

## CONPS 10/27/2024 Minutes

4:02- Meeting starts, Maggie Gaddis introduces.

Mission moment - La Junta: our presence at tarantula fest and seed collection in Comanche. Reached a new area of the state. Wants to spread more of our scientific native plant knowledge to rural communities. Sue Kfifer was a major presence there. Di Graski was at La Junta, very first seed collection.

### 4:06 - Chapter Leadership Expectations

Turnover in chapters, especially now that there are new chapters (Arkansas River Valley and Gunnison Chapter). Look at foundational documents, particularly in regards to communications. Meeting is being recorded. Looked at Chapter President's Handbook. Would like a subcommittee to review this document and consider making changes to reflect modern methods of communication. Must be reviewed before being shown to chapter leaders at the next meeting.

Alex Bruce and Jackie Ramaley would like to be involved in subcommittee.

Maggie Gaddis

Di Graski

Gwen Kittel

Brad Klafehn

Pat Butler

Jackie Ramaley

Lynn Cudlip

Tim Berg

Anna Wilson

Curt Nimz

Alex Bruce

Kenar Houghton

Kelly Ambler

Michele Ritchie

DG, SE Chapter leader

GK, Treasurer, Field Studies Committee Chair

BK, Conservation Committee

PB, Boulder chapter

JR, Boulder chapter

LC, Gunnison chapter

TB, Denver chapter

AW, Board member at large

CN, SE outgoing chapter chair

AB, Ark Valley chapter

KH, SW chapter

MR, Board member at large

9 Voting members in attendance. 7 required for vote.

4:12- Curt Nimz: Asked to sign onto a letter for an amendment to Endangered Species Act. Should we pull members of the committee? Only talk to Maggie? Include board? What has been past practice? Curt could create a little matrix that would guide board in advocacy actions, including lawsuits, letter writing. Wanted to clarify if there is a. Gwen liked idea of grid/spectrum/pros/cons of advocacy work, when there would issues with advocacy. Di pointed out that it is in line with our 3rd goal. Curt wants to involve others before getting involve with higher profile advocacy work.

4:18 - Brad K: Third Thursday at 7pm. Maggie is the primary person to post events, knows how to involve others from other committees on this. Laurel is another point person. Everyone using membershipworks is inefficient. Main office will post events and meetings.

Maggie: We are trying to develop a pathway for new leaders, develop protocol for each chapter. Encouraged people with prior experience with changing

Comment in the chat: My 2 cents on who needs to be informed before signing on to decisions. Wouldn't that be Maggie?

Answer to that: Maggie can make people collaborators on the forms to be able to post things and check.

4:23 - Election of Board Members. (Pat Butler)

One of the elected board members has resigned from the board. Chapter leadership manual should conform to bylaws. Where on the website are the bylaws? Were adopted by the board in June 2023. Current link does not have updated bylaws. Vice president solicits members for new position from general membership, primarily through Aquilegia. This has not been done this year. Board added three members last year. No one had presented board nominations. Pat would like there to be general member solicitations for board nominations. Terms are usually 2 years. Regular rotation through board and term limits. Something that has not been done regularly is that board must have a finance report at meetings.

Gwen said that we now have financial information after not having that after 9 months. Will be able to review information. Difficulty of recruiting people post-COVID. Membership must be the ones to vote on it.

Maggie reminded that we lost the president and vice president. We have filled vacancies to reestablish officers, who did not have predecessors. There is lack of understanding and mentorship. We are not meeting mark, hope to meet that in 2025. Pulled data to gain feedback. Gwen mentioned that financial information was requested from Anne. Mo did Quickbooks for 16 years. Mo did not hand Gwen reins for treasurer.

Executive meeting is scheduled for next week.

4:35- Committee and Chapter Updates

**Hort Comm.** - (Alex Bruce) last meeting focused on reviewing policy for garden certification, how more people can be recruited into the garden certification process. Plan to do this through Native Garden tours.

**Education Comm.** -(Michele) Pursued Colorado Garden Grant. Sent letter of intent. Will support money to do a propagation workshop. Through 26 programs we have raised \$25,175. What are our central education curricula? General topics raise the most money. We will go into 2025 strategic conversations. What are the protocols and how are we operationalizing our plans?

**Restoration Comm** - (None present) Andrea's role has been filled by Mele Avery. Final seed collection is on 10/29/2024

**Media Comm** - (Kelly Ambler) Aquilegia is proceeding. One more issue this year. Should be out around mid November. Set of articles on restoration post fires for winter issue and an articles submitted for spring issue. Final issue of this year will focus on recap of annual conference. (Anna Wilson) social media things have been happening on Facebook, posts on Tuesdays. Look for new energy and new blood in social media. Putting out note to membership if there are people who are interested in turning posts into regular column.

Maggie: website is filled with resources, could repost information regularly. Facebook group and page. Page can be written to by administrators, group members can all interact.

**Field Studies Comm.** - first zoom meeting of fall originally scheduled in September. Moved to next week. Will cover phenology and adopt a rare plant program.

**Conservation Comm** - (Brad K) Oil and gas commission in 2019 ordered to protect habitat. The Commission has now adopted plants and other invertebrates. Oil and gas has sent this to biological taskforce. Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, in Department of Natural Resources. Zoom meeting last week, 8 people attended. Moving to the third Thursday at 7pm. 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan is in process, Jessica Smith has asked us to talk about Tier 1 and Tier 2 plant species. Engagespw.org has link to action plan. Comments due November 12.

**Scholarships and Grants Committee** - (Maggie) Has merged. Leo has agreed to step up for. Northern Chapter chair resigned in summer. Lots of action in Estes Park this year.

**Plateau Chap.** - (Jim) meeting on second Tuesday of last month, gave talk on wildflowers of Olympic peninsula (4 attended). There will be a Bumblebees of Colorado Talk on Nov. 4.

**Boulder Chap** - First meeting in October. Christian Nunzez. Flora and Butterflies of Fishers Peak. First hybrid meeting. Nov meeting will also be hybrid. Unsure who will speak in December.

More people sign up than actually attend. Trying to understand what causes lack of attendance. Planning field trips in early part of next year.

**Metro Denver** - (Tim Berg) Next month, will have table at Pollinators Summit at November 18th, will have holiday party December 7th. Open to all membership. CoNPS conference will be in Denver next September, looking at CSU spur. Limit of 275 people. Open to suggestions for other venues. 170 at Durango conference.

**Southeast Chap** - Laurel, Di, Curt, and Maggie met up this month. Curt put out call to past baton, Di willing to take it up. (Curt) - trying to transition things over to Laurel and Di, tried to have zoom meeting of favorite flowers slideshow. That will be rescheduled to the first of the year.

**San Luis Valley Chap** - (Maggie) Lot of new partners: refuge manager, volunteers for San Luis valley. Gave a talk at Adam State at lab. Basic field botany lab. Repeating botany lab in every chapter is the ultimate goal.

**Southwest Chap** - Kenar: not many updates, trying to schedule meetings one Thursday for winter, spring, and field trips. Kenar was accepted into CSU master gardener program. Kenar is willing to share notes from that class. Conference was a success.

**Arkansas Valley Chap** - (Alex Bruce) Winter propagation seminar and native seed swap in January. Planning phase atm. May do Wildflowers 101 again.

**Gunnison** (Lynn) - We will plan our next programs. Had first garden tour. Brought together 18 members. Working on programming for 2025

**Telluride** - Working on building up potential chapter in 2025

**Comanche** - Working on building up potential chapter in 2025. Many connections made in La Junta and Comanche area.

5:18 - Tim brought up renewing memberships and making sure memberships are active. We should grandfather in people who have already paid membership, but people who lapse must pay a higher membership fee. We surpassed \$50,000 in membership income. Maggie will forward email Alex Smith

Meeting ended 5:21pm.