Minutes of April 16, 2014: Mt. Lassen Chapter - CNPS Executive Board Meeting

By: Ann Elliott, Secretary

Motions in bold (m/s/c: who moved/who seconded/vote result)  **AN:** Indicates Action Needed.

**Called to order by Janna Lathrop, V.P.:**  7:07 PM at Paul’s house Chico, CA.


**Approval of Minutes:** Approved as corrected for Mar. 19, 2014 (m/s/c: Woody/Hesh/unanimous)

**Treasurer’s Report:** See attached report.

- Shows final numbers for the fiscal year April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.
- Income for year was more than $500 over expenses.
- John has reordered the Expense categories, putting Fixed Costs at the beginning.
- Fixed Operation Costs for 2013-2014 totaled **$4,676**; that amount is the **Budget Reserve for fiscal year 2014-2015.** John is still thinking about how he will display that amount on his monthly report.
- Discussion ensued on how much of the current “Total Available Funds” $12,647.34 is beyond our required reserve.

**Old Business:**

- Horticultural Symposium – meeting to be scheduled for next week
  - 3-fold brochure w/registration form in print and distributed. More are needed.
- Business Cards – Ann distributed cards from box of 500 printed.
- Credit Card Reader - **AN:** John still to test tablet and credit card reader.
- May General Meeting – **May 7**
  - Location: Lake Oroville Visitor Center.
  - Speaker: Jim Bishop – Desert Wildflowers.
  - Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 6:15 to carpool and have time to climb tower for view of lake and surrounding area and/or tour native plant garden.
- Science Fair – Hesh and Janna judged and gave 4 prizes for plant science projects. They distributed at the meeting a thank-you letter from the Science Fair.
- Earth Day at Butte College **April 22-23** – Suellen will have some CNPS materials next to her Heifer International display.
- Endangered Species Fair – **May 3** at One Mile, **AN:** volunteer staff needed.
- Celebrate the Jewel – **April 26** at Chico Creek Nature Center (CCNC), **AN:** volunteer staff needed.
- Farmers Market – Thursday **April 24 5-9,** **AN:** volunteer staff needed.
- Wildflower Show – **April 12, 2015,** Janna submitted paperwork to CARD, deposit check will follow.
- Natural Bridge Field Trip – **May 18,** Marjorie would like to open the trip to all. **Moved donations to be:** $10 non-members, $5 member, limit 20 participants. (m/s/c: Hesh/Paul/unanimous)

**New Business:**

- Gateway Open Garden outreach – Janna and KarroLynn reported that the event was successful and the museum has a beautiful pollinator garden.
- Nature Garden Agreement – Catie and Claire are working on a formal agreement with Chico Creek Nature Center for the native plant garden. **AN:** Finish and report.
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- Susan Mason requested $169 to cover the cost of a fourth roller bin for the olive and privet removal project along Little Chico Creek. Motion: Approve $169 additional funds from unallocated funds to cover the cost of this roller bin (m/s/c: Ann/Paul/ for:9, opposed:1)

- Rare Plant Campaign – Woody moved that Mt. Lassen Chapter donate $1000 of unallocated funds to the campaign which will culminate at the January 2015 CNPS Conservation Conference. Discussion included the amount of unallocated funds, whether these “campaigns” would be yearly or otherwise regularly, whether the Chapter would be setting up a place to grow plants for Chapter plant sales. There was consensus to revisit this request in September or October, after proceeds of Annie B’s campaign is known.

- Request from Dave Garcia to discuss fracking at a chapter meeting. Discussion included his email request, how fracking might affect native plants/habitats, and CNPS and/or chapter advocacy of political issues. Dave Garcia will be notified that he may make a presentation of no more than five minutes during the announcements portion of an upcoming meeting. (m/s/c: Hesh/Suellen/ for:9, abstentions:2)

Committee Reports:

- Conservation – Woody reported that the Butte Regional Conservation Plan will begin its 90-day comment period in late July. The Chapter supported his attendance at third AquAlliance Vernal Pool Conference. It was very professional and informative. A publication will follow.

- Field Trips –
  - Pulga, Butte Co. - Sunday May 4, Road area was cut and sprayed, opening the area to more sun. Highlight is a waterfall.
  - Natural Bridge, Trinity Co. – May 18
  - Caribou, Butte Co. – May 25
  - Round Valley Reservoir, Plumas Co. – June 7 – Auto tour on loop road, serpentine, meadows, high water table

- Invasive Plants – see Susan’s attached report.
  - Many students need hours, so soon to have accumulated over 500 volunteer hours.
  - Planning Arundo removal near 1500 Humboldt Ave (east side of Highway 99). Will need to take cut debris to landfill as the City of Chico Compost Facility cannot handle the fibrous material.
  - No word yet on success of roller bin grant from Waste Management.

- Events – Annual Picnic will be June 8. AN: Committee to investigate and choose a location.

- Membership – Current numbers about 230, 4 new; some lapsed members will receive paper letters.

- Rare Plants – Treasure Hunt on Thomes Creek on April 6 found no plants – too early. They will try again.

- Hospitality – signups done for May and started for Horticultural Symposium. Chico Library reserved for September.

- Programs – Jon Aull offered to speak; he will be scheduled in the fall. Presenters are always sought, so volunteer or make suggestions to Program co-chairs. September meeting will include members’ pictures and maybe a talk from one of the students which the Chapter sponsored for the Northern California Botanists Meeting.

- Native Plant Garden –
  - Claire reported that she is working closely with CCNC director Kaitlin on projects, work days, and creation of a brochure for the Native Plant Garden.
  - Inventory list includes about 70 named, numbered plants.
  - Searching out information on Alice Hecker (for whom the garden is named) – suggestion was to contact Altacal Audubon (Jennifer Patten) or John Merz.
Botanical signs are needed for the plants. Request to purchase 50 to 60 signs for about $250. 
**Approved $250 for botanical ID signs mounted on stakes contingent on acceptable sample obtained from company.** (m/s/c: Suellen/KarroLynn/unanimous)

The Board expressed their appreciation that Claire has taken on coordinating the garden.

**Coming meetings:**
- General Meetings: **May 7**, 7:30 PM (or earlier for tours), Lake Oroville Visitor Center, **September 3**, 7:30 PM Chico Library
- Exec. Board Meetings: **May 21**, 7 PM, Bishop’s house

**Announcements:**
- Pipevine deadline – **May 9**
CALIFORNIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
MOUNT LASSEN
CHAPTER
April 16, 2014

CHECKING ACCOUNT
BEGINNING BALANCE: 2-28-2014 $12,896.17

INCOME
March sales $125.61
TOTAL $125.61 + $125.61

EXPENSES
membership $45.00
science fair awards $97.30
Ed's printing $296.00
CCNC garden $47.84
Invasives $43.26
TOTAL $529.40 - $529.40

ENDING BALANCE: 3-31-2014 = $12,492.38

SAVINGS ACCOUNT + $766.17

TOTAL ACCOUNTS = $13,258.55

FUNDS ENCUMBERED FOR AV - $611.21

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS = $12,647.34
## CNPS MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER BUDGET

### INCOME AND EXPENSES

**FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2013 TO MARCH 31, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>BUDGETED</th>
<th>FINAL AS OF 3/31/2014</th>
<th>FIXED COSTS</th>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>7 MEETINGS/PROGRAMS/DINNERS</td>
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<td>11 SALES TAX (includes WFS)</td>
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<td>12 HORTICULTURE/PLANTS (nursery)</td>
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<td>13 BOOKS AND SHIRTS</td>
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<td>15 WF SHOW OR GARDEN TOUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 SPEC.PROJ.(Yahi Trail)</td>
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<td>$500,inv.$300,CCNC$200)</td>
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<td>invasives $372.53</td>
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<td>CCNC $198.76</td>
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<td>CARD REFUND FOR WFS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>$ 9,575</td>
<td>$ 10,873.67</td>
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Approved 5/21/2014
Volunteer Work Sessions
So far this year, MLC-CNPS work sessions have logged 440 volunteer hours, with 3/4 of that time coming from work along Little Chico Creek (LCC).

A second 40-yard bin was filled from the privet and olive tree removal project on city-owned properties along LCC. Tovey Giezentanner paid for this bin via a donation to MLC-CNPS. We have accumulated almost enough debris for a third bin and will stop work after our April 16th session because I don’t have a funding pledge for a fourth bin.

Part of the Teichert Ponds path was under water for our scheduled April 5th session so we’ve rescheduled the work for May 4th.

Several work sessions have been held at the 9th and Hazel Park. The city’s landscape maintenance contractor waited too long to mow, resulting in a huge amount of grassy weed seeds on the site. There are also many broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, filaree, common mallow, bur-clover, and yellow starthistle that are too large to hand-pull and can’t be dug out because of potential damage to the extensive drip irrigation system (which already needs frequent repairs).

One weeding session was held along the riparian corridor at CSU Chico, with privets and vinca removed. The volunteer work session dates approved by the CSU Risk Manager have ended so now I need to decide whether to get permission to extend the project for another 6 months or year.

Other Activities
Park management has not yet set a date to meet with the Dept. of Water Resources management to discuss joint projects to remove the highly flammable *arundo donax* from Little Chico Creek. I’ve received permission for an initial project to remove a small *arundo* patch on LCC that’s above the creek’s high water. Also, I took samples of *arundo* canes and roots to the city’s compost yard to determine whether they would be acceptable material but their testing showed that both were too fibrous to be processed by their grinders. Therefore, I got bids from Waste Management and Recology for bins that would go to landfill.

We haven’t received word yet whether MLC was awarded one of the 20 $4,000 grants from Waste Management.

Park Division Volunteer Coordinator
At the March 25th of the City Council meeting, the Council tabled the funding request for a park services coordinator position (whose tasks include, among many others, volunteer coordination), telling the Park management to reduce the salary range for the position.