007-2011) and \$2969.93 in ERIG funds not awarded. Nancy pointed out that there were donations to the ERIG program in addition to what was budgeted. Elaine reported over \$700 in donations. Karie moved and Derek seconded that the Board allow \$2000 to be awarded. Janet Benoit asked if Janet Bala had completed her research. The motion passed. LaMar will get an update from Janet Bala.

Membership Committee

There is no activity to report from this committee.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee members are Karie Pappani, Jody Hull, Karl Holte and Derek Antonelli. No further discussion as nominations and election were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Photo Contest Committee

LaMar reported that the photo contest rules and entry form have been published in the February issue of Sage Notes and that links are also on our website home page. May Sage Notes will have a reminder. Nancy said that past experience would indicate that photographers will wait until they have a number of photos and choose their best ones towards the entry deadline which is August 31, 2013.

Rare Plant Conference Committee The Rare Plant Conference will be held in Boise on October 23-24, 2013. More information will be included in coming issues of Sage Notes. The Rare Plant List and Rare Plant Conference web pages have been updated with changes submitted by Beth Colket.

Sage Notes Committee There was no further discussion at this time.

Steering Committee's work on the ranking systems – It was reported in the agenda that following the INPS board approval of the committee's recommendation at its January 2013 meeting, several North and South Regional Meetings have taken place and made progress with rare plant ranking based on the process approved by the Board at January meeting.

The **Website Committee** had nothing to report. Nancy requested that we remove the Event Calendar from the navigation bar due to discontinued use and cumbersome nature due to multiple time zones. Sonja moved and Karie seconded that it be removed. The motion passed. Nancy will look at other alternatives for presenting a state-wide calendar of appropriate events.

Derek moved and Elaine seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 9:48 MDT.

Post meeting everyone thanked LaMar for agreeing to serve another term.