

Washington Native Plant Society
Central Puget Sound Chapter
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16th, 2009

- Ted will make corrections to the October and September minutes and email the final version to the board.
- Board needs to account for ~\$4500 in Gary's budget
- Rob will send out budget workbook.
- Board needs to review budget workbook and suggest items for budget cuts.
- Board needs to examine Column "M".
- Virginia will delete "0" items from Quickbooks.

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm

Board Members present were: Brianne Cohen: Chair, Rita Moore, Jim Branson, Ted Couillard, Gary Smith, Rick Thompson, Rob Smith, Marcia Rivers Smith, and Virginia Arnon.

Also present were: Linda Ellis and Maria Yousoufian

Minutes: Linda had several edits on the October minutes. Ted will make the corrections and email the final version to the board. Gary makes a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections to be made. Virginia seconds. Motion approved. Rick requested a correction to the September minutes. Ted will correct both and email to the board.

T-shirts: T-shirts from Café Press have come in and look great. Anyone can order directly through Café Press, or see Brianne to get her discount.

Volunteer recognition awards:

After much discussion the Board voted and the volunteer awards will be as follows:

- Outstanding Stewardship Volunteer: Bill Brookreson
- Outstanding Professional Volunteer: Nelson Salisbury
- Outstanding Volunteer: Jan Hunt

Treasurer's Report:

Fundraising Chair: [see also attached report]

2010 Budget:

Rob presents a spreadsheet table with line-by-line budget items.

There has been a deliberate pattern of overspending for the past several years. In 2009 and this year the Board has attempted a more balanced budget.

Virginia questioned what constitutes our reserve, and Rob provided explanation.

Brianne points out that Line 26 shows the transfer from reserves.

Gary asks why Checking and Savings aren't shown in Quickbooks

Virginia comments that to date we have spent around 55K. The balance in Checking and Savings is about 50K.

Rob goes through budget line by line. Adjustments are made with Board feedback during the presentation.

Café Press has been added to Product Sales.

Summary:

Projected income is approximately 87K.

There are many "0" items in Virginia's spreadsheets (Quickbooks). These can be omitted.

Total projected expenditures are \$98,307 for 2010.

Budgetary Action Items:

1. Board needs to account for ~\$4500 in Gary's budget
2. Rob will send out budget workbook.
3. Board needs to review budget workbook and suggest items for budget cuts.
4. Board needs to examine Column "M".
5. Virginia will delete "0" items from Quickbooks.

Chair Report: [see also attached report]

Vice Chair Report: [see also attached report]

Staff Report: [see attached report]

Immediate Past Chair: Chrys Bertolotto was not present.

Education Committee: [see also attached report]

Conservation Committee:

Chair is currently vacant.

Stewardship: [see attached report]

Nursery Program: [see attached report]

At Large Report: [see also attached report]

Field Trips:

Chair is currently vacant.

Program Chair:

Howard Coleman was not present.

Added Business:

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

_____ Chair Report (Brianne Cohen) _____

Chair Report

We hired Maria Yousoufian to assist us in the office for the interval of October through June. Her responsibilities will include coordinating for-fee workshops and the study weekend, and assist Linda in the office as necessary. She will present a summary of the workshops offered in May to determine whether or not we want to extend the position.

The deadline for the Study Weekend submittal to Douglassia is in two weeks. We still need field trip destinations. Maria may be calling you to track down additional field trip leaders.

We currently do not have a botanist to lead the plant id sessions. We have asked Stewart Weschler to lead the botany id sessions in the interim. I would like suggestions on this topic.

_____ Vice Chair Report (Rita Moore) _____

_____ Education Chair Report (Jim Branson) _____

Here is the education report for November, 2009.

The Education Booth attended its last events for the year, at City People's in Madison Park, and the Fall Plant Sale. While the sale brought lots of traffic to the booth, most of the questions were on the order of, "Where can I find snowberry?" The event at City People received very light traffic, possibly due to the weather, and probably fewer than 25 people stopped by the booth in four hours. City People does have a reasonable selection of native plants.

I have spoken with Chrys Bertolotto about Growing Wild in 2010, and her proposal is attached. We would spend \$2,500 on Growing Wild in 2010, comparable to previous years. This will be the first year the GW budget coincides with the calendar year and the WNPS budget. In the past, the contracts started on odd dates, so I can't tell you exactly how much was spent in 2009 or previous years, without some research, but it was about \$2,500. I believe we usually get about 15 consultations per year, although the goal is to increase that number in 2010. Those consultations raise between \$1100 and \$1500, depending on whether you count the membership fee. Our goal for 2010 is to have at least 25 consultations, which would make the program revenue neutral, even though that hasn't been a stipulation or a goal of the program in the past.

At plant sales, I often see past clients of Growing Wild consultations buying plants for their yards. It would be difficult to calculate how many plants they buy and whether they would have bought them anyway, but if you add these sales, Growing Wild could be a revenue generator. That is not the goal of GW, nor do I think it should be. The goal is education and involvement. The fact that the program is close to revenue neutral and may be bringing in income just makes it more valuable.

As reported earlier, a graduate student is doing her thesis on the implementation of GW consultations. I will check on the progress of that project, hopefully before the meeting tonight.

Maria will be at the meeting to discuss her progress with the workshops.

_____ Stewardship Report (Gary Smith) _____

Stewardship Program Report – November 2009

WNPS State Board Adopts Stewardship Policy

At the October 17, 2009 WNPS State Board meeting, I presented the recommendations of the “Defining WNPS Stewardship” White Paper that was submitted to the CPSC Board earlier this year. There was a Board consensus that the white paper recommendations should become a policy and created in a policy format that retains the essence of this motion and the Board’s wishes.

The four policy statements were:

1. WNPS State Board Executive Committee assumes responsibility for policy oversight of the Native Plant Stewardship Program to maintain the quality and integrity of the overall program.
2. WNPS will review all stewardship program materials and formally establish appropriate materials as the Society’s intellectual property.
3. WNPS adopts and incorporates the concepts and principals of the White Paper: “Defining WNPS Stewardship” into a core program published as a WNPS Stewardship Program Manual that would be available to all chapters, program coordinators and potential partners.
4. WNPS endorses and encourages the concept of establishing a stewardship presence in Society chapters and work with interested chapters to facilitate successful programs.

_____ At Large Report (Marcia Rivers Smith) _____

Landscaping with Native Plants for Wildlife show update:

We have been working on the outline for the show and decided on 'native plants are the foundation of a wildlife habitat' as the basic theme for the show. We are starting to fill in the outline, and look to see what slides might need to be scanned for the project. We also plan to buy the binders and thumb drive storage to hold the presentation this year to minimize any cost next.

_____ Fundraising Chair Report (Robert Smith) _____

_____ At Large Chair Vacancies _____

_____ Conservation Chair Report (vacant) _____

_____ Nursery Program Report (Rick Thompson) _____

Native Plant Nursery report for November 2009

Rick Thompson

Work Parties :

I had four volunteers on the first Monday work party on November 2nd. We potted several hundred bare root plants.

Propagation Workshop :

I have spent a bit of time purchasing materials for the workshop and tying up loose administrative ends with Linda, Jeanie, and Alan.

Cedar Grove Compost :

I secured a donation of 50 bags of potting soil from Cedar Grove Compost. This soil will be used in the propagation class and by our plant growing enthusiasts. Cedar Grove requested that I display their logo at and photo document events when their soil products are being used. This is not an unusual request since we have agreed to this stipulation at Plant Sales. I agreed to display the logo and send photos of the propagation class to them. I reminded Cedar Grove that they have historically donated 3 pallets (150 bags) of potting soil to our chapter activities each year. I thanked them for their support, and I will prepare a thank you letter for Brianne's signature.

Potting Soil:

After the last work party I was led to believe that there was insufficient potting soil for the potting of unsold bulbs from the fall plant. Since the Plant Sale committee had planned a potting party for Nov. 15th I felt I needed to forge ahead and pick up the potting materials as soon as possible. I contacted Bill Brosseau at Earth Corps and he agreed to pick up and deliver 3 tons of sand to the nursery. A friend of mine and I picked the potting soil donation and a truck load of compost on November 12th. The estimated cost are \$130 for Earth Corp, and \$100 for the private vehicle usage. Both estimates include the price of the material + tax. I spent over \$400 in 2008 having a similar amount of materials delivered by a vendor. In the long run, I think it would be beneficial for us to just contract with Earth Corp for their delivery services.

Student Conservation Association:

I introduced three members of this group to our nursery earlier this year. They were interested in building one of their own in south Seattle. I received an email from one of the members, Paul Mattson several weeks ago. He was looking for a plant donation and asked me to teach a planting technique class in December. I told him we were unable to make the donation and that I had a prior engagement on the date of their event. I forwarded the request to Linda and cc'd Jim and Brianne.

Comp Tickets to upcoming Cantare Concert:

The PSC graciously agreed to permit a music association I am associated with to use 6 sandwich boards in Burien this weekend. The music association has agreed to donate 2 comp tickets to the Cantare Christmas Concert on December 5th at 8:00 PM or to the December 6th concert at 2:00 PM. Children under 18 who accompany an adult will get in free. The concert is at St Mark's Cathedral on Capital Hill. Anyone wishing to use the tickets will need to get in touch with me. My phone number is 425-582-2477.

_____Staff Report (Linda Ellis)_____

CPS Staff Report 11-12-09

Volunteer Coordination: The electronic Volunteer Opportunities newsletter will go out 11-16-09. We are revising the WNPS home page so there will be a link to volunteering for all chapters, similar to the way programs and field trips are listed on the WNPS home page. We continue to update the CPS Volunteer Opportunities page.

Newsletter: We drafted volunteer thank-you articles and a welcome new members article. People continue to ask for the electronic version of the newsletter.

Stewardship: We continue to post volunteer hours for three Stewardship programs and prepare monthly reports.

Study Weekend: We are working on registration details, field trip leaders and speakers. Deadline for getting this into Douglasia is Dec. 1.

Field Trips: Louise Kulzer and Mary Lignana are filling in the breach in the absence of an official Field Trip Chair. Maria is working on beginner walks.

Workshops: We have a full Native Plant Propagation Workshop on Nov. 21, taught by Jeanie Taylor. Another similar workshop is planned after the first of the year.

Miscellaneous: Two new Growing Wild applications have come in. One applicant asked to have her fee returned. The Office continues to fill calendar and book orders, and maintain membership records. A fundraising letter for WNPS will be sent out soon.