Minutes of September 20, 2017, Mount Lassen Chapter-CNPS Board Meeting of Executive Board

By Christian Smit, Secretary

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

1. Called to order at 7 pm (the Bishop’s home). Quorum present: (5/8): Meryl Bond MB; Woody Elliott WE; Catie Bishop CB; Jim Bishop JB; Christian Smit CS. Also in attendance: Ann Elliott AE, Janna Lathrop JL, and Justine Devoe JD.

2. **Minutes of May 17, 2017 adopted** with unanimous approval (pending necessary corrections).

3. Treasurer’s Report:
In Treasurer Nancy Praizler’s absence, WE assured the Board of the Chapter’s good financial situation.

4. Old Business:
   a. Butte Co Library – Summer Reading Program (June 21): Speaker re: Native Plant Garden Design – AE
   25 people attended AE’s 1.5-hour presentation on Native Plant Garden Design and drip irrigation techniques, which was a good turnout.

   b. Storage Locker Needs / Rental – WE
   The rented storage locker (at East & 32 (Nord) Mini Storage) is shared with Friends of Bidwell Park and Chico Friends of the Library. There is still some more storage room.

5. New Business:
   a. Fall Fund Raising Appeal – WE, JL

   After much lively discussion, JD, JB, JL, and MB stepped up to the task of writing and distributing a fundraising letter. Specifically: JB will write the letter, JD will help circulate the letter (potential “email blast”), MB will organize the mailing labels. JL wants the letter to state, “Annie B’s is over”. JB described how Annie B’s was a communal fundraiser with a “slush fund of big donors”. JB wants the letter to include the fact that CNPS membership payments go to the state CNPS, not to local chapters (as people might think). The goal is to send the letter out by Thanksgiving, preferably in October. The costs will be printing and bulk mail.

   b. CNPS Conservation Conference, Feb. 1-3, 2018 LAX Marriott, Los Angeles (see CNPS link here) - WE
      i. Chapter Poster
      The deadline for having a Chapter poster displayed at the Conference is October 31, 2017. JB, CB, and CS decided to team up to update the existing poster (CB’s file). JB will distribute the existing
PowerPoint to the whole board so that everyone has the opportunity to provide input. CS stated that if he goes to the conference, he is open to standing next to the poster.

ii. Sponsor Students
Motion to allocate up to $800.00 to sponsor one student to attend the CNPS Conservation Conference, February 1-3, 2018, at the LAX Marriott approved (AE moved, JB seconded, unanimous).

JB stated that as October 31, 2017 is the final day of the early registration period, the deadline to sponsor a student is approaching. There is $1,800.00 in the student scholarship fund. The Chapter discussed helping fund JD and CS, who expressed interest in attending. JD wanted scholarship funds to be used on students in need rather than on herself.

c. Meetup.com Unlimited Organizer Subscription for 6 months, renews on February 28, 2018 for $89.94: Continue paying subscription - AE
In the past year, the Chapter’s “meetup.com” account generated interest and the following results: 248 “meetup” users subscribed, 130 “meetup” users looked at the Chapter’s page since June 2017, and 77 “meetup” users attended Mount Lassen CNPS events (33 attendees since June). The Chapter decided not to charge “meetup” users to subscribe to its account (i.e. to keep it free to the public). In relation to Agenda 5.a (fall fundraising), JD saw meetup as a potential platform to promote fundraising.

d. Greatest Chapter Achievement? State CNPS wants to know! – WE
AE described the greatest Chapter achievement as: Ongoing outreach to the community, and coordination with other environmental organizations. JB agreed with AE, and wanted to emphasize the Chapters “sustained” efforts in producing, sponsoring, and participating in events and outreach.

e. CNPS Regional Plant Lists & Brochures - WE
AE stated that there is a PowerPoint with plant lists.

f. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Chapter Officers in year 2018 - WE
Three Board positions need to be filled (President, Vice President, and one member at large). JB is engaging in recruitment efforts. The November Pipevine issue will contain a slate of Chapter Officer candidates.

6. Standing Committee Reports:
a. Alice Hecker Memorial Native Plant Garden - AE
The garden looks good. The 8:00 am garden sessions are successful. As some of the plastic signs are broken, the Chapter is interesting in “going back to the iron age”.

b. Quarterly Chapter Council Meeting - Sept. 9 at Kenwood - CB and JB
Most chapters participated in this year’s Board of Directors Annual Review. Last year only 13 Chapters responded to the statewide survey. A new committee was formed to ask questions of the State CNPS Board of Directors. An election to name a new Board of Directors is approaching.
Chapter Council attendees were provided an overview of proposed changes to the bylaws, which some are major. The motivation for these changes is for CNPS to be able to execute its “10 year strategic plan” most efficiently and effectively. Important plant areas (IPAs) are a focus of the strategic plan. However, the proposed policy changes may undermine CNPS’s democracy. For example, the strategic plan will control all spending on the state level. Chapter Council will not have any formal authority to influence how CNPS money is spent. Overall, CNPS is changing and the decisions made now will have lasting effects, which is why CB and JB want everyone to make informed decisions.

c. Conservation – WE
   i. North Table Mtn. Ecological Reserve: Parking Lot Expansion
   WE wrote a letter to DFW commenting on the expansion of the existing parking lot noting the benefits of permeable pavement to lessen runoff and avoiding impacting adjacent bitterroot. The letter also mentioned the benefits of the proposed adjacent deck with interpretive panels.

   ii. Peregrine Pt. Disc Golf Course: Mitigation & Monitoring
   The City of Chico is not mitigating and monitoring negative impacts of disc golf at the Course with its staff or agents (Chico Outsiders, biological consultants).

   iii. Salvation Army Community Center, Chico’s Chapman Town: Landscape Plan
   WE addressed a meeting of Chico’s Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board requesting that the Landscape Plan include native species as mitigation for removal of three valley oaks. The Board recommended that native trees be incorporated into its landscape plan.

d. Education - JD
   JD presented a CNPS children’s book, “Swallowtail”, which she wrote. Bound copies of the book were circulated and handed out. Ideally, the book will contain illustrations to represent its poetic descriptions of native plant ecosystems. The Board was impressed with the book’s creativity, and saw its educational potential. JD also raised the idea of organizing (mostly native plant) garden installations.

e. Events - JL
   The Farm City Celebration Harvest Festival is on November 4, 2017, at the Bidwell Mansion.

f. Membership - MB
   There are 235 members. The Pipevine is ready to mail.

g. Programs - JB
   On October 4, 2017, John Whittleseley will present on native salvias. Cynthia from Calflora will present in November.

h. Social Media: Website – WE, Meetup.com - AE
The state is adopting a new website template, which is more of blog format in which users scroll. The Board is content with the current website. AE, CS, and others are not fans of blog formats. It was noted that the Chapter’s website could be used for fundraising.

i. Yahi Trail Maintenance - CS
CS has reached out to a Chico State professor in the Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Department in attempt to recruit regular volunteers that need to satisfy a community service requirement (CS worked with several of this professor’s students at the Little Red Hen Nursery). The Board suggested the Calif. Conservation Corps, Susan Mason, and the city’s volunteer page as useful leads to follow. WE and CS scheduled a trail maintenance day for Sunday.

j. Invasive Plants - WE
Jim Dempsey has done an excellent job treating Spanish broom in Upper Park.

k. Rare Plants - JB
A “rare plant couple” from the desert (Kathryn & Richard LaShure) have moved to Chico, and would bring much appreciated knowledge and expertise to the Chapter.

7. Future Ex. Bd. Meeting locations:
The October 18, 2017 Board Meeting will be held at the Elliott’s home. The November 15, 2017 meeting will be held at Christian’s home.