Executive Director, Dan Gluesencamp talked about his focus on staffing. There are several unfilled positions. The Education Director’s position will not be filled, instead the education focus will be on the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH). There is a new coordinator for it, Steve Shoenig, a retired Fish and Wildlife Service person.

--Dan has hired an Assistant Director, Melissa Guajardo, who will help him with some of his duties especially overseeing staff at the office. Dan will be moving his office to Berkeley.
--The Horticulture Director’s position is also open. Presumably that will be filled. Caroline Garland is continuing her work with the State Capitol to plant natives on the grounds. She is also working on the curriculum for the Professional Landscapers Workshops.

--They are advertising for an Administrative Assistant, and a Publications Director.
--The planning for the 2018 Conference is already underway with the search for a venue. Sacramento is not looking good, so it will probably be in southern California.
--There is ongoing training for RPTH seed and tissue collection. With the additional rain this winter they anticipate a lot more material available for collection, and want to “ramp up” the training for collectors.

--The Education Director’s position will not be filled. Dan says there is no funding for an Education Director based in an office, and with the same focus as Josie Crawford. He believes that our education direction should be towards professional training, and field education. He suggests Chapters step up to focus on education for schools.

--Dan’s theme for this year is “The Best Spring Ever” based on the Steve Hartman book of the same name, due to this year being an el niño year.

Board President, Steve Hartman reports that CNPS is in good shape financially. We don’t count on gifts and bequests, but have had several recently that have given us a strong buffer from financial downturns. He gave us ballpark figures about where our money comes from which is 1/3 from grants and gifts, 1/3 from membership, and 1/3 from contracts.

--He wants to build a subcommittee to discuss operating reserve funds and rainy day funds.

Board Secretary, Marty Foltyn is stepping down from her job which she has had for several years, and done an exemplary job with. She will be taking on a Board Representative’s job. There was no one who stepped up to be the Secretary in the last elections, so that is open. Snowdy Dowden has stepped up to take the job until the next elections in the fall. There is also 2 open Board seats.

--The new Strategic Plan has been adopted, and the Chapters are being asked to review the document, and suggest ways to implement it.

Legislative Advocate, Vern Goehring, gave a report where he talked about the recent changes in California’s Coastal Commission. The president has died, and there is wrangling
for control of the heart of the Commission which was set up to be an advocate for the public's access to coastal areas. Without it, California’s coast would be miles of houses and businesses with no access by the public to beaches and cliffs. Four bills are currently being considered by the State Legislature, 2 of which CNPS supports and 2 we don’t. For more information contact Vern.

Conservation Director, Greg Suba, gave a presentation about protecting the microphyll forests along washes in the desert from large solar and wind farms. The microphyll trees he is referring to include palo verde, ironwood, and mesquite. When the area of the Mojave/Colorado desert on BLM land was mapped, they mapped only washes 90 ft. in width and above. The smaller washes were not mapped. Greg knew of at least 3 areas that contained a large amount of these smaller washes that had microphyll trees growing along them, and set out to film them with a drone to show BLM, and hopefully get them to remove those areas from potential development. Greg, along with Brett Hall (Santa Cruz Chapter president and director of the Santa Cruz arboretum), and his son Austin who is a drone pilot, set out to map these 3 areas. Greg showed us footage of the overflights they made, and it was clear that developing those areas would indeed destroy a lot of trees along with the attendant animals that depend on them.

--We also had a presentation about the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy which is a local group that restores local smaller landholdings, and turns them into public spaces.

Membership Break-out, Both Jim and I attended the Membership break-out session chaired by Mary Frances Kelly-Poh. The takeaway bullet points from the meeting included:
-Recognition of new members by the State office is currently 2 weeks late.
-We should always have a welcome table at all plant sales and events.
-We should give out stamped envelopes addressed to the State office to those interested in becoming a member along with the torn-off portion of the membership brochure that has their information.
-Make sure we tell people they are members of the State organization, not just Chapter.
-Don’t send newsletters to lapsed members.
-Post the monthly newsletter on the State website.
-For bulk email blasts, put email addresses under blind copy.

Your delegate, after reviewing the agenda at home before the meeting, decided to skip the half-day meeting on Sunday.

The June 3-5 meeting will be at Sagehen Field Station outside of Truckee.
The 9-11 September Conservation meeting will be in Morro Bay.