



CNPS Chapter Council Meeting Minutes

September, 13 2020 – Zoom Meeting hosted by Judy Fenerty, CNPS Chapter Council Chair

By Woody Elliott, CNPS Chapter Council Secretary

A.I: Action Items In Bold

Final approval: *Woody Elliott* December 5, 2020

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1. Attendance

a. Delegates

Chapter	Delegate Name (as listed in CNPS Directory 6/3/2020)	Voting 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
Dorothy King Young (DKY)	Nancy Morin	Yes
East Bay (EB)	Beth Wurzburg	Yes
El Dorado County (ED)	Alice Cantelow	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.)	
Monterey Bay (MBay)	Brian LeNeve, Rosemary Foster (Alt.)	RF - Yes
Mount Lassen (ML)	Woody Elliott, Anne Ferry (Alt.), David Popp (Alt.), Nancy Praizler	NP - 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	Yes
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

b. Other Attendees

Attendee Name	Title/Affiliation
Judy Fenerty	Chapter Council Chair
Cris Sarabia	Bd. of Dir. – President, South Coast Chpt.
Charlie Blair	San Luis Obispo Chpt. – CC Volunteer Recognition Chair

Attendee Name	Title/Affiliation
Justin Daniel	San Diego Chpt. – President
Marty Foltyn	San Diego Chpt. – CC Delegate - Alternate
Judy Schwartz	East Bay Chpt. President
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 of Plant Science
Bill Waycott	Bd. of Dir. – Vice Pres., San Luis Obispo Chpt.
Wendy Smit	Milo Baker – President
Ann Elliott	Marin – Newsletter Ed.
Dee Himes	Santa Clara Valley, State Board
David Long	Marin – Co-President
Bill Neill	LA / Santa Monica Mtns
Brett Hall	Santa Cruz Chapter, State Board
Julie Evans	Vegetation Program Director
Natasha	
Vern Goehring	Diversity Working Group

2. Introduction, Welcome, Announcements (Judy F.) Welcomed participants, explains procedures for this recorded Zoom meeting, acknowledged quorum present (25 of 35 Chapter Delegates), and reviewed [Agenda](#), which is adopted

3. Secretary’s Report (Woody E.) [June 6, 2020 CC Minutes](#). Approved as amended. Moved/seconded: Snowdy D. / Frank L.: Yes 23, No 0, Abstention 2.

4. State and Board Report (Cris S., David P., and Cathy C.) summarized issues discussed at previous Board meeting that are in written reports by [Liv O’Keeffe](#), Christine Pieper, and [Cathy C](#). Topics and their highlights included:

- Conservation Conference - October 2021, **A.I: Decision to postpone before November due to Covid-19 pandemic will be informed by online survey of membership.**
- Diversity Working Group met virtually three times (see recap by Cris S. below)
- [Membership update report](#) (totals by Chapter), Total CNPS membership (9,779) down a bit probably due to lack of in person events. Monthly Chapter membership report glitches of opt in / opt out of email communications being resolved. Senior Membership Coordinator staff position to be filled soon.
- [Covid-19 Nursery Guidelines](#) have been updated. State CNPS is asking chapters to avoid all events and field trips except for restoration/stewardship and nursery-related work.
- Wildfire Communications using [CNPS Fire Recovery Guide](#) and [Fremontia Fire Issue March 2020](#) as well as package of social media graphics and messaging available to CNPS Communications & Outreach Collaboration Group on share drive.

- **A.I: Fall Planting Campaign Communications toolkit to be available along with fall *Flora*.** Contact Elizabeth Kubey, Outreach Coordinator, re: upcoming Chapters' webinars and other resources for promotion.
- New staff includes: David Bryant – Campaigns and Engagement Manager, Chris Escobedo - Natalie Hopkins Intern working on Conservation Advocacy Toolkit, and soon to be hired Senior Membership Coordinator.
- **A.I: The Annual Report will be issued soon by State CNPS.**
- Financial Matters included Brock Wimberley, Finance & Operations Director, securing a forgivable \$413,000 CARES Act SBA Payroll Protection Program loan designed to help businesses keep staff on payroll during COVID-19 and a forgivable \$10,000 economic impact loan. Audit of Financial Statement for previous fiscal year will be completed in October. In summary everything looking good, and we are on pace with what we had in the bank last year. Change in Milo Baker Chapter banking account approved by BOD.
- Election of Officers for Board of Directors and Chapter Council: See Bill Waycott's report at #5, below.
- **A.I: Strategic Plan Committee of BOD and CC to be formed** to update current [CNPS 2016 - 2021 Strategic Plan](#) for approval by Chapter Council in 2021.
- Virtual CNPS Events are shared by [Santa Clara Valley](#) and [Redbud](#) Chapters and [State CNPS](#) websites. Can be used by other Chapters for their periodic meetings. Send links to archived meetings / events to Elizabeth for sharing. [Short videos available on plant species](#) from the Jepson Herbarium.

5. Upcoming State Board and Chapter Council Elections (Bill W.): Election of Officers for Board of Directors for years 2021 – 2022 include [Vice President, Treasurer, three Directors and Chapter Council Representative](#); and for Chapter Council include [Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary](#). **A.I: Self-nomination form due October 1, 2020** require five signatures of endorsement from CNPS members via paper or electronically signed application or email to Bill Waycott. Maximum of 6 years (consecutive three two-year terms) in office allowed. One-year hiatus before again running for office. **A.I: Encourage recruitment of new and diverse people to serve in leadership.**

6. Diversity Working Group (Cris Sarabia, Vern Goehring)

Cris S. reported the group composed of Board, Chapter Council, CNPS staff and others (Cris S. Vivian N. Judy F. Vern G. Justin Daniel, Dee Himes, John Stanley, Christina Toms, Andre Clement, Dan Gluesenkamp, Liv O'Keeffe). Limited in size but others can reach out to be indirectly involved. Group has had three meetings considering:

- CNPS staff recruitment is equitable reflecting diversity of people in California.
- Diversity in membership and volunteerism.
- Diversity messaging in *Flora* and *Fremontia*.

- Environmental justice issues considered at past and future conservation conferences.
- Support / backup other conservation groups promoting diversity.
- Work closely with Board and Chapter Council on diversity issues.
- Promote diversity in education with scholarships and research grants and provide professional mentorships.
- Internal training and education tools.
- Urgent Action Items:
 - **A.I: Update CNPS Code of Conduct to include aspects of diversity.**
 - **A.I: Retain Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Consultant** to help achieve goals through training Chapter Council and Boards, CNPS Board and staff.
membership demographic.

Good to talk about issue but need to do work or get left behind. Do not want to bring our own biases into CNPS world. Relevant links: [Anti-racism resources](#), [Resources for Accountability and Actions for Black Lives Matter](#), [Scaffolding anti-racism resources](#).

Vern Goehring has 20 years as contract lobbyist for CNPS until 2017, organized Environmental Justice sessions at last two CNPS Conservation Conferences, lobbied for environmental justice in legislation to protect communities from bad urban planning and pollution. Also recognized need to bring nature to disadvantage communities. Need to consider:

- What do disadvantaged communities want re: Environmental Justice?
- What does Environmental Justice have to do with native plants, e.g. champion biological diversity?
- Empower disadvantage communities to advocate / speak for themselves, e.g. Human Right to Safe and Clean Drinking Water by community sampling and reporting to Regional Water Quality Control Boards.
- Why would diverse communities collaborate with CNPS?
- How would CNPS support diverse communities e.g. accessibility to native plant sales etc.?
- How to communicate CNPS Mission to be understandable, not scientific names and jargon, and in native language?

Need to be sensitive to local perceptions of what they need and not what we think they need, e.g. his efforts to encourage restoring sections of Morrison Creek in south Sacramento. Important to be an observer and sensitive / deferential to views of community.

Cris S. stated need to consider:

- Have signer for deaf people at CNPS conference.
- Survey CNPS members for baseline data of diversity,

- Have scholarships for students in marginalized groups and system for their distribution.

Sacramento Valley Chapter has created a Social Justice Committee.

Frank L. noted botanical “code switching” occurs all the time but there are benefits to stopping such talk as CNPS needs to be a science-based organization.

Judy F. noted CNPS Chapter [Scholarships](#) and State [Educational Grants](#) programs with grant applications due by Halloween, Oct 31 annually.

7. Policy Committee Update (Arlee Montalvo, Melissa Mooney) “Policy on Ethics and Best Practices for Collecting Native Plants”: [Memo to Council](#) | [Main Draft](#) (attachment "A") | [Supplement](#) (attachment "B")

[Arlee reported](#) Committee continues to work on relevant and needed updates to policies and guidelines with an emphasis on those related to effects of wildland fire. Chapters and staff need to provide feedback on which ones they use. The proposed policy on [Ethics And Best Practices For Collecting Native Plants](#) requires feedback by Oct. 28 for consideration of its adoption at the December 2020 CC Meeting.

A.I: Judy F. will send two memos to Chapters requesting feedback on [Collections Policy](#) and which [CNPS policies listed on spreadsheet](#) are used.

8. Revitalize Membership Committee advocated by Mary Frances to help Chapters with BMPs for managing membership, analysis of membership profiles, raising money etc. Supported by Judy F. This would be a joint Board/CC committee, working with staff.

9. Bylaws Committee update (Woody E.) [Bylaws Committee Report](#) of proposed amendments to the Bylaws was considered by the Board of Directors at last Friday’s meeting. **A.I: The Board requested additional time for their review and comment prior to December** when they may be considered for adoption by the Chapter Council. Additional proposed amendments to the Bylaws are welcome. See [Process For Adopting and Amending The Bylaws of the CNPS](#).

10. Brief Roundtable: Chapter Elections and Voting discussed several methods for remote voting:

- Mail-in ballots inserted into newsletters is expensive with small response.
- Polling capabilities in Zoom, SurveyMonkey and Doodle Poll not secure.
- Email request / response voting is OK and not precluded by [CAN-SPAM](#) because its Chapter business.
- Electronic voting by Chapter Council is permitted in [CNPS Bylaws Section C-10. Action by Teleconference or Without a Meeting](#). Chapters may vote remotely per

inference of CNPS Bylaws: [Section F-3. Operating Guidelines](#). Each Chapter may adopt guidelines for the regulation of chapter affairs which are compatible with the Society's articles of incorporation and bylaws. Consideration by the Bylaws Committee of procedures for remote voting by Chapters may be useful.

11. Strategic Plan/Chapter Annual Activity Report Refresher (Judy F.)
[CNPS 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan](#) needs refreshing with participants willing to join the Strategic Planning Committee to contact Judy F. The Chapter Annual Activities Report (CAAR) for each fiscal year (April to March) is modeled after the Strategic Plan. **A.I:** **Please remind Chapter members to keep track of volunteer time** (see [Chapter Event Tracking Form for tracking large events](#)) for completion of CAAR required to receive annual subvention.

Mary Frances suggested Strategic Plan should include tracking metrics for Diversity and Carbon Neutrality.

12. Review of State Board by Chapter Council – Survey (Marty Foltyn)
Required by Bylaws Section C-2. Role of Chapter Council (6) Annually evaluating (1) the performance of the Board of Directors; and (2) the Society's execution of its strategic plan, including the program work of the organization.

A.I: Online survey developed by Marty F. for completion by Nov. 1, 2020. Chapter Council Delegates and Presidents will be emailed [link to survey](#) to complete with option of including respondents name, role and area of state. Others are welcome to complete survey. Marty F. will compile and summarize results as useful feedback to members of Board and Chapter Council at December 2020 meeting.

13. Fire Presentation/Roundtable: Vegetation Management, Fire Recovery (Andrea Williams) – CNPS Director of Plant Science – Rare Plants & Horticulture Programs).

Presented issues of Fire and Fuel Management shown in her [PowerPoint Slides](#):

- Program/Issue areas.
- Current Resources
- Enviro review/policy/legislation areas
- Fuel Management / Working with nature.
- Current Working Group (Frank Landis, Jim Hanson, Jeanne Wilson, Laura Lovett, Andrea Williams)
- **A.I: Proposed Zoom “Interest Meeting” for October 2 noon to 2 PM** to discuss how to promote CNPS Mission including guidance for BMP similar to CNPS Fire Recovery Guide.

Comments from participants included:

- Defensible Space,
- Use of local genotypes for restoration. See [Plant Profiles](#) developed by RCRC in SoCal,
- Hardening structures,
- Keeping development out of wildlands with zoning,
- Furnishing appropriate info via fliers, plant lists for restoration / landscapes,
- Check for rare plant “hot spots” to avoid impacts from fuel breaks,
- Asked to help out with rare plant surveys prior to wildland fuel treatments,
- Clearing to bare ground required by insurance,
- Natural process of fire effects must recognize that fire frequency (none to too frequent) can be adverse.

14. CNPS Volunteer Awards (Charles Blair): Michael Luther – posthumous Statewide Award, as plant propagator for Santa Cruz Chapter. Sue Britting (El Dorado Chapter) prints and frames award certificates for the volunteer committee. **A.I: Request more nominations for Statewide Recognition Awards and Recognition Committee members from Southern California.** Awards under consideration include persons from San Diego Chapter and Agency Personnel of the Year.

Fellow applications to David Chipping. Committee needed to update Guidelines for Nomination of Fellows.

15. Next CC Meeting: Saturday, December 5, 2020. Email requested agenda items to CC Chair: [Judy Fenerty](#) Adjourned 12:45 PM.

16. CHAT Log. [Edited by Judy F.](#)