MSC- Motioned, seconded, carried.


**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - Gretchen
New to the Board are Laurie and Teagan. Patrick is returning.

The MNPS are the target of scammers through the web who pose as Gretchen or another officer that then solicit money or email. Check actual email addresses, not names. Elizabeth – we are old fashioned by having personal emails on the web.

**SECRETARY – Rachel**

- Election results – All nominees were elected. There was one write-in for President. Newly elected officers, taking their seats as of today are: Patrick Plantenberg - President, Laurie Kurth - Treasurer, Kris Boyd Western at-Large Representative. Robert Pal is new to the Board but was appointed at a previous meeting. Gretchen Rupp is now our Past President. Shannon Kimball and Jenny Tollefson are retired from the Board.

  Calypso Chapter once again smashed the competition with over 60% of ballots returned. They will get a check for $100. Maka Flora and Western at-large members returned 100% of paper ballots with flower stamps.

- February Minutes were approved MSC. See MNPS BOD Minutes Spring21 20210603.

**TREASURER – Laurie**

See three docs Laurie sent out this morning. We have over $14,500 of membership income so far this year and over $4,000 in donations. We have covered 4 grants so far for $750/each. $500 was sent to Montana Audubon. The checking and savings accounts are $50,000 combined this morning. Laurie gave a huge shout out to Shannon for keeping Treasurer materials very organized, her knowledge, guidance, and patience, as well as offer of future help. Gretchen noted that we did budget $4,000 for donations. Laurie will adjust. She will also deal with Zoom
email from Bob. Big kudos from everyone for the tremendous job Shannon (and Jenny) have been doing for years.

**MEMBERSHIP – Maria**

See Appendix A (page 5) for stats and discussion. Memberships are up to an all-time high of 821. Many have come in after Zoom programs. Memberships will continue to trickle in through the end of the membership year on October 30. While we will continue to strive to engage and keep members, Maria is no longer as concerned about the revolving door of “short time” members.

Board agreed we should print 1000 brochures for $420. An increase from the $350 budgeted. Fee structure is changed along with some minor editing, swapping out pics, etc. Maria will investigate paper that is easier to write on but keeps top quality photos.

Maria will send brochures to Patrick and Robert. New fee structure starts November 1, so continue to use current brochures.

**CHAPTER REPORTS** are not given in our short Summer meeting. However, Annie introduced new Clark Fork Chapter president, Teagan Hayes and rep to the Board.

**SMALL GRANTS - Betty**

Betty read a very complimentary detailed letter Scott and Jen received from a Diane Pavek about MNPS small grant articles and other MNPS projects. We have paid first ½ of 2 of 3 grants. Tongue River Reservoir State Park has not asked for funding yet and Betty will reach out to her.

**ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE – Rachel**

Updated- will be June 24-26 at Timberlane Campground, 9 miles N of Libby on the Pipe Creek Rd. It will very rustic with no lodging or facilities other than pit toilets, a pavilion and water on site. We won’t have met for 3 years, so we are looking forward to being a bit more hospitable than was planned for a pandemic meeting. We will offer some group meals and opportunities to visit, but they will be limited given the lack of infrastructure. Matt’s field in the Yaak is not available for over 50 people.

Jack Nisbet has the date on his calendar for a field trip or campfire program or both. Hopefully, Kathy Ahlenslager, MNPS cofounder, will also attend. Laurie Kurth suggested Rick Bass as a speaker.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Elizabeth**

- The Board supports starting to plan for the Plant Conservation Conference 2022. The topic will stay Monitoring Plants for Climate Change. We discussed prescreening attendees for COVID. If even legal, it is not politically acceptable in MT at this time. We may want to look into language discouraging unvaccinated individuals from attending.
• Citizen Botany – Elizabeth and Denise Montgomery are on the Committee. On March 29, Gretchen circulated 3 docs from Andrea Pipp outlining in detail a Citizen Botany proposal. After feedback from the Board, Gretchen summarized our responses in an April 19 email, stating our interest but that the MNPS is not able to embark on this at this time within the proposed framework. Elizabeth clarified that what was not conveyed in the proposal or our consideration of it is we are being asked to be in partnership, not contribute money at this time. Money will come from grants, not necessarily the MNPS. As a partner, the MNPS will negotiate how a framework works. The committee is currently trying to recruit another committee member from MSU that works with a large volunteer program. Discussion included:
  o We will need an agreement lining out baby steps, not the whole framework out of the gate.
  o Grants will need to go through the nonprofit MNPS, not the State of Montana Natural Heritage Program. Our volunteer treasurer would have to handle those. Some grants can be hugely time consuming for a treasurer and other chores may include extensive accomplishment reports, etc. Ideally, Heritage will be most active in tracking grants.
  o Citizen Botany is becoming more and more important everywhere, and it is something we need to be more involved with.
  o More committee members may be needed so Elizabeth is not overburdened with decision making or duties.
  o Board approved becoming a partner, with specific stipulations on what we can handle at this time to be developed. Commitment for each step will be screened. All thumbs up.

• The Conservation Strategy is moving forward. It was funded through Montana BLM. We are in the midst of determining specific species and communities. Maria and Elizabeth are developing interview questions for organizations and agencies on what they are currently doing.
• MT State Wildlife Action Plan will be revised in 2025. 14 states have pollinators and native plants in their State Wildlife Action Plan which enables them to receive funding for Species of Concern. The Conservation Committee is talking to individuals that are part of the Wildlife Action Plan.
• The MNPS, along with the Center for Biological Diversity and the Pryor Coalition petitioned the FWS in March to list thick-leaf bladderpod.

STATEWIDE ONLINE PROGRAMS – Beth
See APPENDIX B page 7 for the plan. Discussion included:
• Great plan.
• Rachel, Karen, Robert and Patrick will help brainstorm ideas, but Beth sees coordinating as a one-person job. Chapters may also contribute ideas.
• Maria and Beth will research services that can help format professional looking emails.

**2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Gretchen**

We settled on an online meeting in October as the first of our statewide programs. Beth and Rachel offered to help Gretchen. It may include:

• Introduction of officers.
• Election Results
• Brief summaries by committees and chapters.
• Lots of pictures, some door prizes, stuff to make it fun.
• Virtual Field Trip that Peter Lesica has offered.

**H5II FIVE NEEDLE PINE CONFERENCE – Gretchen**

Is rescheduled to a virtual meeting October 5-7, 2021. We paid to be a sponsor, entitling us to one free registration ($250 value). Karen, Patrick and Laurie will work on awarding it to a student. Thoughts:

• The brief application should require some expression of interest in a short paragraph or similar.
• Students get discounts already. Can we apply to more than one attendee?
• Betty has a University contact list she will send to Patrick and Karen.
• Bob will build a form on the website with Patrick and Karen’s guidance.
• If more students apply, we can convene a board meeting and decide if we want to fund more scholarships at $100/student. A reminder that we already have donated $1,000 to the Conference.

As a sponsor, we can present an exhibit to be available to view online. Our ad hoc committee will work on this. It might include some graphics, possibly an updated brochure, list of accomplishments, etc.

**FALL BOARD MEETING – Gretchen**

We will resume in person Board Meetings this fall. Gretchen will send out a query for dates in late October or November. Ideally, this is a hybrid meeting with most in person but Zoom for those that can’t attend. Many groups and schools are conducting hybrid meetings. Maria suggested those in the meeting can have their laptop on the table. TNC in Helena has a set up for this with a wide TV and camera. Dave Hanna was suggested as a TNC contact. Gretchen signed off her last Board Meeting.

Adjourned 3 pm.

Continue for Appendices...
APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR SUMMER 2021 BOARD MEETING.
Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on May 27, 2021 for the summer 2021 MNPS board meeting (June 3).

Membership statistics – I continue to be amazed at the increase in membership. I will let the numbers below speak for themselves. I expected the numbers to drop substantially from the spring report, because at that time I was still counting all members who were to expire in March. In this report I dropped all those who did not renew, and we are still well over 800 members. Stunning.

Table A. Number of MNPS MEMBERS by chapter and membership type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Lifetime</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Calypso</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark Fork</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flathead</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maka Flora</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern-at-large</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western-at-large</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley of Flowers</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>363</strong></td>
<td><strong>299</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>146</strong></td>
<td><strong>821</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exchange: 46

* We track Exchange Member stats separately (exchange memberships are other native plant societies, libraries, herbaria, arboreta, and the like).

Table C. Annual membership for the Montana Native Plant Society over time showing the number of members for each chapter and exchange memberships.

This table only reflects the count of members at the end of each calendar year. As our membership fluctuates throughout the year, this is the number that should be used to represent our membership as it is close to when our numbers are the highest and it’s a consistent point in time from which to compare year to year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cal</th>
<th>CF</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>MF</th>
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<th>W</th>
<th>VoF</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Exch</th>
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<td>226</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>767</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>12/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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<td>95</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>113</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Discussion

**Donations:** Many people are making donations in addition to their membership dues. As of this date (May 27) I have recorded $4650 in donations.

**Volunteer Check Box:** I realize that just because someone says they would like to volunteer doesn’t mean they would be able to provide meaningful help. Regardless, quite a few people (67) checked that box when renewing. These people are identified in the quarterly chapter membership lists.

Membership Budget

The big expense this year will be the brochure. I received a quote from the same printer we used last time. The cost for a 3-fold brochure is $374 for 500 or $420 for 1000. I suggest we go with 1000 as we should have this same fee structure for a long time.

Membership Brochures

- We still have about 75 brochures. Please let me know if you would like more for upcoming field trips. Remember as soon as we increase the membership fee in November these will be no good.

- I have started working on the new brochure. The rollout for the new fee structure will have to happen in October as November 1 is the date for the new fees to go into effect, so I plan to have these published by the end of summer. Good news is the printers will take any format, so I will do it myself and save design costs. I will basically use the same layout with updated information and photos. I would be happy to run a draft by the board for comments.

- Thanks to those who have provided feedback on the needed edits from the old brochure. Karen, I will look into costs for using an alternative paper as you suggested (less slick that is easier to write on).

- I appreciate continued suggestions on the design, edits, and photos.

Continue for APPENDIX B
APPENDIX B

Planning for continued statewide MNPS online programs in 2021-2022

A proposal from the MNPS Zoom working group:
Beth Madden, Bob Person, Patrick Plantenberg, Karen Porter (June 2021)

Background: Our online programs, hosted initially just by chapters first and then including our whole state membership, were wildly popular this past pandemic winter of 2020-2021. (We had a necessarily haphazard roll out of these programs!) The MNPS Board sees advantages to hosting some kind of statewide online programs into the future, as those who are rural or without chapters have been able to attend and really appreciate the opportunities.

The working group proposes that for next winter, we have roughly one statewide program per month, which would be set up by a ‘Program Coordinator,’ or Program Chair, who would query chapters, other orgs, and also look into national speakers to bring online to our membership, and develop a winter program schedule. Schedule would be approx. November to April, so six programs +/- . These would be announced through full MNPS membership emails.

Chapters can and would still have their own monthly meetings, which might now be in person again, or a mix of online and in person - their choice. (The statewide programs would have to be coordinated to not occur on those 'second Tuesdays, second Thursdays or third Weds, etc.' of our chapters schedules.)

Coordination: We would need to coordinate the various program advertising -
1. Chapters would post their programs as they always have - on their chapter webpage, in Kelseyia, on Facebook, and email announcements to their local chapter. They would not email the entire membership, in an effort to keep down number of statewide emails – but chapters can contact other chapter reps and invite that way if they would like.
2. The statewide MNPS programs would be sent out via email to all MNPS members, through the state membership account (not chapter accounts). This would keep the use of our membership list to a reasonable level (about 6 programs through the season, 2 emails/program).
3. Each chapter would have a dedicated Zoom person who would coordinate chapter Zoom use and scheduling with the state program coordinator and could be trained by the coordinator in Zoom protocols.

Zoom Account: Regarding the Zoom account, over the summer we would minimize our subscription again to 100 people, and then ramp it up again to 500 in Oct/Nov. For the statewide programs we would start requiring meeting registration, which is easy and would allow us to again advertise the programs on Facebook, but have greater security. We might possibly pay for use of the Zoom “Webinar” format, if it looks like that is the best platform.

Program Attendance: Because we can have 500 people, anyone who registers can attend - not just MNPS members. We would encourage non-members to join MNPS
during each program by highlighting MNPS at beginning. With registration required, the programs could be advertised more widely, and members can share freely and safely again through social media.

**Program Hosts:** The coordinator would need help to recruit program hosts from among our shy membership for each event - no easy feat, but doable.

**Program Recordings:** As possible, the statewide programs would be recorded and housed in one central spot, likely our website, for at least a month (or permanently). Beth Madden has figured out how to edit and upload these to YouTube and post to a channel there, where there is no expiration date for file storage (as in Zoom), so we can develop that further perhaps.

**Pilot Year:** Beth Madden is willing to serve as the initial program coordinator. Based on the outcome and feedback on this 2021-2022 “pilot season” of programming, we will modify and adapt to perhaps have a more permanent Program Committee and Chair into the future, and formal board guidance and policy developed to reflect this.