



CNPS Chapter Council Meeting Minutes

[December 5 2020 – Zoom Meeting](#) hosted by Judy Fenerty, CNPS Chapter Council Chair

By Woody Elliott, CNPS Chapter Council Secretary

DRAFT

Final approval:

Date:

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1. Attendance

a. Delegates

Chapter	Delegate Name (as listed in CNPS Directory 9/12/2020)	Voting Delegate Name (Yes - Present)
Alta Peak (AP)	Cathy Capone	Yes
Baja California (Baja)	Cesar Garcia Valderrama	Yes
Bristlecone (BC)	Stephen Ingram	Yes
Bryophyte (BRY)	Brent Mishler, James Shevock (Alt.), Paul Wilson (Alt.)	BM - Yes
Channel Islands (CI)	Patt McDaniel, Andrea Adams-Morden (Alt.)	PM - Yes
Dorothy King Young (DKY)	Nancy Morin	Yes
East Bay (EB)	Beth Wurzburg	Yes
El Dorado County (ED)	Alice Cantelow, Susan Britting (Alt.)	AC - Yes
Kern County (KE)	Rich Spjut, Brooke Stutz (Alt.), Suzanne Weller (Appointed)	SW - Yes
LA/Santa Monica Mtns (LASMM)	Snowdy Dodson, Bill Neill (Alt.)	SD - Yes
Marin County (MAR)	David Long, Laura Lovett (Alt.)	LL - Yes
Milo Baker (MB)	Liz Parsons	Yes
Mojave Desert (MD)	Arch McCulloch, Dru Coiner (Alt.)	No
Monterey Bay (MBay)	Brian LeNeve, Rosemary Foster (Alt.)	BL - Yes
Mount Lassen (ML)	Woody Elliott, Anne Ferry (Alt.), David Popp (Alt.), Nancy Praizler	DP - Yes
Napa Valley (NV)	Stephen Rae	Yes
North Coast (NC)	Larry Levine	Yes
North San Joaquin Valley (SJ)	Jim Brugger	No
Orange County (OC)	David Pryor	Yes
Redbud (RB)	Shane Hanofee	Yes
Riverside/San Bernardino (RSB)	Arlée Montalvo, Katie Barrows (Alt.)	AM - Yes
Sacramento Valley (SAC)	Tara Collins	Yes
San Diego (SD)	Frank Landis, Marty Foltyn (Alt.)	FL - Yes
San Gabriel Mountains (SG)	Helena Bowman, Cliff McLean (Alt.)	HB - Yes
San Luis Obispo (SLO)	Melissa Mooney, Bill Waycott (Alt.)	MM - Yes
Sanhedrin (SAN)	Andrea Davis, Jennifer Riddell (co-Presidents)	JR - Yes
Santa Clara Valley (SCla)	Vivian Neou	Yes
Santa Cruz County (SCruz)	Lucy Ferneyhough, Karen Hildebrand (Alt.)	LF - Yes
Sequoia (SEQ)	Reece Riley	No
Shasta (SH)	David Ledger	Yes
Sierra Foothills (SF)	Vacant	No
South Coast (SC)	David Berman, Cris Sarabia	CS - Yes
Tahoe (TA)	John Roos, Brett Hall (Alt.)	BH - Yes
Willis L. Jepson (WLJ)	Mary Frances Kelly-Poh, Kathleen Catton (Alt.)	MFKP - Yes
Yerba Buena (YB)	Paul Bouscal, Eddie Bartley	EB - Yes

b. Other Attendees

Attendee Name	Title/Affiliation
Judy Fenerty	Chapter Council Chair
Doug Mandel	Shasta Chapter
Silvia Montoya-Gomez	Sequoia Chapter
Susan Gallagher	Shasta Chapter
Jeanne Wilson	Redbud Chapter
Dee Himes	Santa Clara Valley Chpt., State and Chapter BOD
Andre Clemente	Accounting/HR - Sac Office
Christine Pieper	Development Director (and Redbud chapter)
Ann-Marie Benz	Horticulture Outreach Manager – Sac Office
Marty Foltyn	San Diego Chpt. – CC Delegate - Alternate
John Kenny	East Bay Chpt. communications chair
Woody Elliott	CC Secretary, Marin and Mt. Lassen Chapters
David Magney	Rare Plant Program Manager, Channel Islands and Redbud Chapters
Wendy Smit	Milo Baker Chapter
Steven Goetz	Willis Linn Jepson Chapter
Liv O'Keeffe	Communications and Engagement Director for CNPS
Andrea Williams	Plant Science Director for CNPS (and East Bay Chapter member)
Amy Patten	Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Manager
Vince Scheidt	Interim Ex. Director - CNPS
Justin Daniel	San Diego Chpt. – President
Orchid Black	Riverside – San Bernardino & San Gabriel Mtns. Chpts. – CC Parliamentarian
Bill Waycott	Bd. of Dir. – Vice Pres., San Luis Obispo Chpt.
Ann Elliott	Marin – Newsletter Ed.
David Long	Marin – Co-President
Brett Hall	Santa Cruz Chapter, State Board
Connie di Girolamo	San Diego Chapter

2. Introduction, Welcome, Announcements (Judy F.)

- Welcomed participants, explains procedures for this recorded Zoom meeting, acknowledged quorum present (28 of 35 Chapter Delegates), and reviewed [Agenda](#), which is adopted.
- Beth W. announced that East Bay Area hills are experiencing massive die-off of acacia and eucalyptus, coyote brush and toyon being studied at UC Berkeley. Die-off a concern for wildfire reasons.
- Frank L. opposition needed for transfer of CDFW Ecological Preserve land to a developer that would sacrifice habitat for an endangered butterfly. Bad precedent that could affect DFW preserves statewide.
- Snowy D. Please schedule Zoom meetings on CNPS account by identifying your Chapter so as not to conflict with other scheduled meetings.

3. Secretary’s Report (Woody E.)

[Sept. 13, 2020 CC Minutes](#).

Approved as amended. Moved/seconded: Frank L./Arlee M.: Yes 18, No 0, Abstentions 8.

4. Interim Executive Director Update, Staffing and Recruiting (Vince Scheidt)

Introduced himself, talked about his role and responsibilities, hiring of Ex. Dir. and concurrent needs including:

- Promote transparency to Bd. of Directors, staff and volunteers and Chapter Council through communication at all levels of organization.
- Supporter of staff and volunteers but not micromanage operations
- Work with Bd. of Dir. Hiring committee to hire full time Ex. Dir. and promote structural change to run a more efficient organization.
- Hiring a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Consultant starting Sept. 2021.
- Hiring a staffer to handle membership data.
- Would like to hire a full-time Southern Calif. Conservation Advocate supported by endowment.
- Empower Senior Division Chiefs.

Comments from attendees that announcement of Dan Gluesenkamp's departure could have been less non-committal and more appreciative of his 8 year contribution to CNPS.

Hiring Ex. Dir. has no date certain and will commence after organizational restructuring has been assessed by a committee of Board and Chapter Council members. Brett Hall has been interviewing staff regarding strengths and weaknesses of organization.

5. State Programs Update (Liv O'Keeffe)

- Budget: Brock Wimberley - Finance and Operations Director. Overall budget doing well, but bit short on grants. Good reserves held in cash, which needs to be invested on advice of Investment Committee to be established by Board. Forthcoming grants totaling \$700,000 from WCB – Wildlife Conservation Board and Specialty Crop Block Grant from CDFA – Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture. Comments from CC that CC needs to see periodic budget reports / summaries as in the past.
- See: [CNPS Program Update | Chapter Council December 2020](#) for Program Highlights: Vegetation, Plant Science, Horticulture, Education, Development, Conservation, Communications and Engagement. Focuses on activities and accomplishments of past six (6) months. Andrea Williams working on “white paper” describing results of Genetic Considerations for Native Planting and Restoration Symposium. Advisory Committee for Calscape is being formed. If interested contact Liv.
- Conservation Conference in San Jose postponed until October 2022.
- Andrea Williams - Director of Plant Science, David Magney - Rare Plant Program Manager and Christine Pieper – Development Director commented on the status of their programs.
- Membership working group meeting periodically. To join, contact Barbara Lezon - Senior Membership Coordinator.
- 2019-20 Annual Report will be available soon to members.

6. Diversity Working Group (John Sanders & Cris Sarabia)

- John from Los Osos CA presented an insightful overview of racism and how it can be overcome. Training program ([see contract scope](#)) to commence in Sept. 2020 by [AVARNA Group](#) with blog posts, videos and activities currently available at <https://theavarnagroup.com/resources/>. Homework will be available prior to engagement with AVARNA. Andre Clemente – CNPS Accounting and HR Analyst will be leading the program.
- Contact Cris S. or Andre C. aclemente@cnps.org if want to contribute to Working Group which has been meeting every two weeks. Looking forward to providing materials for learning to Chapters in January 2021.
- Recommended reading: Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors. By Carolyn Finney. Diversity will be addressed at future CC Meetings.

7. Board Report (Cris S. & Cathy Capone).

- Board met 9 times since Sept. CC Meeting.
- Land Acknowledgement statement guide to recognized displaced indigenous people. CNPS facilities in Sacramento and Berkeley being evaluated for future usefulness. Substantial CARES Act loan is likely to be forgiven by Federal Government. Plant and Pollinator legal monetary settlement came in.
- Financials look good and their reports will be forthcoming to the CC. Investment committee will be established.
- Brett H. is getting feedback from staff and CC regarding organizational structure. Contact Cathy Capone, CC Representation to Board cathycaponemail@gmail.com, about issues to be presented to the Board particularly attributes of a new Executive Director.

8. State Election Results (Bill Waycott)

- Over 30 ballots submitted with unanimous result of slate of candidates: Bill Waycott -Vice President, Steve Schoenig – Treasurer, Cathy Capone – CC Representative, Board Directors: Brett Hall, Lucy Ferneyhough and Christina Toms. Judy Fenerty – CC Chair, Marty Fulton – CC Secretary, Woody Elliott – CC Vice Chair.
- Thanks to Cari Porter for 11 years of service as past Treasurer and CNPS staff member. Need more people in future to step up and become Board and CC officers. Need to look around and help to recruit candidates and other volunteers for various tasks as part of Leadership Development. Larry Levine will continue as technical support for CC website etc.

9. [Policy Committee Update](#) (Arlee Montalvo, Melissa Mooney)

- POLICY ON ETHICS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR COLLECTING NATIVE PLANTS (PS-20) was considered. Motion to accept policy as presented with typos corrected. Frank L. / no second needed. Passed 25 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain.
- COLLECTING GUIDELINES AND DOCUMENTATION TECHNIQUES - CNPS POLICY (PS-95) was considered. Motion to accept policy as presented with typos and acronyms corrected. Frank L. / Snowdy D. Passed 24 Yes, 0 No.

- POLICY WITH REGARD TO PLANT COLLECTING FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES (CBAI 93b) and GUIDELINES FOR CHAPTERS TO REDUCE IMPACTS TO REDUCE IMPACTS TO NATIVE PLANTS (CBAI-93a) are being revised and input solicited for later consideration by CC.

Survey of which policies were used for guidance had responses from only nine (9) Chapters using 32 policies. See [Google Spread Sheet](#). Most used policies: CBAI-11 Native Plant Advocacy (10 uses) and PS-95 ES/EIR Policy (9 uses). Others: Native Plants and Fire Safety (7 uses), Climate Change (6 uses) and Wildland Invasive Plants / Integrated Weed Management (6 uses). San Gabriel Mountains and Riverside / San Bernardino Chapters used the most policies. Overhaul of many policies are warranted and need input / volunteer help. Perhaps a policy handbook should be developed to encourage use of policies by Chapters.

10. Bylaws Committee (Woody Elliott)

- [Amendments to the CNPS Bylaws](#) were proposed regarding elimination of CC review of Action Plans developed by the Ex. Dir. for implementation of the Strategic Plan, elimination of Family Memberships, and consistent language for Minimum Number of Meetings. Several delegates expressed concerned about diminishing the role of the CC in governing CNPS and the need to evaluate the results of the ongoing evaluation of the organization's structure.
- Motion to postpone consideration until next meeting so it can be taken back to individual Boards for their consideration and CC's reconsideration at next CC Meeting. Brian L. / Frank L. 20 – Yes, 3 – No, 5 – Abstain.

11. Volunteer Recognition

Justin Daniel, President of San Diego Chapter, presented a Volunteer Recognition Award to Connie diGiralamo for her countless hours of work for the last 10 years. She spoke about her role volunteering for many years with the Chapter.

12. State Board Review

Marty Foltyn presented Review of State Board by the Chapter Council. Ten delegates participated in online survey of six questions. More education needed regarding the roles and responsibilities of CC delegates. Better communication and transparency between Board and CC. Kudos to staff for their work in a difficult year. Comments about difficulty of evaluating the Board because lacking pertinent information.

13. Future Chapter Council Meetings

Next CC Meeting: March 6, 2021. Ongoing monthly meetings with staff regarding various CNPS programs.

Moved and approved to adjourn.