

The California Native Plant Society
CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING—September 7, 2007
Hosted by Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara Valley chapters.
UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, Santa Cruz, California

Called to order at 5:40 PM.

PRESENT: Alta Peak, Bristlecone, Channel Islands, Dorothy King Young, East Bay, El Dorado County, Kern County, LA/Santa Monica Mountains, Marin County, Milo Baker, Mojave Desert, Monterey Bay, Mount Lassen, North Coast, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego, San Gabriel Mountains, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara Valley, Santa Cruz County, South Coast, Willis L. Jepson, and Yerba Buena.

ABSENT: Napa Valley, Redbud, Riverside/San Bernadino, Sanhedrin, Sequoia, Shasta, Sierra Foothills, and Tahoe.

Introductions

Approval Of Chapter Council Minutes from June 2007:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.

Betsey Landis (LA/Santa Monica) commented that we never see a final form of the minutes. This is a problem with the organization. She will abstain.

Yerba Buena was not added to the mailing list until August, therefore did not receive the minutes.

Larry Levine (CC VP, North Coast) is the person to speak to about this.

→**Action Item:** Vote: 1 abstention, none opposed.

Board Of Directors Report—postponed to later in the agenda. Charli Danielsen is ill

Director's Report—**canceled.** Amanda Jorgenson was unable to be present

Conservation Symposium update—Gordon Leppig, Chairman

The Conservation Symposium will be held January 17 – 19, 2009, at the Sacramento Sheraton. The theme will be **Strategies and Solutions for Conservation in the 21st Century**. It will be co-located with the conference of the western section of the World Wildlife Federation. A lot of help is needed from the Chapter Council and the chapters, now and closer to the date.

Dave Flietner (San Diego) asked that requests for help be as specific as possible.

Leppig announced that the symposium got \$5000 from the Forest Service yesterday.

Legislative Update—Vern Goering, see Handout #1¹

The Legislature is in its last couple of days of session, trying to finish by next Wednesday sunup. The mood is sour after the 52-day budget delay.

Vegetation Mapping survived in AB828, has been amended, is in its final vote in the Senate. \$3.9 million has been approved for vegetation mapping by WCB.

Vern attended a meeting with General Services to discuss changing the landscaping of the State Capitol to native vegetation.

The handout details all the pending legislation and its status. "Position" is the CNPS position. These bills and more are listed on the CNPS website. Arnold has 30 days to sign. The website will be updated as soon as the bills are signed.

Vegetation Program Update—Julie Evens

An email report will come out later.

Recent vegetation training seminars:

- Eastern Sierra last week, for the public
- September 6 at Fort Ord, for the Santa Cruz and Sacramento chapters

Participated in a workshop on central Maritime Chaparral held at the Elkhorn Slough Estuary and Research Center. Brought along whole group of people.

In October there will be a vegetation mapping workshop that will cover how to map vegetation in the office as well as in the field. It will be held in Marin County and UC Berkeley.

In the office, Julie is trying to complete some reports to inventory vegetation where surveys have been done. She is now completing a report on the northern Sierra foothills. This likely will lead to mapping the vegetation there.

The office is working on hiring a replacement for Anne Kline.

They are starting to bring together data sets on grasslands in anticipation of finding a multi-year, multi-agency project.

A pilot project is just starting in the Lassen Foothills area in Tehema County, about 100,000 acres. This will be a model for using fire in restoration in that area.

When time permits, Julie works on the Manual of California Vegetation. The timeline follows:

- revising the descriptions
 - working with John Sailer (sp?) and Todd Keeler-Wolf
 - target mid-October
- then will work on the front matter—end of November.
- to the copy editor 2008
- publish by fall of 2008
 - have been working to find funds to publish. Previous funding has come primarily through agencies—\$75,000
 - also fund-raising for the future goal of getting it online.

Bob Soost (Marin) asked if the workshops gained new members.

Evens replied that both public and chapter workshops have generated new members every time.

Leppig expressed concern about protection of rare natural communities, which don't have the clout of a CNPS standing.

Evens replied that we can work on that. We need to outline what the needs are and work for a system to rank the communities like we rank the plants. A committee is being set up to work on it.

Membership Issues

Membership growth—Arvind Kumar

- Slight rise in new members
- South Coast chapter had a 20% increase
- Santa Clara Valley came in second
- Third place to San Gabriel Mountains

We are losing members at a greater rate than gaining

- Need to use lapsed member data from the state to pursue those members
 - They get 3 reminders from the state
- Will do another lapsed member appeal in 2007
- Going for automatic renewal
- Membership cards are a work in progress

The Life Member category generates loyalty, should be revived.

Landis stated that the Life Member category wasn't bringing in more money, wasn't generating active members, and wasn't a useful tool to gain new members.

Evans: Automatic renewals or especially reminding people on line to renew could connect with young people who spend a lot of time online. Are there actions underway to increase memberships of younger people at schools, etc.?

Kumar replied that this will be on the agenda for membership meeting tomorrow.

Serving the Membership—Lori Hubbard and Carrie Porter

New people on the office staff: full time membership—Stacey Flowerdew. She has caught up with the backlog and is now going through the zip code list. Stacey sends updates to membership chairs.

Carrie Porter is now full time in finance and management.

The new development person is Melissa Cirone.

Stacey is the person to go to with corrections for the Directory. Each chapter should check the Directory information ASAP.

Landis: There should a place on the renewal form for chapter affiliation.

Lori Hubbard: (Dorothy King Young) What we want to see is some standardization—a list of zip codes for all chapters.

She would like to be informed if any members in her chapter have an issue with the state organization.

Porter: Stacey has just sent out lists of questionable zip codes to the membership chairs.

Mary Frances Kelly Poh (Willis L.Jepson) stated that Stacey has a list of those members who need information by regular mail.

Levine further stated that there are still a few people who do not have computer access. He suggests they have a buddy who can receive and provide hard copy.

Board Of Directors Report—Brett Hall (for Charli Danielsen)

Litigation report—Keith Wagner, chairman of the CNPS Legislation Committee, an attorney.

- Rancho Cordovo, sensitive vernal pools, huge development.
 - Went to the Supreme Court for rulings on water supply and fish. The whole plan was thrown out. CNPS filed suit over “The Preserve”, a vernal pool area that failed to meet the requirements.
- Clear Creek, Brian LeNeve—OHV usage. BLM is not doing what it is supposed to do, may be a suit.
- West Mojave, Ileene Anderson. Once again, BLM is not doing its job.
- Forest Service project approvals shown to be illegal by filing of a lawsuit, re: herbicide spraying.
 - Two in Santa Cruz—Arana Gulch Case was heard today. Branch of Forty (?) project—developer has decided to determine charges to be made vs. going to court.
- El Dorado County
- Will talk to any chapter about possible litigation issues. The litigation policy is on the website.

The BOD approved a new benefits package for CNPS employees. (Cheers, especially from the employees.)

New Conservation Director—Sue Britting.

- Sue has worked on a job description (not attached) and a Program of Work for the conservation director. See Handout #2²
- The BOD decided to share it with Chapter Council tonight and email it around for comment by chapters.
- The BOD will be talking at their November meeting about how to fund this position. It is hoped that we will be able to hire within a few months.

The Planning and Conservation League wants CNPS to be a full member.

Meetings Hosting Process—Bishop See Handout #3³

Kevin Bryant of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter was concerned that with the new alignment, they would never have a turn to host a chapter council meeting.

The question arose whether or not we should keep the permanent sites. We have conflicts in Berkeley and will have problems at RSABG if Lorrae Fuentes ever goes away. Should we leave some mobility?

Lauren Brown (San Luis Obispo) suggested that we alternate RSABG with some other site.

Landis said that she had never heard Lorrae say that the meeting is a burden. If we add to the host groups, that will help Rancho. The site is convenient to almost everything and the garden is a huge asset.

Gabi McClean (San Gabriel Mountains) agreed that she had not heard anything negative from Ranch. She questioned whether we really need four meetings a year—all that travel. Maybe two or three statewide meetings and one local meeting, north and south, would be OK. Fewer meetings, but longer, with workshops, speakers, and more in depth.

_____ It's good to keep the contact four times a year.

Levine enjoys the travel. He particularly likes the venues where food service and housing are available on site.

Rancho is allied with our interests and they contribute to our programs.

Would rather look at advantages that specific sites have for use, could repeat.

Flietner: Maybe March is not the best time for Rancho. December could be better for them? Meetings *are* a burden on the hosts. Maybe we should have a regular site in Sacramento.

Bishop: The Bay North chapters will host the September meeting and they will choose a site.

Joan Stewart: (Alta Peak) We need to consider the cost of meeting in big, urban areas—accommodations are more expensive. However, one can fly there easily. Four meetings are essential to keep the spirit going, especially for small isolated chapters such as hers.

Delia Taylor: (East Bay) We should have one meeting in the Bay *area*, but not always in December.

Bishop: Anyone excited about this can join a small committee to formulate plans for 2008.

Global Warming—Diana Hickson

The carbon footprint of the June meeting might indicate there is a good reason to cut down on the number of meeting. See Handout #4⁴

The Policy Committee is going to start working on a policy.

Levine: A mitigating factor is that some use the travel to do other things.

Hickson: The chart does not show people's comments.

Integrated Weed Management and Use of Herbicides—Larry Levine and Jim

Bishop See Handouts #5⁵ and #6⁶

We are past the fine-tuning process. Look at the content, the concepts, and how it will affect the business of the chapters.

The policy will be presented to the chapters, which will have at least 45 days to consider it. It should be ready for a final adoption and a vote in December. It can still evolve after that.

Two changes need to be made:

- Page 1, Use of Herbicides, under "Recommendations," "1. Appropriate Use...", line 1 change "...non-native..." to "...weedy or invasive..."
- Page 1, Wildland Invasive Plants, under "Guidelines/Recommendations," "1. Project Guidelines," "A.," [changes were not clear]

Other suggestions/recommendations:

McClellan questioned the last sentence of the last paragraph on the last page of the herbicide policy—"Therefore, CNPS *believes*..." The wording should be stronger.

Taylor sees a need for case study support in the reference section.

Levine proposed that a small committee should gather that information and add a small amount of reference material for clarification.

There will be people who will continue to have a strong emotional response regardless of the references we cite.

Landis feels strongly that in the last paragraph of the herbicide policy, the words “believes” and “not lawful” must be changed.

Soost: A legal person should look at it.

Blair: Jake Sigg’s article on invasive controls would be a good reference to cite.

As a case history, the Arundo control practices in the Santa Maria area have been very successful; it would be good to cite under the herbicide section.

Flietner: People should send in these successful case histories.

Under Integrated Weed Management, training practices could be more detailed. These could be in the references.

Levine: Best Management Strategies is a plan to eradicate Loosestrife. It was very extensive and specific. We should keep our policy as brief as possible and not be too specific.

Britting requested that someone look into Best Management Strategies. That could be a supporting document.

Levine: We are looking for people who would be motivated and knowledgeable enough to seek out references. We should limit ourselves to 30 days to find the references.

Santa Cruz chapter suggested that changes be made in **Integrated Weed Management**, page 2, “2. CNPS Participation, A. a)

Bishop: Suggested changes should be substantive. The need is clear for support material and the detail needed to implement the policy.

Hopefully, chapters will get the final version with 45 days to review it.

Open Forum

Britting: Elections will happen in October. Petitions are due September 15. We really need people to step forward. There are many open positions, including Chapter Council chair. Everything is on the CNPS website.

Levine: Regarding communications—the herbicide/weed management policy is an example. We move slowly on things. We need ways to function between meetings. Both the BOD and the CC have the ability to take action between meetings. Electronic voting would be a possibility provided consent comes in writing.

Bertha McKinley: Most of the 5,000 grass poster sets have been sold. Several of the posters need reprinting. Chapters should go to parks, gift shops, visitor centers, etc., to promote the posters. There are a lot of unsold posters out there. A deal can be worked out to send back posters that aren’t selling.

Stewart: The July-September Bulletin has a report on the Research Grants. Guidelines for grants are on the web. Applications are due in September. The Grants committee would like to have another couple of reviewers for the grant applications. Results are announced in December.

The entire Chapter Council manual is now on the web. An explanation of the manual and the Table of Contents were handed out. See Handouts #7⁷ and #8⁸

Announcements and Volunteer Recognition

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Bob Hotaling of the San Luis Obispo chapter. In addition to many other contributions, Bob published the chapter newsletter for ten years. Lauren Brown, chapter president, picked up the award for him. “This recognition is a great thing to bring back to the chapter. More chapters should take advantage of this program,” she said.

Levine: The by-laws state that action by teleconference or comparable technology requires a quorum. The by-laws further state that such action may take place if consent occurs in writing. [How does this

work, Larry? Do all BOD/CC members have to write giving their permission to go this route? The Ed.] In case of a dispute about an issue, there must be immediate interaction, so email doesn't work.

Sattler: Sierra Club has tackled this problem. There must be very specific guidelines.

Bishop: Good points have been raised, but this needs to be considered in light of legal requirements.

Flietner: Have the discussion here at the meeting; hold the vote until it's brought before the chapters.

Kelly Poh was unable to attend the June meeting, but wanted to vote. There is no mechanism for absentee voting.

Levine: We were short of votes at the last meeting so absent members were polled and their votes counted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM (or thereabouts)

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Jayne, Chapter Council secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

➔ **Action Item:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Vote: 1 abstention, none opposed.

¹ Legislative Status Report 9/4/2007

² Program of Work for the Conservation Director

³ Changes in meeting-host groups

⁴ June 2007 Chapter Council Meeting Carbon Footprint Calculation

⁵ CNPS Policy—The Use of Herbicide in Situations Where Native Vegetation May Be Affected

⁶ CNPS Policy—Wildland Invasive Plants, Integrated Weed Management

⁷ Chapter Council Manual, an explanation

⁸ Chapter Council Manual, Table of Contents, June 06