Minutes of May 17, 2017, Mount Lassen Chapter - CNPS Board Meeting
By Christian Smit, Secretary

**Motions in bold (m/s/c who moved, seconded, result) AN: indicates Action Needed**


2. **Minutes of April 19 adopted** with unanimous approval.

3. Treasurer’s Report: NP

Four handouts: 1) Account statement for the month of April 2017; 2) CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter Budget FY 2017-18 (Cumulative Income and Expenses as of 4/30/17); 3) CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter Budget (Proposed Budget for 2017/2018 FY); and 4) Wildflower Show 2017 Expenses and Income; and Garden Tour Expenses and Income.

The Account Statement for the Month of April 2017 showed $3,935.25 in receipts from Wildflower Show (WFS). Total incomes were $4,196.25, total expenses were $1,778.12, and total funds as of 5/1/2017 were $15,483.46. Considering unspent fixed costs FY 2017/18, the total funds available as of 5/1/17 were $11,325.02. This calculation included the fixed costs to be paid during the rest of the FY. The Proposed Budget for 2017/2018 FY incorporated the amendments made at the previous board meeting. Overall, the actual expenses and income as of 3/31/17 was $7,557.48 and $6,302.31, respectively. The proposed budget for 2017/2018 FY is $11,435.00 expenses and $8,000 income. In response to the Chapter’s decision to monitor and evaluate the financial outcomes of major events (e.g., the Wildflower Show and the Garden Tour), NP calculated the expenses and income of the 2017 Wildflower Show and the Garden Tour. Overall, the net income from the Wildflower Show was $1,940.20. The Garden Tour calculations included two scenarios: a) a 50-50 split of the profits with Audubon, and b) a 3-way split of the net income that included the Butte Environmental Council (BEC). As discussed in ‘New Business’, the Chapter decided on a 50-50 split with Altacal Audubon, which gave CNPS a net income of $371.26. Together, from both events, the Chapter profited by $2,311.34.

During the Treasurer’s Report WE stated that there is a ‘fixed cost reserve fund’ totaling budget items 1 - 11 not to be spent and budgeted funds yet to be spent. The remainder of funds can be allocated for additional purposes during the fiscal year. HK asked NP to clarify the net income from the WFS, as he noticed two different values ($3,861.25 on handout 4, and $3,935.25 on handout 1). WE advised that we table the issue until NP can rectify discrepancy, JB helped provide resolution, and NP affirmed that we were right on our budget.
4. Old Business:

   a. 2017 Wildflower Show Recap

As JL suggested the idea of having a post-WFS recap, WE first asked for JL’s comments. JL raised the issue of people attempting to enter the show before its official starting time at 12 pm. ‘Gatecrashing’ is an issue because the WFS requires a significant amount of volunteer preparation in just one morning. Every minute therefore matters. JL relayed Denise’s comment that 12:00 pm -4:00 pm is too short of time for all of the effort that goes into the show. WE stated the need to charge a fee, not a donation, and explained charging a fee rather than requesting a donation is permissible per CNPS’s communication from Becky Riley. MB spoke positively of the event, and thought that it might be good to expand the hours. On the issue of extending the hours, HK noted that historically the entrance of visitors tapers off at around 3:00 pm, so having the show run until 5:00 pm probably would not increase the attendance. On the other side, HK expressed that pushing it to 11 am would make it a crunch to get ready, which would not be worth it. AE expressed having similar experiences as HK. WE spoke in favor of keeping the show hours from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. As table sales person, NP supported keeping the current a four-hour show.

Regarding plant sales, WE noted that Floral Native Nursery donated 50 plants. MB asked if there were any ways to help Germain of Floral Native Nursery. WE responded that Germain’s stepson, Zeb, now runs Floral Native Nursery, and wants to be informed about events at least 6 months in advance (before Floral Native Nursery’s participation). JB wondered how to amplify the crowd? In response, WE thought that more posters in local shops might help. CW then drew attention to the huge amount of competition in April and May. It is simply a busy time with many events. HK added that the WFS should be on prime time news, and then applauded everyone involved. CB reflected that while there was a good attendance, and a steady stream at the microscopes, there were not a lot of kids. JB echoed CB, and confirmed that there were not very many young people. JB also informed the Chapter of a new microscope source at the University.

MM stated that there were many plants that still needed to be labeled and put out at 11:45 am, and that the yellow pine forest and grasslands plants needed identification (ID). In response to these issues, MM expressed the need to have the ID experts stay longer. In the same vein, AE, who was responsible for riparian labeling, found the process difficult, and could not label everything. MM, who managed the volunteer plant collectors, expressed the need to manage the experts IDers. Unfortunately, HK said that he was told not to ID plants, although he was able to ID 30-40 plants last year. HK stated that we should tell the experts to limit ID to species, not subspecies. CB agreed. WE and AE suggested that the Chapter approach the Friends of State of Chico State Herbarium in a year with a MOU1- the show is contingent on experts, would you like to be our experts? CB stated that she would not go that far, and asked: Would you be willing to give them all the power? AE responded that the purpose of this proposal would be to get the experts involved with the Chapter to play an active role. AE would like to include the experts in the planning process, and would like to advertise the WFS as a cooperative event. CW asked: how formal do we need to make this arrangement? JB

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1 Memorandum of Understanding
agreed that most of these people are Chapter members but are not active. He also agreed that it would be efficient. However, he raised the concern that engaging them as Friends of the Chico State Herbarium, rather than as members of the Chapter, could sever their connection with the Chapter. AE stated that Linnea is more involved with Herbarium, and asked Herbarium board members if they could help. MM added that we could tell Linnea what we’re thinking. CB also noted that the Chapter also helps the Friends of Herbarium (e.g. by sending students to conferences).

b. 2017 Spring Native Plant Garden Tour - AE

AE said it was a great garden tour, and that there was an article on it in The Pipevine. CB mentioned that the homeowners are supposed to be at their gardens, yet the homeowner at Jim’s garden was not there. JB recounted that he was a garden host for the entire morning, and most people were not interested in native plants: Zero people asked if plants were natives. Going off of JB, AE explained that the event was the ‘Waterwise and Habitat-Friendly Garden Tour’, not the ‘Native Plant Garden Tour’.

c. Butte Co Library – Summer Reading Program (June 21): Speaker re: Native Plant Garden Design – AE

AE confirmed that she will present at 1:00 pm. The theme is “Reading By Design”. CW and CB/JB will help provide resources. AE will go over designs, watering, and present books. NP asked: how are we going to approach having appropriate books available?

d. Storage Locker Needs / Rental – WE, AE

JL, who stored a lot of glassware in her home, demonstrated the need for a storage locker. Could we share with Friends of Bidwell Park, Chico Friends of Library? Comments from board members shows majority of commenters prefer storing their CNPS stuff at home. CB stated that having central space is an organized way to prevent loss. AE said that the Chapter’s belongings are well marked. WE noted the general consensus that this is something to explore further. AN: Further explore storage locker. Question of how to share cost?

e. Annual Picnic (Summer Social Wed. June 7, 5:30 PM) & Native Plant / Thing Exchange at 501 Paseo Campaneros adjacent to Comanche Ck. aka Edgar Slough - WE

There will be a native plant exchange and potluck. All Chapter members and friends welcome.

5. New Business:

a. Garden Tour Net Income Distribution (MtLChapter, Altacal – Audubon, BEC) – AE, NP

AE stated that this was the second time that we have had income from the Garden Tour. Last year we collected donations. Originally (last year), BEC was included, and they handled
registration. However, this year they did not handle registration, and only made a few posters. This year, AE approached BEC via email, and did not receive a response. AE: 

**Motion to split two ways between CNPS and Altacal Audubon**, CB seconded, Motion approved.

b. Fall Fund Raising Appeal – WE

WE stated that since there is no Annie B’s Fund Drive, we are totally on our own. We have a substantial Constant Contact email list, and a list of previous donors with snail mail addresses. People are used to donating to the Chapter annually. WE raised the idea of grant proposals for a City of Chico Community Grant administered by the North Valley Community Foundation. NP/JB stated that the Chapter gets $3 back for every CNPS membership in Mt. Lassen Chapter, and the rest goes to State CNPS. AE mentioned that you can ask for money from those joining the Chapter’s presence on Meetup.com to defray costs of Meetup.com.

c. Chapter Annual Activities Report FY 2016/17, Due to State CNPS by June 30th – WE

WE will be soliciting input from specific people on the Board. CB raised the need to collect input in a timely manner.

d. New Committee Chairs Approval: Christian Smit, Yahi Trail Maintenance; Justine Devoe, Education – WE

**Motion to elect Christian Smit as the Yahi Trail Maintenance Chair:** HK moves, JB seconded, all approved, motion passed. **Motion to elect Justine Devoe as the Education Chair:** CB moves, JB seconds, all approved, motion passed

6. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Alice Hecker Memorial Native Plant Garden : AE

AE stated that there will be a work party tomorrow at 8 am, that she ran the water a bit today, and has a few more holes to fill with plants. The weeds are under control, and AE will continue weeding around pond. Bare ground in the garden is covered with woodchips.

b. Chapter Council - CB

The next Chapter Council will take place on June 11, 2017 at the Big Bear Lodge in San Bernardino. JB will preside over a discussion re: general statement on climate change. An ad hoc committee is working on a policy statement that will take a while to develop and post on the CNPS website.

Conversation on Membership Cards, CW, MB, WE, CB
c. Conservation - WE

WE declared that there is a lack of CEQA compliance at Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course. The issue may need a letter from a lawyer to cause compliance. WE is in contact with the Northern California Regional Land Trust, who monitored for knotweed last year; Dan Efseaff, previous Park & Natural Resource Manager, intended to revive monitoring protocols. Linda Herman is interim Park and Natural Resource Manager without experience in natural resource management. AE stated that Chico Outsiders, who manage the course for the City, is only marginally implementing mitigation measures. They can be required by the City to come up with $5,000 a year for environmental monitoring. CB asked if WE has discussed potential legal action with Dan (Gluesencamp), and Glen Holstein. JB affirmed that it is important not to let this issue slide.

d. Education - JD
JD made an outline for potential projects, which she shared with the Chapter board via email.

e. Field Trips – MM

Field trip this weekend, still orchestrating summer ones, about two per month.

f. Membership - MB
Two hundred and forty (240) including those that signed up at the WFS. JB said to remind people that their membership supports statewide conservation- show them what their money is doing on a state level. Somehow, create more connection- the members we keep are those that are interested in native plant conservation. 'We appreciate your continuing membership' e.g.

g. Newsletter / The Pipevine - Denise
MB- does deliveries to several nurseries, and some have limited counter space, and put The Pipevine under something else, and are not picked up. Would like to buy some inexpensive display stands for the nurseries to ensure that The Pipevine newsletters are displayed. Floral Native Nursery used to have a stand, but last couple times newsletters were stuck under something else; Magnolia Gift and Garden did not display them; Plant Barn displays in pot and they get picked up. AE motion to give MB $60, JB seconded, WE moved, Motion to grant MB $60 for The Pipevine stands approved

h. Programs - JB.

At upcoming Sept. General Meeting Hal Mackie wants to show pictures of Galapagos
Island; This fall John Whittlesey will talk on Native Salvias

i. Publicity - CN
Nothing new, doing it every month.

j. Social Media: Website – Woody, Facebook - Denise, Meetup.com - AE
WE now has administrative rights on Facebook. AE Meetup.com, seems to be working and getting positive feedback from users

k. Table Sales - NP
No updates, permission granted by Board to pay herself $10 for printing costs.

l. Yahi Trail Maintenance - CS
CS wants to target CSU volunteers (who have to volunteer for class credits), MB suggested Klean Kanteen. WE mentioned that John Copeland, a previous Invasive Plant Chair was a legend, and provided volunteers with refreshments after bashing broom.

m. Invasive Plants WE
Jim Dempsey is doing a re-treatment of the broom in Bidwell Park.

n. Rare Plants
Rare Plant Treasure hunt at Big Bald Rock at Berry Creek.

Future Ex. Bd. Meeting locations: August 9 - The Elliott’s; September 20 - The Bishop’s

7. Adjourned at 9:08 pm.