

**CNPS Approved Board Meeting Minutes**  
**San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society**  
**May 2, 2012 6:38PM to 8:32PM – Audubon Offices, 4010 Moreno Blvd.**

**Board Members Present:** Tom Beltran, Cindy Burrascano, Jonathan Dunn, Connie di Girolamo, Susan Krzywicki, Tom Oberbauer, Greg Rubin, Bobbie Stephenson, Kay Stewart

**Announced Absences:** Frank Landis

**Unannounced Absences:** Mike Evans

**Guests:** Will Johnson, CNPS Member and Marketplace Coordinator for 2012 Garden Tour

Tom Oberbauer called the meeting to order at 6:38PM

**Changes to the Agenda:** Tom Beltran added the Ocotillo Express wind energy project.

**Approval of Minutes:** Cindy Burrascano moved to approve the April 4, 2012 board meeting minutes as corrected. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

**Treasurer's Report:** Connie di Girolamo presented the board with the April treasurer's report. The approved 2012-13 fiscal chapter budget was provided to all board members. Connie reported that PayPal income and expenses are now recorded immediately in the month that they occur. As a result, the PayPal account should always be equal to the \$5,000 that was set aside by the board. Inventory is now shown at cost instead of at the projected sale value. Last year, book inventory was carried at \$20K+, which was at market value. The garden tour was the major source of income for the month. \$2,195 in ticket sales received prior to the actual tour. There will probably be some additional PayPal income and other expenses. On expenses, \$1,084 in liability insurance was paid as well as some newsletter and reimbursements. In summary, we took in \$2,244 and spent \$1,992. A comparison of the approved 2012-13 budget and the treasurer's report budget shows a different garden tour income and expenses. The approved garden tour budget was \$9,000 income and \$6,520 expenses. The revised budget, the one on the treasurer's report, includes adjustments that were made to reflect actual results from the 2012 garden tour. The revised preliminary garden tour budget is \$10,400 and \$5,114 for income and expenses respectively. Connie reported that she submitted an annual report, the one that summarizes the chapter income/expenses, to state CNPS in April. Tom Beltran motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

**Action Items:**

- Vince Scheidt Request for Reimbursement – Tom Oberbauer had intended to email Vince Scheidt informing him that the board would be revisiting his request for approximately \$490 of 2012 Conservation Conference expenses. Tom didn't have a chance to send the email. Cindy Burrascano said that she had gone through board meeting minutes back through 2010

but found no reference to an agreement for reimbursement. However, the Sept-Nov 2011 board meeting minutes were not available. In addition, Tom Oberbauer spoke to Dave Flietner and Dave did not recall any such discussion for reimbursement. Kay Stewart recalls that the board did agree to reimburse Vince, Marty Foltyn, and David Varner for their chapter council expenses but not for Vince's Conservation Conference steering committee chair expenses. Kay Stewart motioned to reimburse Vince once for Conservation Conference expenses in gratitude for his role as the 2012 Conservation Conference steering committee chair. The total reimbursable expenses are approximately \$490.00. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed (8 in favor, 0 opposed, Jonathan Dunn abstained). This expenditure will be an un-budgeted item. Vince will be reminded that chapter council expenses, specifically meals, are budgeted and will be reimbursed once adequate documentation is provided to support the expenses. An item will be placed on the June agenda to discuss expense reimbursements.

- San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) Plant Atlas Grant – Bobbie Stephenson called Dr. Jon Rebman and asked how the money would be spent. The museum is winding down the San Diego Plant Atlas (plant atlas) field work so they are in the process of *thoroughly* surveying one grid square from each of the 18 different ecosystems. SDG&E already provided a \$15,000 grant for that work. Any CNPS grant would be used to supplement the field work but would also be used for staff time (i.e. non field) as well. It was speculated that the plant atlas might continue another two or three years. Dr. Rebman mentioned that *Nemacladus twisselmannii* a 1B.2 listed plant was found in the Ranchita area and is only one example of the successful plant atlas results. The only known population of *Nemacladus twisselmannii* for which a herbarium specimen is available is in Kern County. In addition, a new *Eriogonum* species was found in the desert. Several board members expressed concern the \$5,000 was a big amount. Kay Stewart pointed out that the annual budgeted proceeds would only be about \$1,500 but that number might be higher once the final garden tour results are known. All were in agreement that the plant atlas furthers the core mission of CNPS, the conservation of the natural flora in its natural location. Tom Oberbauer explained that the plant atlas had previously received funds from the National Science Foundation but staff was let go when those funds did not continue. Additional funds were received from the San Diego Foundation but not as many funds were available this year. An application was not submitted this year because a previous application to study plant phenology and climate change didn't play out as desired. So, the SDNHM is struggling to finish the San Diego Plant Atlas. Bobbie Stephenson motioned to grant \$5,000 to the SDNHM for the plant atlas. Jonathan Dunn seconded. (5 in favor, 3 opposed, Connie di Girolamo abstained)<sup>1</sup>. *Subsequent to the vote, Kay Stewart stated that the president does not vote except to break a tie and that a motion passes only if a majority of the members in attendance vote in favor. If correct, the motion did not pass. There was discussion about the correctness of Kay's statement. Tom Oberbauer will contact state CNPS for clarification.*
- Ocotillo Express Energy Project – Tom Beltran reported that Terry Weiner of the Desert Protective Council (DPC) requested that CNPS attend their news conference on Monday, May 7, in support of DPC's opposition to the proposed project. A copy of the DPC press

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<sup>1</sup> In favor – Tom Beltran, Cindy Burrascano, Jonathan Dunn, Tom Oberbauer, Bobbie Stephenson; Opposed – Susan Krzywicki, Greg Rubin, Kay Stewart; Abstained – Connie di Girolamo

release was provided to the board. Cindy Burrascano motioned that Tom Beltran represent CNPS, using his judgment from what's in the project biological report beyond the state park issue, at the DPC press conference opposing the Ocotillo Express project. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

### **Discussion Items:**

- Letter of Support - Tom Oberbauer reported that he wrote a letter in support of Dave Van Clive as the parks director based on the board's discussion at the April meeting.
- Forest Service Plan and Wilderness Designation – Kay Stewart reported that the USFS is asking to amend the forest plan having to do inventoried roadless areas (IRA) and wilderness. Documents are online. Tom Oberbauer mentioned that there was a proposal to increase IRAs in the Agua Tibia Wilderness, Beebe Mountain, and perhaps the San Diego River areas. Kay sent the document links to Conservation Chair Frank Landis. Kay has fields trip scheduled for some of these areas.
- State Budget – Tom Oberbauer reported that he had sent the chapter comments regarding the state budget situation to state CNPS, a copy of which was provided to the board for the meeting. There is nothing more for the chapter to do at this time.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Conservation – Frank Landis testified before the San Diego City Council regarding wetland deviations. He also testified before the County Planning Commission regarding the proposed wind energy ordinance. Frank commented that the concern about fires started by wind turbines has little attention compared to issues of noise and human impacts. Frank co-led a hike with City of San Diego park rangers in The Tunnels in Del Mar Mesa. Cindy Burrascano went as well. Frank had questions about the Environmental Report Card. Frank reported that all of the grades on the 2011 report card will be bad and that the report card “sank without a trace” despite spending \$600 in chapter funds. Frank doesn't see that participation is worth it. Frank wants to know if the board will or will not support the report card in the future or will the board let Frank decide. Susan Krzywicki moved to let Frank Landis, based on his best judgment, to make a decision for CNPS's continued support for the EQRC. Greg Rubin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Garden Tour – Susan reported that the tour had 551 attendees. Susan will have a detailed report for the June board meeting. For now, Susan estimates that this year's tour will be in the black with proceeds in the “low thousands”. Tom Oberbauer, putting the tour results in perspective, reported that the proceeds should be evaluated in light of all the competition from numerous events the same weekend. Tom commented that there were more events that weekend than any other throughout the year. Connie suggested it would be nice to have flyers at next year's tour for the native plant sale and for memberships. Greg Rubin feels that there's a lots of unrealized potential, room for growth. Theodore Payne's event, which is the same price, attracts between 1,500 and 2,000 participants and includes 37 gardens over two days. Greg said that that the Theodore Payne tour is too big to cover all of the gardens in two days, that people tend to visit gardens that are geographically convenient. Cindy Burrascano reported that *San Diego County Native Plants* by James Lightner was the most popular book sold. Six were sold during the tour compared to an average of 2 during a general meeting. Cindy also asked that one day tickets be considered next year because the two day ticket price, plus gasoline, was more than some could or wanted to spend. Kay Stewart added that

there were some who noted the irony that so much gasoline was consumed during a two day event sponsored by a conservation organization. Kay suggested that a one day event might be more responsible for a conservation oriented organization, besides being an alternative format to the competition. Kay emphasized that host gardens' neighbors spontaneously inquired about the tour which was a surprise source of very valuable public relations for CNPS. Greg Rubin suggested that the day could be longer. He felt that a 3:00PM cutoff was too early. Greg thought that 4:00PM or 4:30PM might be better. Connie di Girolamo suggested hiring transportation, such as the Old Town Trolley. Tom Oberbauer invited Clayton Tschudy to come to the next month's meeting for a formal tour presentation to the board and to thank him personally.

- Books and Posters – Cindy Burrascano reported that April sales of \$1,383.50 were very good due to the garden tour. Sales were not necessarily of gardening books but included cacti, yucca, and medicinal plant uses, etc.. T-shirts would have sold better had there been more size variety.
- Newsletter – Bobbie Stephenson reported that newsletter hard copies will mail tomorrow and the e-version went out April 30. One hundred sixteen people now receive the e-version and that number increases every month.
- Website – Cindy Burrascano reported that the school gardening book is now available on the web site. General garden tour information will be available all year since it is good public relations. Connie di Girolamo suggested that the garden tour video should also be made available online.
- Invasive Plants – No report available.
- Field Trips – Kay Stewart suggested that next year's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second International Phytogeographic Excursion would be a great opportunity to plan a field trip to any San Diego County sites which were surveyed during the 1913 excursion. Kay requested that anyone with knowledge of the excursion let her know if and where San Diego County was surveyed and recorded. Kay also requested feedback regarding field trips that are physically challenging with the objective of improving the trips. For example, Kay recalled a trip in the 80's to the top of Bottle Peak near Lake Wolford. A disjunct population of evergreen huckleberry was found there. It is also found on El Cajon Mountain. It was a difficult hike and Kay would like to know how to handle a situation when some participants can't keep up. Suggestions included advertising the trip as "very or extremely strenuous" or tell those who might appear to have difficulty at the start of the field trip to stay put. People overestimate their capabilities, especially when it's hot. In addition, a profile of the hike showing elevation changes might be a helpful tool for emphasizing the hike's difficulty.

Kay Stewart motioned to adjourn at 8:32PM. Susan Krzywicki seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).