

Draft INPS Board Meeting Minutes, April 29, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Idaho Native Plant Society was held April 29, 2015 via conference call commencing at 7:06 p.m. MDT with the following underlined board members participating: President, LaMar Orton; Vice-President, Stephen Love; Treasurer, Elaine Walker; Secretary, Alan Crockett; Member-at-Large, Mel Nicholls; Past-President, Janet Benoit; Past Secretary, Nancy Miller; Calypso, Derek Antonelli; Loasa, Kelvin Jones; Pahove, Karie Pappani; Sawabi, Bob McCoy; Upper Snake, Rose Lehman; White Pine, Susan Rounds; and Wood River, Carol Blackburn. Janet Bala, Sawabi, and Michael Mancuso were also on the conference call.

Below are listed items and information in *italics* provided by LaMar to all board members prior to the conference call. The minutes of the conference call discussion follow in standard text format (not *italicized*). The meeting did not necessarily discuss items in the order presented below.

Item #1 Approval of minutes of the January 28, 2015 Board Meeting.
The minutes are on the INPS website. Please review before the meeting at http://idahonativeplants.org/inps/boardmeet_2015_01_28_draft_rev022415.pdf. The State Board information is reached by clicking on "About Us" and scrolling down to "meeting minutes".

Alan reported that other NPS and nonprofit organizations do not include detailed financial and membership information in their minutes. While the treasurer and membership reports will no longer be included in the minutes, they need to be available to board members. Nancy will ensure that the reports are included under Google Docs and inform board members how they can access that information.

Susan moved, Michael seconded and the board approved a motion to approve the minutes.

Item #2 Presentation of treasurer's reports – review and accept.
Attached are the reports provided by Elaine. (not attached to minutes)

For the 1st quarter, the INPS had income of \$2,905, and expenses of \$2,380 for a net income of \$525. Overall, assets total \$17,027, with liabilities of \$3,639 for a net balance of \$13,387. Following Elaine's presentation of the budget, Steve moved, Alan seconded and the board approved a motion to submit the budget report to audit. There was discussion about Sage Notes printing costs being unusually high (\$902) for the quarter but they have been much lower since then because about ½ the previous number of copies were printed. Elaine will ensure that her report is placed on Google Doc site working with Diane Jones or Nancy.

Item #3 Update on 2015 Annual Meeting.

The following update on the annual meeting has been provided by Bob McCoy: "There are about 60 registered for the meeting as of 4/24/15. Registration will close June 15.

- *The group camp is about ¾ full. We will have to close off the camping registration pretty soon. There are large, dispersed (no water, toilets, tables etc.) campsites near the group camp that will probably be able to handle the overflow (but no guarantees). There are also individual, reservable campsites nearby.*
- *Two of the field trips have filled up and are closed to new registrants.*

- *The dinner and guest speaker venue have been set.*
- *The online registration site has been working smoothly (thank you Paul Shaffer!).*
- *The Sawabi treasurer has been receiving snail mail registrations. Fees are being collected by INPS and left-over funds will be split with the WyNPS.*
- *Things yet to do: Generate plant lists and maps and get them online, update field trip descriptions and post, make up registration packet, pray for good weather.*

Any suggestions on keeping things running smoothly would be greatly appreciated.”

There are a couple of things that need to be discussed relative to the annual meeting.

1. The location and time of the business meeting.

The business meeting is usually held right after the dinner and before the guest speaker. It is a time when we have the most members present. As that dinner will include members of the Wyoming Native Plant Society (WyNPS), we could hold the business meeting after the speaker and excuse the WyNPS members prior to our business meeting. The business meeting usually last about 10-15 minutes. What are the wishes of the board?

The business meeting will be held after the speaker’s presentation which is okay with the WyNPS.

2. The location and time of the INPS board meeting.

We had set the board meeting for Thursday at 2:00 pm, but the location was unknown. Rose has been able to make arrangements for the meeting as follows: we can have the use of a meeting/community room at the Alta Teton County Library from 4-6 p.m. Thursday night, July 9th! It is up Teton Canyon so close to camp. They are closed on Friday and this time slot won't interfere with the use of their library by patrons. This would provide us 2 hours for the meeting. Does the board feel that this is sufficient time for a meeting? If not, we would need to extend the time at the library, if possible, or find other accommodations.

It was decided to hold the board meeting at the Alta library from 4-6 pm on July 9th. Rose will verify the availability and check on internet connections.

2016 annual meeting

The White Pine Chapter is the lead chapter for the 2016 meeting. A business meeting and an INPS board meeting should be planned into the agenda for that meeting.

Both the annual membership meeting and the INPS Board meeting are in the plans. Two field trips are planned. Field trips will be scheduled on Saturday and then repeated on Sunday so that participants can take part in each – one on Saturday and one on Sunday. One will be to the Lochsa/Selway area to see disjunct populations in particular and the other will be in the higher elevations nearer Grangeville. It’s possible a third optional field trip will be scheduled for Monday but that has not been determined. The meeting will be held Friday June 10 through Sunday June 13 or Monday June 14, 2016 depending on an

optional day trip.

Item #4 Discussion on the future of the Upper Snake Chapter.

Rose provided the following information:

“The Upper Snake Chapter had a meeting last night (April 21, 2015). It looks like it needs to be added to the agenda for the board meeting next week that the chapter is looking at dissolution following the society’s bylaws for doing so. I will forward our meeting notes from last night once we have them finalized. Basically, it makes sense for us to encourage people in the area to become affiliated with the Sawabi Chapter and to stay active in creative ways as INPS members even though we will no longer have a chapter in Idaho Falls. Thanks.”

The INPS bylaws state the following:

“Section 14. Chapter Dissolution

The Society Board may by a two-thirds (2/3) vote dissolve any Chapter when it is satisfied that the Chapter is inactive and that there is no reasonable hope of its immediate revival, or when it is satisfied that such action is in the best interests of the Society. A Chapter may also petition the Society Board requesting dissolution of the Chapter. Chapter dissolution shall not affect Society membership status of any member affiliated with this Chapter; a member may choose to affiliate with another Chapter or to remain unaffiliated. Upon dissolution, all Chapter funds and assets shall revert to the Society, and use of the Society’s name as a Chapter shall cease.”

The Board needs to take action on this request to dissolve the Upper Snake Chapter.

More recently, a person in Rexburg has expressed interest in forming an INPS chapter in Rexburg. The board doesn’t want to dissolve the Upper Snake chapter if there is any chance of resuscitation so no action was taken and the subject will be added to the June board meeting agenda.

Item #5 Native Plant Appreciation Week update

Alan submitted the proclamation to the Governor’s office. On April 24 he was notified by the Governor’s office that the proclamation had been signed. Native Plant Appreciation Week is April 26th through May 2, 2015. Nancy will post it on our website. The proclamation is attached. (The proclamation is now available on the INPS web site.)

Item #6 Presentation of Committee Reports

a. Bylaws Committee

Nothing to report for the bylaws committee.

b. Conservation Committee

Derek has provided the following report on the Conservation Committees activities:

1. The Conservation Committee members are: Derek Antonelli, Calypso Chapter; Beth Corbin, Pahove Chapter; Bob McCoy, Sawabi Chapter; Rachel Newton, Pahove Chapter; and Karie Pappani, Pahove Chapter.

LaMar has suggested Dale Turnipseed as a potential from the Loasa Chapter.

2. The South Idaho Rare Plant Working Group met on April 17. Ten people participated in the meeting and several species of plants were reviewed. The North Idaho Rare Plant Working Group will be meeting this fall. They have eight species under review on the INPS online Rare Plant Forum. The next Rare Plant Conference will be held this winter, probably February 2016. Holly Beck will be leading the effort to organize the RPC. INPS members are encouraged to observe and participate in the RPWG process.

3. The Conservation Committee has looked at the issue of wilderness versus national monument status for White Cloud/Jim McClure-Jerry Peak/Hemmingway-Boulders areas. No consensus has been reached. US Rep. Simpson has been working for years to have the areas designated as wilderness areas but has not gotten proposal through Congress. The Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA) is a modified proposal that has drawn Sen. Risch's support. Other groups are in favor of foregoing the wilderness designation and having the Obama Administration declare the areas to be a national monument.

Does INPS want to engage publicly in this debate? If so, which position do we want to support?

The Board needs to vote on the appointment of Dale Turnipseed to the Conservation Committee. The Board also needs to decide whether INPS should take a position on #3 as outlined by Derek above.

LaMar said that Dale is a retired Fish & Game employee in Twin Falls who knows government systems and procedures and is well informed about environmental matters. Based on LaMar's recommendation Derek moved, Alan seconded and the board approved Dale as member of the Conservation Committee.

Michael noted that the CIEDRA wilderness bill is no longer being considered and the new legislation is called SNRA Plus. Steve recommended that the Conservation Committee consider the pros and cons of the wilderness and monument alternatives, present that information to the members for their opinion and develop an INPS position soon.

Karie suggested the Conservation Committee consider BLM's Seeding Strategy which involves promoting seeding with native plants and BLM's draft Paradigm Fuel Break Project Environmental Assessment which will evaluate Kochi sp. as a firebreak. Karie will provide information on both projects to the committee.

c. ERIG Committee

*Committee Chairperson, Janet Bala, has provided the following report:
"ERIG report April 29, 2015*

Projects Completed in 2014:

Corrine Coffman Pocatello Zoo:

Title: Wild About Idaho's Native Plants. Awarded \$985.00

The Pocatello Zoo has completed their project for a native garden at the zoo.

Projects still in progress:

Jeffrey P. Rose, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Title: *Evolution and Biogeography of Polemonium (Polemoniaceae): the Polemonium pulcherrimum Species Complex in Idaho*. Awarded: \$550.00. Nothing has been paid out for this project as of 4/23/15.

The taxonomic group *Polemonium pulcherrimum* species complex has been interpreted to contain three species. Idaho lies at the intersection of the range of all three species. Jeff's research will include sampling from the Mount Harrison area in Cassia County where collections identified as *P. pulcherrimum* may actually be *P. delicatum*, an intermediate species between *P. californicum* and *P. pulcherrimum*. *P. delicatum* has not been reported in Idaho at this time. He will also be looking at the genetics of the newly described *P. elusum* described from the Salmon River area by Josh Irwin (Irwin et al 2012). The funds will be used for collecting costs and lab work.

Michael thought some of the species listed might not exist in Idaho and some are very difficult to tell apart.

Bruneau Elementary School:

Awarded: \$1,000.00. Purchased 100 native plants from Draggin Wing Farm, total \$398.00. Trees were purchased from TN Tree Nursery for \$125.91 and posts from Parma Post and Pile for \$192.00. The balance is \$284.09.

This project should be completed this year and Janet will check on their fund balance.

2015 Grants awarded:

Hawthorne Elementary Native Habitat Teaching Garden, Hawthorne Elementary School, Boise, Idaho. Awarded: \$1,000. The school is a small title 1 neighborhood school with large outdoor space. The school wants to create a native plant garden that will provide for pollinators and wildlife, create an outdoor learning space and provide hands-on science learning experiences. They have assistance from the BLM and are also hoping to include the Idaho Botanical Garden as a consultant.

Idaho's Flesh-eating Forbs, A Comprehensive Guide to Idaho's Carnivorous Plants: Awarded: \$1,000. Lauren Studley, Pahove member is the project leader. The first part of the project is to collect data on 8 species of carnivorous plants in Idaho including taking photos, surveying surrounding habitat, and mapping GPS locations. The second part of the project is to develop educational materials including small identification cards with photos and plant information to help with easy identification, coloring book identifying key structures of wetland/peatland ecosystems to encourage conservation, and Sundew Velcro hand puppet. The plan is to hand out the educational material at the Foothills Learning Center, Idaho Botanical Gardens and MK Nature Center and have them survey the materials before making them available to more groups. As a committee we think this proposal met the guidelines with some exceptions including, no collecting specimens and no localities given for plants on the INPS Rare/Watch plant list.

ERIG donations: 2015 to date \$262.00"

The ERIG committee is pretty happy with the proposals and plan to fund them after a little tweaking.

d. Membership Committee

Members of the membership committee are: Sarah Funk, Jessica Irwin, Steve Love, Bob McCoy and Elaine Walker. Steve Love is the interim chairman. Elaine has been working with Sarah Funk and Jessica Irwin to train them on the program she, Bob and Paul have worked on.

Many of the membership activities have been assumed by Sarah and Jessica. Elaine will update us on how the new program is working and some issues relative to that program. She has also volunteered to provide training on the new membership system at the annual meeting in July. She could set up her laptop and do a demo and answer questions from those who will be using the system. We will need internet access for the training session. She has an overhead projector she can hook up to her laptop, so it won't be a bunch of people huddled around a laptop screen barely able to see. She can project the demo on a screen.

Elaine's membership report shows that as of April 20, 2015 there were 396 INPS members. She recently received money from the White Pine chapter but without information on what members it covers. Nancy expressed a concern that many members join late in the year. While people can join locally or directly with the state, the intent is to get everyone to join at the state level so as to better keep track of members. The new membership system will be able to send out an annual membership renewal request and later send out an email to just those who are delinquent.

Elaine explained that only a few people will have a password to be able to edit the database. When changes are made, the name of the person making the change will be recorded. Most people will only be able to view the database.

Elaine will need about 30 minutes to train people on the use of the database and this will occur on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at a time and location to be determined by Rose.

e. Nominating Committee

There is no nominating committee for the 2015 election. In the past several years the nominating committees have been unsuccessful in coming up with candidates for presidency positions. The president and secretary positions are up for election. LaMar and Steve have been working to try and find individuals to fill those positions. So far no candidates have been found. We need the help of the Board to find those candidates.

Steve requested the names and phone numbers of suggested board members so that he can contact them. Nancy noted this is very late to still not have candidates named and a ballot ready. LaMar and Steve have been working on getting candidates for months but with no success.

f. Photo Contest Committee

The Upper Snake Chapter was going to take on the photo contest this year. With the dissolution of that chapter the fate of this committee is unknown. Perhaps Rose can update us on this committee.

Sue Braastad is not able to manage the contest so there will be no photo contest this year.

g. Rare Plant Conference Committee

The next Rare Plant Conference will be held on Feb 9-11, 2016 in Boise. Information on activities leading up to that conference was provided above under the Conservation Committee.

h. Sage Notes Committee

Mike Mancuso, Sage Notes editor has provided the following for Board discussion.

Couple of things to possibly discuss during the board meeting:

1) ensure the mailing list for Sage Notes is up-to-date and correct.

Related to this - perhaps can have Membership Committee send out email reminder to members when their membership is about to lapse; perhaps a follow-up second reminder if needed.

2) ensure a system is in place to have Sage Notes posted on the INPS website once it is available (a primary way to do this and a secondary in case the primary person is unavailable for any reason) and an email promptly sent to membership alerting them the issue is available on-line. Mainly just want to make sure everyone on the same page regarding how this is all best accomplished.

The new membership software will help ensure that the membership database is current and as previously noted, the system will be able to target delinquent members. Also, Diane Jones or as backup, Nancy will ensure that Sage Notes is available on the INPS web site. The new software will be able to announce the availability to members as soon as Sage Notes is posted.

Michael will include in Sage Notes whatever information is provided to him on how chapters celebrated Native Plant Appreciation week.

i. Website Committee

The Website Committee consists of Diane Jones, Nancy Miller, Karie Pappani and Paul Shaffer.

At the Board's last meeting there was discussion about hiring a person to do a new website design for us. The Website Committee has expressed a need for a new website design as have other Board members expressed similar feelings. It may be time to start that process. The Board may want to consider allocating a certain dollar amount to hire a website designer and then let the Website Committee select and work with a website designer. They would ultimately bring a design to the Board for final approval. Any Board members could also provide their ideas to the Website Committee throughout the process.

Karie thought that between her and Nancy, they could work with a web site designer to update and improve the INPS web site. While the board noted the need for the update they requested a few cost estimates before committing funds for the improvements. Spending approval should be available quickly via email communication.

Item #7

Additional items

Next Board meeting will be held the afternoon of July 9, 2015, the day before the annual meeting begins in the Tetons.

The next board meeting will be held in the Alta, WY library from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., MDT.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. MDT.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alan Crockett
Secretary, INPS
May 4, 2015