

Minutes of the meeting held Sunday, March 21, 2010 (teleconference). 8 a.m. PDT; 9 a.m. MDT. Meeting was over Skype with Wendy Velman presiding. Minutes submitted by Nancy Miller, Secretary.

Current Board Members

Calypso, Janet Benoit (present)
Loasa, Kelvin Jones (present)
Pahove, Susan Ziebarth (present)
Sah-Wah-Be, Linda Johnson (present)
Upper Snake, Sue Braastad (present)
White Pine, Helen Yost (present)
Wood River, Carol Blackburn (present)

President, Wendy Velman (present)
Vice-president, Janet Bala (present)
Secretary, Nancy Miller (present)
Treasurer, Jody Hull (present)
Past-president, Janet Benoit (present)
Member at Large, Open
Sage Notes Editor, Vacant

Before the meeting began, there was a question about where the ERIG grant rules and application could be found. They are posted in Spring Sage Notes issues. Wendy thought the deadline was March 31 but since Sage Notes was published and distributed later we may need to revise if possible. (No more was said about this in the meeting.)

As the meeting agenda had been revised and uploaded just before the meeting, some hadn't seen the revised version. Wendy announced that two items were added.

Minutes of 12/16/2009 meeting had been posted on the State Website for review. I don't believe there was a motion or second to accept them as my first notes are about the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report: Jody is in Utah and doesn't have the report information available to her. She will send it out soon.

- Memberships. Approximately 198 have renewed, 224 need to renew. 82 Kinnikinnick members are included in this and few of those will renew.
- In the last meeting we had stated that chapters would try to encourage renewals before the state renewal letter was required.
- Membership renewal letter. Memberships expire on December 31 and there is a grace period until April 1. Renewal letter should state these dates as there is some confusion and it should go out soon after April 1. Suggested dates to send the letter ranged from April 15 to early May (Bala). Calypso does not have their first field trip until the first Wednesday in April so their renewals will start to come in about then. (They don't usually hold meetings).
- Jody will not send to Kinnikinnick members who have not renewed.
- Sage Notes in May edition should have a text box about renewals.
- White Pine may have a newsletter out before then so may get more renewals through it and will let Jody know.

- It is important for Jody to let chapters know when there are new members and renewals at the time although the money reconciliation can take place quarterly. Jody said she is not quite caught up notifying chapters but will do so.

Committee Reports (note: Janet Bala as VP is associated member of all committees.) In general, Wendy has had trouble getting volunteers to serve on committees and doesn't know the membership throughout the state well enough to know whom to call. Linda Johnson and Nancy Miller both said they had not talked about it enough with members. Nancy suggested Wendy call each President and get recommendations of who might be a possible committee member.

- **Native Flora Workshop Committee (Janet Bala, Linda Johnson, Wendy Velman, Sah-Wah-Be chapter, ...)**

Janet Bala reported that parking will be free; the workshop has a full agenda with numerous speakers; 95 people have said they would attend. Most board members are coming.

- **Annual Meeting Committee (Nancy Miller, Janet Campbell, Patricia Hine, White Pine chapter)**

A revised announcement is on the state website and an email with the link has been sent to all board members to let their members know the details. Annual Meeting will be at Heyburn State Park, June 11-13, 2010. Caterer is reserved. Campsite reservations for Friday and Saturday nights are made. Some Thursday and Sunday night reservations are being made. Presidents should emphasize to members that it would be good to have early registrations especially if someone is coming either Thursday or staying Sunday night.

Nancy Miller will send Don Childres an announcement for Kinnikinnick members who might be interested. Non-INPS members should pay part of campsite fee as INPS payment is a perk of membership. Announcement states that payment is for member camp fees. Wendy will send Nancy Miller Don's email address. Nancy also has several Kinnikinnick members on White Pine email list as interested parties. Benoit reported that some members had not voted for separation.

Caterer is set.

Field trips are set with Pam Brunsfeld and Bill Rember leading.

Any changes will be made to the State website announcement.

- **Calendar Committee (Nancy Miller, Marilyn George, Ann DeBolt with help from others such as Jody Hull, Wendy Velman, chapter representatives).**

Nancy used Publisher to design calendar. Cliff Keene of Salmon has been approached. Janet Benoit commended the 2010 Calendar committee on the results. Dick Anderson is another who might have interest. Nancy suggested the Photo Contest be separate from the calendar design. She also suggested it would be better to have judging done by a group in one area who could get together and see all photos rather than try to work over the web with judges in all parts of the state. Linda suggested maybe one chapter handle the photo contest one year and another the next. Nancy said it is important that judges not know identity of the photographer during judging. Only the coordinator should know.

Susan has two left at the Nature Center. WP sold all they were allocated but received some later. They were hoping to sell remaining 6 at reduced price at Thursday meeting.

Jody working on the final calendar accounting report.

We need better publicizing, more early sales, more locations such as the Nature Center.

- **Bylaws Committee** – Some suggested Lamar from Loasa chapter who was on the committee before. It was felt there should be a member from each chapter to represent views of chapter. Kristin Fletcher was the historical person in past review processes.
- **Membership Committee** – Wendy explained function of committee with help from others. Committee should work on changes to fee structure with the Treasurer. Committee should also help President and Board develop marketing strategies to get new members. Committee may have helped determine the wording of letters to go out such as renewal letter. Janet Benoit brought up the question of a membership card - whether or not to have one. Nancy Miller mentioned that fee changes may be part of Sage Notes discussion.
- **Conservation Committee** – Letter needs to be finalized (Wendy working with Karl & Ardys Holte). National Heritage Program has reduced staff so updates will need to be done by INPS. There is no chair now as Karl has stepped down. Previous members have removed themselves. Chris Colson removed himself from discussion of Lochsa Land Exchange because company was working on the EIS. Molly O'Reilly stepped down when Kinnikinnick left the state organization. Nancy asked if the conservation policy could be posted. Wendy reported it was on the website. (In subsequent email she reported there were two versions – 2004 and 2006 – and she would follow-up on who made the update and the nature of it.
- **Nominating Committee** – Wendy Velman reported she had a possible Vice Presidential candidate – person will give decision by April 1. Nominees need to be done by January 1 so ballot may be published and the vote occur at Annual Meeting. Some committees need to be appointed immediately after the Annual Meeting for the coming year. Bylaws committee needs considerable time to prepare documents, publish and present at annual meeting for vote. Someone asked if there was a ballot committee in past?
- **Sage Notes Committee** – Discussed having a survey about electronic Sage Notes available on the web as either a pdf or an html document. Helen Yost suggested a postcard beforehand to inform. Susan said she would work on a possible survey because Nature Center just did work on getting online readership. Need 'Go Green, Help us go paperless' type approach. Sage Notes is the largest cost incurred by the state INPS (printing is primary, editor compensation is next). Some Sage Notes would still need to be printed by those who do not have access or have limited access (dial-up). Also a number of institutions such as University herbaria receive the printed copy. If printing cost is reduced, state/chapter fee distribution ratio could possibly be changed. However, if we print many fewer, then the cost per copy would probably increase. Kelvin and Susan both thought Chapter president should poll membership. Kelvin also thought that his chapter could print Sage Notes for the few who do not have computer access in their chapter.

(In a previous email Nancy suggested that one person prepare both Sage Notes and the calendar if we are going to pay for production. It would be a good project for a new graphic design person. (Another possibility mentioned before is what Kinnikinnick did for printing. They bought a high quality professional printer and Marilyn George printed documents and newsletters using it. She also did their calendars on it but they were producing fewer calendars.)

New Editor: Dylan Levy-Boyd(Sage Notes Editor) is moving and we need to find a replacement editor. April 1 is deadline for submission. He said he would do the next one on a temporary basis but it is right when he is moving and starting a new job. Jody has cd of information that he provided. His new email address is dlevyboyd@yahoo.com. Nancy Miller suggested using a delivery receipt because he is in transition. Nancy Miller said who she had asked to consider submitting ads. She sent via email. Janet Bala requested this email. Wendy as well, so it will be sent to the group. Helen Yost is also talking to others. Tell them 500 copies are currently printed and it is in color on the web so gets hit many times.

New Business

Native Plant Appreciation Week (May 2-8, 2010) – Wendy Velman sent in to governor’s office but has received no acknowledgement. She also talked to it with some legislators who could champion it. If we get the proclamation it should be posted on state website, possibly in Sage Notes. Also website could include all events which are considered part of the NPA Week. The Upper Snake agenda has May 1 field trip. Nancy Miller says anything close should count, such as Pahove plant sale on the 24th. Nationally last full week of May is a celebration week. Other states have their NAPW at other times. Karen Colson is working with redesign of a coloring book. Is this the same as one available on web? Janet Benoit says Forest Service continues to print one developed with Calypso. Pam Gonz and Joe Blake were the original artists. Forest Service has on website a section called *Celebrating Wildflowers*. BLM and FS Park Service have coloring book available. *Just for kids* coloring pages. NRCS kids’ site also has. USGS kids – even a coloring book on microbiotic crusts.

Lifetime Membership requests for Dr. Karl Holte; Dr. Roger Rosentreter and Ann DeBolt (documents soon to be posted for review) – letters and resume were posted this morning for Holte. Janet Benoit sent out notice with membership template earlier. Saw-Wah-Be wants to present Dr. Holte’s next week at the workshop. Pahove wants to do Roger and Ann in May. We currently have 8 Lifetime memberships (for achievement). Janet Benoit sent the document which outlines the procedure because it has lacked uniformity in the past. It needs to be presented for considerable years of service to the organization or contributions to conservation so the template has a series of questions to ask and issues to examine. For Ann & Roger there is no rush. For Karl Holte Saw-Wah-Be wants to give the award at the Flora Workshop. Susan asked if we could respond by email. Wendy suggested next state-wide meeting (annual, RPC, Flora Workshop) allow for public recognition. Email by Tuesday morning if board members haven’t given opinion at the meeting. Nancy went over how to see FILES so people can see the necessary documents. We’ll do Karl by Tuesday. Susan will formalize Ann and Roger’s. Many gave voice vote. Janet Benoit, Kelvin, Linda, Janet Bala, Wendy Velman said yes. Susan, Helen and Nancy will send email. Nancy Miller suggested publishing on State Website and in Sage Notes so people know of the accomplishments of others. Janet Benoit brought up the difference between a purchased Life Membership and Lifetime Achievement Membership.

Nancy Miller will look more at FOLDER possibility in FILES.

Upper Snake Bylaws need to be reviewed/accepted (see posting under FILES). Most had not read them. The group is functioning as a chapter. Can we vote by email? There was a motion by someone to vote by deadline April 7. Helen seconded motion. It passed. Any changes should be brought up immediately. Nancy asked about a Bylaws repository as White Pine does not have an up-to-date copy of their by-laws. Wendy Velman encourages more on chapter websites to advertise and explain our functions.

VP Position – See above. Wendy has possible candidate and possible nominating committee of one.

INPS Insurance - Janet Benoit reported that several years ago there was debate about insurance or not. An attorney who worked with non-profit organizations talked to the group. They talked to him about having participants sign a waiver to go on a field trip. It cost \$300-400, and he said waiver was not worth paper written on as even if it were signed, the person could sue and claim gross negligence. As long as we are doing a conscientious job as officers and field trip leaders, there is no liability to us. Insurance was cost prohibitive. Wendy Velman said that as officer or group leader we need to tell people in announcements and at beginning of trips - elevation changes, length and condition of trails, rattlesnake potential, poisonous plants, bring water, sunscreen, lunch, etc. Some like BLM require sign in at beginning so know if someone got lost. We need to be diligent in telling people on announcement and at beginning of field trip. Need to have it be a chapter policy to inform members and to let field trip leaders know.

Request for an INPS Position Statement to Federal/State/Local Agencies for use of native species seeds in rehab/projects (soon to be posted for review). Draft has been posted. Need to read, digest and vote on at Annual Meeting. Please give feedback now. Once it is formalized by board, Wendy Velman may have to get a waiver from her job.

Rare Plant Form (Natural Heritage Program) request to post on the INPS website (see posting under files). Natural Heritage Program (State repository for all species data for state of Idaho). Lynn Kintner, lead botanist, suggested we post the Rare Plant form on our INPS Website. Their staff is reduced and others may need to input more of this data. Jody Hull said Pahove has the forms on a table. Other chapters should consider. Carol Blackburn said it's a good idea to put it on website and she is familiar with form. Jody moved, Nancy Miller seconded that we post it on website. Sage Notes should have a text box about it. Approved unanimously.

Bylaws Committee question? - Use of INPS name/affiliation for private business. (A consultant, native plant wholesaler (members)). Nancy Miller described White Pine policy of linking to local growers who collaborate with the chapter and also of web pages such as Steven Love's list of nurseries. They should be helpful resource links but not endorsements because of membership. It may be that we need advice from non-profit advisors. Just as a member you cannot speak for the organization without board approval. Web statistics in Paul's report need to be looked at to examine connections from external links. Jody Hull says we need a blanket statement that we don't endorse.

Request from Congressional individual (lobbyist) for NatureServe organization (parent for Natural Heritage Program – in Idaho) Congress could increase funds for NHP and other organizations. They wanted support for a larger budget and requested INPS support. Posted letter. Wendy also received letter from National Pollinator association, others requesting more support for funding. Nancy Miller will send Wendy an email with WNPS contact person's name from WNPS as there has been a lot of discussion on WNPS site. Do we want to send letter as a state organization? Janet Benoit – if we do this are we going to hurt any of our agency people? We need to consider as a total group. We don't want to lose agency members. Natural Heritage Program – federal agencies already support so it shouldn't be a problem. Position statement may be requested also – offering assistance of knowledgeable people. Avoid 'Federal agencies shall!' type wording.

Adjourn meeting. Nancy Miller moved, Carol Blackburn seconded that we adjourn. Passed.