



CNPS Chapter Council Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2020 – Zoom Meeting hosted by Judy Fenerty, CNPS Chapter Council Chair

By Woody Elliott, CNPS Chapter Council Secretary

Action Items In Bold

Woody Elliott

Final approval:

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Section 1: Attendance

Delegates

Chapter	Delegate Name (as listed in CNPS Directory 6/3/2020)	Delegate Name (Yes - Present)
Alta Peak (AP)	Cathy Capone	Yes
Baja California (Baja)	Cesar Garcia Valderrama	
Bristlecone (BC)	Stephen Ingram	Yes
Bryophyte (BRY)	Brent Mishler	Yes
Channel Islands (CI)	Patt McDaniel, Andrea Adams-Morden (Alt.)	PM - Yes
East Bay (EB)	Beth Wurzburg	Yes
El Dorado County (ED)	Alice Cantelow	
Kern County (KE)	Rich Spjut, Brooke Stutz (Alt.), Don Turkal (Appointed)	DT - Yes
LA/Santa Monica Mtns (LASMM)	Snowdy Dodson, Bill Neill (Alt.)	SD - Yes
Marin County (MAR)	David Long, Laura Lovett (Alt.)	DL - Yes
Milo Baker (MB)	Liz Parsons	Yes
Mojave Desert (MD)	Arch McCulloch, Dru Coiner (Alt.)	DC - Yes
Monterey Bay (Mbay)	Brian LeNeve, Rosemary Foster (Alt.)	RF - Yes
Mount Lassen (ML)	Woody Elliott, Anne Ferry (Alt.), David Popp (Alt.)	WE - Yes
Napa Valley (NV)	Stephen Rae	Yes
North Coast (NC)	Larry Levine	Yes
North San Joaquin Valley (SJ)	Jim Brugger	
Orange County (OC)	David Pryor	Yes
Redbud (RB)	Shane Hanofee	SH
Riverside/San Bernardino (RSB)	Arlene 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)	Vacant	
Santa Clara Valley (SCla)	Vivian Neou	Yes
Santa Cruz County (SCruz)	Lucy Ferneyhough, Karen Hildebrand (Alt.)	LF - Yes
Sequoia (SEQ)	Reece Riley	
Shasta (SH)	Vacant	
Sierra Foothills (SF)	Vacant	
South Coast (SC)	David Berman	Yes
Tahoe (TA)	John Roos	
Willis L. Jepson (WLJ)	Mary Frances Kelly-Poh, Kathleen Catton (Alt.)	MFKP - Yes
Yerba Buena (YB)	Paul Bouscal	Yes

Other Attendees

Attendee Name	Title/Affiliation
Judy Fenerty	Chapter Council Chair
Dan Gluesenkamp	Staff, Executive Director
Vince Scheidt	Bd. of Dir. - Member, San Diego Chpt.

Attendee Name	Title/Affiliation
Cris Sarábia	Bd. of Dir. – President, South Coast Chpt.
Charlie Blair	San Luis Obispo Chpt. – CC Volunteer Recognition Chair
Andrea Adams-Morden	Channel Islands Chpt.
Justin Daniel	San Diego Chpt. – President
Laura Lovett	Marin Chpt.
Robin Mitchell	East Bay Chpt. – Recording Secretary
Marty Foltyn	San Diego Chpt.
Judy Schwartz	East Bay Chpt. President
Cliff McLean	San Gabriel Mtns. Chpt.
Sam Young	Staff, IPA Program
Susan Gallagher	Shasta Chpt., Membership
Jeanne Wilson	Redbud Chpt., President
Orchid Black	Riverside – San Bernardino & San Gabriel Mtns. Chpts. – CC Parliamentarian
Andrea Williams	Staff – Director Plant Science Programs
Bill Waycott	Bd. of Dir. – Vice Pres., San Luis Obispo Chpt.
Roberta Scott	Channel Islands – Public Programs
Sue Rosenthal	East Bay Chpt., Programs Chair
Steven Goetz	Willis L. Jepson Chpt. – President
Rebecca Latta	San Gabriel Mtns. – Plant Sale Chair
Chris Beresford	North Coast Chpt. – Plant Sales, Nursery Manager
Cindy Hazuka	San Diego Chpt. – Seed & Bulb Coordinator
Jim Hanson	East Bay Chpt., Conservation Chair

Section 2: Introduction. Judy F. welcomed participants, explains procedures for recorded Zoom meeting, acknowledged quorum present (26 of 35 Chapter Delegates), and reviewed [Agenda](#), which is adopted

Section 3: Secretary’s Report, [March 14, 2020 CC Minutes](#). Approved as amended. Moved/seconded: Melissa M. / Mary Francis P.: Yes 22, No 0.

Section 4: Board Report. Cris S., during an online Zoom Meeting – June 5, 2020, related various activities reported by Board Members including rare plant searches, thank you notes for Big Day of Giving (\$19,000 raised), online plant sales, developing annual budget, maintaining arboretums during pandemic, applying for habitat restoration grants, increasing and diversifying CNPS membership, bicycle botany, chalking sidewalks with names of adjacent plants. Christine Pieper, CNPS Development Director, presented ways for cultivating future donors by identifying who would be good fundraisers and donors via “planned giving” from estates.

Cathy C. reported Board reviewed and approved annual budget. Recommendations from CNPS for resumption of public activities due to Covid-19 moratorium will wait at least two weeks for the potential adverse effects to become known of resumption of general public activities and Black Lives Matter protests. Board of Directors will meet in two weeks to focus conversation on BLM movement. Board met in closed session to consider recommendations for staff salaries and nomination of CNPS Fellow.

Mary Francis P. had questions about membership cards for sustaining members. **Judy F. suggested that the CC Membership Committee be revitalized.**

Paul B. asked about grant writing by Chapters and was advised to coordinate such with CNPS office.

Cris S. stated **CNPS Ex. Bd. would develop a tool kit for facilitating solicitations of Planned Giving.**

Larry L. asked for further discussion re: Black Lives Matter. Cris S. agreed that a conversation about the complicated issue of lack of diversity and systemic racism needs to occur to check ourselves to not exclude people of color. Email letter sent, signed by himself and Dan G., expressing support for current BLM protests.

Stephen R. asked why dual affiliation in two chapters is not shown on CNPS Membership Card. Orchid B. added that a member can be an officer or chair in two chapters but not be a Chapter Council delegate for two chapters.

Section 5. Executive Director Report Dan Gluesenkamp

- Dan G. emphasized need for discussion of social issues.
- Big Day of Giving had 100% support from the Ex. Bd. Lucy F. wrote 200+ personal thank you notes to givers.
- CNPS [Mid-Year Program Report](#) was pulled together by Liv O’Keeffe in lieu of her vacation time. Difficult, challenging times for staff that is being supported like family to sustain CNPS mission.
- Current long-term financial stability resulted from past decisions regarding bequests. All staff working from home with funded technical support as needed. No layoffs. One-third of current annual budget is for field surveys that have been interrupted. Staff has good esprit de corps despite uncertain times.
- Developed Zoom online meeting capability available at enterprise scale. Online plant sales by Milo Baker Chpt. supported by Maya Argaman CNPS staff.
- Emergency subvention boost (\$500) totaling \$1,100 came from Chapter Council and Board travel budgets. Several chapters declined subvention to support CNPS staff activities. El Dorado Chpt. donated their excess funds to support CNPS staff and programs.
- Current buildup of CNPS staff don’t want to lose. Several new hires have not met colleagues in person. Still hiring vegetation ecologists, rare plant botanist, and campaigns engagement manager. Need job announcements spread broadly to generate a large diverse pool of applicants.
- The Strauss Wind Energy Project is being litigated to protect the endangered Gaviota tarplant. Centennial residential community project on Tejon Ranch and proposed developments in San Diego County are being closely watched.
- Publication of [Flora](#), [Fremontia](#) and [Flora of Napa County](#) are on track.

- Chapters need to coordinate writing of grants with Christine Pieper, Development Director and hiring of staff with Brock Wimberley, Finance and Operations Director or Andre Clemente, Accounting and HR Analyst.
- Recently hired Saige White, Senior Membership Coordinator. Planned Giving, who gets what when you die, is usually unrestricted for CNPS to allocate. Such funds in hand are planned to make up budget shortfalls due to pandemic for next several years.
- To help staff during Shelter-In-Place order, contact Andrea Williams, Director of Plant Science, to help with locating rare plants in the field for collecting seed that have not been accessible to staff.
- Brock W. is pulling together guidelines to be sent out for activities by Chapters to conform to Covid-19 health regulations. Covid-19 cases may increase over next several months, which may cause cancellation of field trips.
- Black Lives Matter movement is highlighting societal inequity. CNPS is a “big tent” that encompasses a state with geographic and philosophical differences. Recently emailed [In Solidarity With Black Lives Matter](#) signed by Dan G. and Cris S. How diverse is CNPS? Need to hear of specific solutions from CNPS members to improve diversity. **Judy F. suggests another meeting needed to discuss this issue in detail.**
- Snowdy D. asks status of Conservation Conference scheduled for Oct. 2021. Dan G. says cancellation before September 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions will cause forfeiture of \$35,000. Much more will be forfeited if cancelled later. Waiting until Sept. to assess likelihood meeting should be cancelled.
- Snowdy asked if CNPS needs to have a California botanical nexus to solve racial problems. A meeting of everybody should be scheduled to discuss diversity issues.

Session 6. Online Plant Sale Discussion. Vivian Neou described Santa Clara Valley Chapter’s substitute for monthly plant sales with Shelter In Place (SIP) shut down. Used Square for online storefront differently than State CNPS systems developed and offered by Maya because the chapter has been using Square for years..

San Diego Chapter has successfully online seed sales using Square. Free Square website builder is available.

- Pro: Easy to manage online inventory and process orders. Multiple volunteers can input descriptive plant info.
- Con: Two inventory systems used simultaneously. Delivery charge \$25 / order no problem for customers who appreciate the service.

Steve G. reported Willis Jepson Chapter spring plant sale of 260 plants online via Square (3.5% cost). Pickup date was confusing to customers, Problems with inventory

and fulfillment of orders. Easy to refund customers. Maya A. was very helpful. **Judy F. suggested setting up a workshop for online plant sales.**

Chris Beresford, North Coast Chapter, setup farm stand with inventory on Google Sheets and links to Calscap etc. Online order form. Pickup 11-4 Fri./Sat./Sun. for 123 orders paid by check preferred. In person plant sale with 10 persons per hour scheduled. Struggling with listing inventory and interactive plant list.

Session 7. Policy Committee Update. Arlee M. updated progress of Ad Hoc working group that merged with Program Policy Committee to review utility of all CNPS policies as detailed in [report attached to agenda](#). The Committee focused on Aaron Sims' proposed "[Policy on Ethics and Best Practices for Collecting Native Plants](#)," and [it's rational](#). **A memo will be sent to chapters requesting review and feedback in 45 days.** Work will continue on evaluating overlapping policies and tweaking policies for consistency. **Memo will be sent to chapter leadership requesting feedback on which policies have been used or useful.**

Section 8. CNPS Decarbonization Pledge. Involved discussion of proposed decarbonization pledge introduced by Frank L. Many are sympathetic to pledge but questioned its practicality.

Motion: Amend "DRAFT CNPS Decarbonization Pledge" to "DRAFT CNPS Carbon Neutral Pledge" Moved/Seconded: Cathy C. / David B. Passed 22 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstentions

Motion: Change "2019" to "2020" for year of adoption and "2029" to "2030" year to reach pledge. Moved/Seconded: Frank L. / Cathy C. Passed: 23 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions.

Motion: Change "Pledge" to "Goal" throughout text. Moved/Seconded: Frank L. / Woody E. Passed: 24 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention.

Motion: To close debate. Moved/Seconded: Frank L. / David B. Passed: 26 Yes 0, No 0, 0 Abstention.

Motion: Adopt: CNPS Carbon Neutral Goal

CNPS's goal is to become carbon neutral in its activities by 2030, meaning that our activities will, in net, add no greenhouse gases to the atmosphere every year. This goal encompasses work done by staff and volunteers, in activities, meetings, and events. Methods for reaching this goal remain to be determined as of the adoption of this goal in 2020, so successful methods, techniques, innovations, and programs will be freely shared within CNPS as a normal function of the society.

Moved/Seconded: Lucy F. / Steve I. Passed: 24 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention

Section 9. Other Committee Updates: Bylaws. Woody E. reported 7 members on committee. Chairperson yet to be appointed. Proposed amendments to CNPS Bylaws sent to Woody E or Judy F. One carryover from previous consideration is review of Ex. Dir. Action Plans by Chapter Council.

Section 10. Fire Prevention Project Issues (Marin Co.). Laura L. reviewed potential problems with fuel reduction, firebreak projects in Marin Co. and elsewhere impacting native species and habitats. Requests input on kinds of vegetation management plans CNPS would support. Send examples to her and David L.

Section 11. CNPS Fellow Award. Bill W. announced Board of Directors approved Fellow nomination by Santa Clara Valley Chapter of Jean Struthers. Vivian N., Chapter President, presented Jean's achievements in support of nomination.

Motion to approved Jean Struthers as CNPS Fellow. Moved/Seconded: Vivian N./Frank L. Passed: 24 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Section 12. Future CC meetings. Motion for an interim meeting to discuss diversity. Moved/Seconded: Mary Francis P. / Vivian N. Passed 23 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention.

September 12, 2020, Saturday. The September Chapter Council meeting typically includes a Conservation Symposium. Nick Jensen, CNPS Lead Conservation Scientist, proposed a conservation advocacy workshop. This meeting and Chapter Council will again occur online, details tbd.

Section 13. Adjourn. Motion to Adjourn. Moved/seconded: Larry L. / David P. Passed by acclimation.