

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting
March 9, 2019
Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville, VA
Draft Minutes

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Janet Pawlukiewicz, 1st Vice President
Sally Anderson, 2nd Vice President
Kathleen Stasulis, Treasurer
Betty Truax, Recording Secretary
Cathy Mayes, Director at Large
Johnny Townsend, Director at Large
John Hayden, Botany Chair
Joyce Wenger, Director at Large, Research Grants
Alex Fisher, Conservation Chair
Peggy Troyer, Fundraising Chair
Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education
Alan Ford, Potowmack Chapter President
Ellen Holtman, Blue Ridge Chapter President
Mary Lee Epps, Jefferson Chapter President
Brenda Graff, New River Chapter President

Phoning into the meeting:

Karen Hendershot, Piedmont Chapter president

Nancy circulated a card to be sent from the VNPS board to Chris Ludwig who has retired as chief biologist for the Natural Heritage Program.

Minutes of the June Board Meeting

- Ellen Holtman moved to approve the minutes. Alan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- VNPS tax return is being worked on. Although we show a loss of 39K it does not take into account the monies for Mt. Joy (coming and going out).
- The bequeathed money that is currently in CDs has not been used (except once) to support Grants. Alan Ford moved to move \$2,000 education grant funds from CD to operating budget when expensed. Cathy Mayes seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Conservation Chair Alex Fisher asked for clarification of the \$50 in the current conservation budget. Kathleen explained it was for minor expenses such as postage.
- Kathleen reminded Chapter representatives that their 990N forms were due May 15th for those who made under 50k (Form 990EZ is the correct form for any chapter exceeding 50k).

2018 Fundraiser Status & 2019 Fundraiser

- 2018: Flora of Virginia II fundraiser is completed. \$18,466 was raised (this number excludes expenses incurred) and was sent to Bland.
- 2019: Discussions regarding the 2019 campaign. Nancy has not made a decision yet and asked for input. Per Johnny, Chris Ludwig is pushing for a loosestrife/bee project. Nancy will ask for fundraiser ideas in the June BOD meeting.
- Discussions of general fundraising resulting in a decision that Peggy start providing Mark Murphy information for inclusions into future Leaf Letters.

Status of Dupont-Waynesboro Settlement Grant

- As of 8 March 2019 the Mt. Joy settlement is complete. Peggy moved that we clarify that Nancy Vehrs had the authority to sign all documentation regarding this transaction and that it was the Board's intention to transfer all properties to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Ruth seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Continuing to look a new properties to be purchased. The Mt. Joy transaction spent 300k of the grant money; there's roughly 500k left to be spent.

Approval of 2019 Research Grants as recommended by the Grant Review Team

- The Grant Review team presented two options to the BOD recommending the first one.
 - Choice One for a total of \$15k:
 - Securing Virginia's plant biodiversity heritage for the future (partially funding),
 - The influence of toxic compounds on nectar components, and
 - Drivers of tree mortality in Virginia's Blue Ridge ecoregion.
 - Choice Two for a total of \$13,906:
 - Securing Virginia's plant biodiversity heritage for the future (recommendation to cover the entire request), and
 - The influence of toxic compounds on nectar components
- After discussion Joyce moved to accept Choice One increasing the funding to \$17k. Kathleen seconded with all but two board members (Cathy Mayes and Peggy Troyer) voting aye.
- This would leave a \$2k shortfall in funding for the partially funded request and VNPS will absorb it. Nancy Vehrs suggested that chapter(s) might consider providing financial assistance for grant requests that were not funded at the state level.
- Joyce announced that she would not be continuing in the role of Director at Large, Research Grants. (Joyce is resigning in the fall. Her current term ends in 2020.)

Annual Meeting 2019, Sept. 27-29, Front Royal – Piedmont Chapter

- Cathy reported that everything was going smoothly, however they were looking at ways to lower costs. She suggested allowing for sponsorships (citing examples such as the local Soil and Water Conservation Group and the Shenandoah National Park Trust). Without objection, the board gave the okay for them to proceed with sponsorships.

Follow Up to Communications/Diversity Workshop

- Janet met with Mark and Cortney; they suggest that a subcommittee be formed (all three would participate on that board) that would actively approach VNPS members as well as other groups to work on communications/diversity. Janet suggested linking grant(s) with this subcommittee. Without objection, the board approved the creation of an ad hoc Inclusion and Diversity Committee.
- Ruth announced she is speaking on this subject to the Master Naturalists in Charlottesville.

Board Vacancies and 2019 Nominating

- Janet Pawlukiewicz, 1st Vice President, will not be running for re-election.
- Ruth Douglas, Director at Large, Invasive Plant Education would consider staying in her position if a co-chair could be found.
- As announced earlier in this meeting, Joyce Wenger, Director at Large, Research Grants will not continue in her role. (suggestions Woody Bousquet or Henry Wilbur)

Update on Field Trips

- The 2019 Texas trip will be happening in the next couple of weeks and is full.
- Bruce Peninsula trip is full and has a waiting list.

Highlights from Chapters, Committee Chairs, Directors-at-Large

- Mary Lee stated Jefferson VP Beth Mizell, is co-chairing the Plant Piedmont Natives Campaign.
- Johnny Townsend announced that Chris Ludwig's chief biologist position has been filled by Ann Chazal who is a zoologist. There will be a job opening for someone with a botany background to work for Johnny because Nancy Van Alstine is retiring.

Announcement of results of 2020 WOY Vote

- John Hayden tallied the votes and announced the 2020 Wildflower of the Year (WOY) will be *Geranium maculatum* (Wild Geranium).

Next BOD meeting: Saturday, June 15

Adjourn: 5:00 p.m.