CNPS Chapter Council Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2020 – UberConference Meeting hosted by Judy Fenerty, CNPS Chapter Council President

By Woody Elliott, CNPS Chapter Council Secretary

Final approval: June 6, 2020

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SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

Chapter Council Delegates:

Alta Peak:	Catherine Capone
Baja California:	
Bristlecone:	Stephen Ingram
Bryophyte:	Brent Mishler
Channel Islands:	Patt McDaniel
Dorothy King Young:	Nancy Morin
East Bay:	Beth Wurzberg
El Dorado County:	
Kern County:	
LA/Santa Monica Mountains:	Snowdy Dodson
Marin County:	David Long
Milo Baker:	
Mojave Desert:	Dru Coiner
Monterey Bay:	
Mount Lassen:	Woody Elliott
Napa Valley:	Henni Cohen
North Coast:	Larry Levine
North San Joaquin Valley:	
Orange County:	David Pryor
Redbud:	Jeanne Wilson
Riverside/San Bernardino:	Arlee Montalvo
Sacramento Valley:	
San Diego:	Frank Landis
San Gabriel Mountains:	
San Luis Obispo:	Melissa Mooney
Sanhedrin:	Jennifer Riddell
Santa Clara Valley:	Vivian Neou
Santa Cruz County:	Lucy Ferneyhough
Sequoia:	
Shasta:	
Sierra Foothills:	
South Coast:	David Berman
Tahoe:	John Roos
Willis L. Jepson	
Yerba Buena:	Paul Bouscal

CNPS Chapter Council Officers:

Chair:	Judy Fenerty
Secretary:	Woody Elliott

CNPS Board Members:

Board President	Cris Sarabia
Chapter Council Rep. to the Board	Catherine Capone

Chapter Council Rep. to the Board	David Pryor
Director	Brett Hall
Director	Lucy Ferneyhough

CNPS Staff:

Dan Gluesenkamp	Executive Director
Liv O'Keeffe	Marketing and Communications Director
Andrea Williams	Directory of Plant Science

CNPS Volunteer Committee Chairs:

Volunteer Recognition	Charles Blair

Additional Attendees and Guests:

Orchid Black	San Gabriel Mountains, Parliamentarian
Robin Mitchell	East Bay Chapter
Justin Daniel	San Diego Chapter
Judy Schwartz	East Bay Chapter

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION. Judy Fenerty, CC President called meeting to order. Woody Elliott, CC Secretary, called roll of CC Delegates: 23 of 35 CC Delegates were present constituting a quorum.

SECTION 3: MINUTES. Motion by Frank Landis and Snowdy Dodson to approve CC Minutes of Dec. 7, 2019 approved unanimously.

SECTION 4: HABITAT REVOLUTION. Presentation by Liv O'Keeffe, CNPS Senior Director of Communication & Plant Science, and Andrea Williams, CNPS Director of Plant Science, highlighted reemphasis and upscaling of statewide Plant Science Program. See slides of Habitat Revolution[1].pdf at CC Meeting Agenda site:

1. It starts with plants.
2. We build the pipeline. The Calscape Marketplace - Connecting Supply, Demand, and Nature.
3. We partner, and we grow. CNPS Horticulture Program At-a-Glance.
4. Three Year Plan.

Frank Landis, comments:

- California civil code 4735(a) deals with HOAs trying to force people to rip out low-water landscaping. We need to publicize this.
- San Diego County also has a list of plants that are prohibited from landscaping with fire-favoring species. Many of these are also on their water-conserving natives.
- We need to use publicity to address the contradictions between fire and low water landscaping.

Snowdy: LA/SMM website has list of recommended native plants for the Santa Monica Mountains

Robin: The workshop held in Marin a few weekends ago was really wonderful in terms of firesafe natives; the San Diego landscape design person had one house go through 4 fires without issue due to the native plantings

Lucy: Have we considered reissuing Bart O'Brien's care and maintenance of southern California native plant gardens - perhaps updated for the entire state? It is bilingual, but not available for a reasonable price because it is out of print.
Response from Frank: not possible.

Frank: I'd quietly ask for more consideration of southern California natives in northern California. There's a northern California bias to plants in the trade, and that's getting increasingly problematic with climate change.

Arlee: Riverside/San Bernardino chapter expected to receive a draft of what was done with our input on plant palettes. That never happened.

Robin: I would love to have a list of natives to give to my local planning commission when they are looking at the landscaping plans of new projects going in in my city

David: A website gallery of beautiful public gardens could help motivate public agencies to plant more natives on public landscapes.

Alice: Plant lists are not necessarily enough. Our county put lots of appropriate natives along a park and ride lot, but drowned even the flannel bush in deep mulch and are drowning all with water basins and standing water. Watching them slowly die is hard.

Nancy: Suggest you make this same presentation in an online workshop for botanical gardens in California.

Brent: I'd disagree with Frank's suggestion that we move native plants to new areas outside their range (i.e., assisted migration), at least not till there is a separate discussion on policy CNPS-wide.

Arlee: We can offer irrigation and maintenance training program to public agencies. I have been trying that with City of Riverside Parks and Rec.

Dan Gluesenkamp, CNPS Executive Director, projected a budget for this Horticultural Program of $450,000 @ $150,000 / year for 3 years. He named two new hires: Maya Argaman - Horticulture Outreach Coordinator and Ann-Marie Benz - Horticulture Outreach Manager plus mentioned plans for additional hires to further education.

Andrea W. mentioned a lot work to research and develop list of native plants appropriate for fire wise and /or drought tolerant landscaping in specific locals throughout the California. Her consultations with chapters and grant requests will be important to support this work. Priority to have private and public landscape crews qualify as CNPS Certified Landscapers.

Vivian Neou, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, recounted how her Chapter researched the benefits of this program with Liv O. and Andrea W. and decided to financially support it.
Several chapters mentioned that they were unaware of the request for funds.

SECTION 5: BOARD REPORT. Cris Sarabia, Board President, related that during the Board's remote meeting on 3/13/2020:

- Dan G. gave an extensive verbal report to the Board.
- Staff is developing annual budget for review and approval of the Board.
- All questions regarding changing bank accounts are to be referred to Brock Wimberley, Finance and Operations Director, and need Board approval.

Cathy Capone and David Pryor, CC Representatives to the Board, acknowledged beneficial local activities of Board members and tremendous work of CNPS staff.

SECTION 6: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT. Dan Gluesenkamp, CNPS Executive Director, recapped:

- Staffing turnover and filling 15 new positions throughout CNPS organization. He asks for moral support by members toward staff.
- CNPS financially strong. Budget for fiscal year 2021 will be approx. $4.5 million.
- Seeking new location for larger Sacramento office and new office in Berkeley to accommodate existing and new staff. Justifies Berkeley (or East Bay) office for its attraction of skilled and diverse staff plus lower transportation carbon footprint.
- Horticulture is having its big moment. Conservation emergency to promote growing native plants throughout California by Horticultural Program.
- Rare Plant Program is growing.
- Publications are on track with several new publications forthcoming.
- Program chairs are tasked with writing status reports.
- Several litigation wins and ongoing lawsuits re: conservation.
- CNPS has grown a lot and will increase 50 percent in staff next year.
- Hard to keep CNPS members informed about programs' status. Please understand and forgive this burden on staff.

Liv O'Keeffe clarified re staffing:

- Emily Underwood is new hire for publications, a science journalist.
- Elizabeth Kubey taking on many of Becky's support activities. Elizabeth is getting up to speed to be the primary chapter resource for Luminate and WordPress. 60% of chapters now on Luminate.
- The *Fremontia* Fire issue is at the printer now. You'll have it in your mailboxes in 3 weeks.

Andrea clarified new plant science positions:

- RaSCAL: Rare Seed Collection and Accessioning Lead
- FORBS: Field Operations and Research Botanical Support (Assistant Field Botanist)
- RaSCAL is funded through California Plant Rescue (CaPR) work; FORBS a collection of grant and contract funds.

Snowdy/Arlee: Need SoCal staff - especially Conservation

Justin: Ease of Connectivity and structured communications between new staff and chapters will be critical to helping their missions. We'll need introductions!

Frank mentioned conservation win, will get details to Liv.

SECTION 7: COVID-19. Discussion wide-ranging including:

- Two motions from CC for positions advising about and precluding participation in CNPS events, which were not seconded.
- Dan G. suggests CNPS follow guidance of State and local health authorities and have no more than 10 in a group; so CNPS should cancel all activities for the foreseeable future. CNPS in trouble if violating directives from authorities or allows activities with people that are sick.
- Beth Wurzburg, influenza scientist, states society can only slow the spread of coronavirus to try to avoid overwhelming the healthcare system. Duration of emergency is unknown. Beth shared the following article: https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca
- Brent Mishler, Bryophyte Chapter, said SO BE FREE event in Lake County is still planned for next weekend. Main event, annual meeting for Chapter with large deposit for event's venue. Dan G will work with Brent M. to support Chapter if this event is cancelled. [Update: Event was subsequently cancelled]
- Judy F. stated that CNPS guidelines sent by Liv O. last Thursday were very useful for informing decisions made by chapters.
- Dan G. said event decisions cannot be made based on financial considerations i.e. health and safety issues are paramount. Good discussion but directive not appropriate to come from CC. He and Liv O. will work on and issue detailed directive on Monday probably curtailing CNPS activities while keeping (nursery) plants alive.
- Chapters mentioned which field trips and events they had cancelled.

SECTION 8: CHAPTER COUNCIL DISCUSSION:
Judy F. suggests chapters have phone conferences. Liv O. volunteered to offer guidance to facilitate such meetings and that chapter presentations can be offered to members on line.

Judy F. requests that chapters able to host a CC meeting please contact her.

Frank L. requests feedback from more chapters re: decarbonization pledge.

Charlie Blair has two nominees for recognition awards to be offered in the future.

Judy F. will issue Doodle poll to select date and time for next UberConference meeting.