

**CNPS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA April 3, 2019**

Audubon Offices, 4010 Morena Blvd. Suite 100 San Diego, CA

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. (Quorum = Six Board Members)

Known absences:

Guests: Mike Gonzales

- I. Welcome visitors and announcements** **[6:30 – 6:35]**

- II. Additions or Changes to the Agenda** (Justin) **[6:35 - 6:40]**
 - A. Vote to approve.

- III. Review of Minutes** (Maggie) **[6:40 – 6:45]**
 - A. Vote to approve.

- IV. Guest Business** **[6:45 – 7:00]**
 - A. **SDPA Scripps Ranch HS Mini Grant** (Mike Gonzales) [Attachments via email]

- V. New Business** **[7:00-7:30]**
 - A. Revisions to By Laws (Bobbie) Motion Required.
 - B. Revisions to the Board Handbook (Bobbie) Motion Required.
 - C. Mini-Grant Application – Escondido Creek Conservancy (Torrey) ATT email
 - D. Nick Jensen Conservation Analyst support at \$5K. Motion Required. ATT 2
 - E. SOS Initiative Support. Motion Required. ATT 3
 - F. CNPS State Rare Plant Inventory Online. Request for 2K+ from Aaron Simms. ATT 4.
 - G. Board Secure Drop Box & Google Drive – Event Planning / Volunteer Sign Ups
Calendar and Open Positions Web Page. No Action Needed.

- VI. Major Events** **[7:30 – 7:50]**
 - A. **Native Garden Tour (Judie)** ATT email
 - B. **Fall Plant Sale (Connie)**
 - C. **Fall & Winter Workshop**
 - D. **Chapter Council Meeting – June 7-9 in Santa Clara (near San Jose)**

- VII. Committee Reports** **[7:50 – 8:35]**
 - A. **Habitat Restoration (Bob)**
 - **Truck for Chapter activities update**
 - B. **Chapter Sponsorships** (Al, Justin, Josue)—2019 sponsorships
 - C. **Conservation Committee** (Frank) ATT email

1. Conservation allies (see attachment).
2. Del Mar Mesa FEIR: SD Planning Commission 4/4 at 9 am.
3. Mission Trails Master Plan FEIR: SD Planning Commission 4/4 at 9 am.
4. Fiesta Island Master Plan FEIR: SD Planning Commission 4/11 at 9 am
5. Santee Climate Action Plan NOP, comments due April 29, 2019.
6. Otay Ranch Village 14: Update.

D. Hospitality (Frank)

E. Programs (Torrey)

F. Propagation Committee (Amy Huie – ATT)

G. Field Trips (Justin)

- Desert Trips – Pictograph Trail ABSP & Valley of the Moon, Jacumba (March)
- Algodones Dunes to Ninemile Wash Imperial County (April 6-7)
- Elsinore Peak w/ Orange County (March 31st)
- Torrey Pines Extension to Crest Canyon w/ Fred (April 20)
- ~~Baja (Valle Tranquilo & Punta Colonet)~~ *Likely canceled or postponed*

H. Garden Committee – (Al)

I. Website/Social Media Report – (Joseph Sochor)

J. Newsletter (Bobbie)

K. Personnel Committee (Bobbie)

L. Book Table (Cindy)

M. Rare Plant Surveys (Josue)

- VIII. Treasurer’s Report (Connie) [8:35 – 8:50]**
- A.** Treasurer’s Report for March. No action required
 - B.** Proposed Annual Budget for 2019-2020. Motion required.
 - C. Reserve investment opportunity & State process for approval. ATT 1**

- IX. Old Business [8:50-8:55]**
- A.** ListServ update

- X. Wrap up and conclusions [8:55-9:00]**
- Next Meeting Date: May 1, 2019**
- A. Important agenda items?**
 - B. Tasks to accomplish prior?**

ATTACHMENT 1 – Investment Opportunities – State CNPS response

Thanks Brock for the information.

I am aware via Chapter Council notes that CNPS has terminated its relationship with Lighthouse. Was this the investment company that realized a 4.25% yield on invested funds since 2014? I am assuming that the organization now has a new relationship with another investment house. Who might this be? Do you currently have CD accounts where money is invested? What is the rate of return on these accounts?

Currently the San Diego Chapter has all of our bank accounts with Wells Fargo (have had since 1985). We have 2 checking accounts and 2 savings accounts. I intend to close one of the savings accounts as of April - it is no longer needed for us not to be charged bank fees on our second checking account. If we should choose to change our banking relationship in the future, please provide the steps that we would need to go through.

If we open an additional Wells Fargo account, a blended CD account, it is my understanding that the State Board of Directors will need to approve this. The next BOD meeting will be held in June. Anything you would need from us other than a Chapter Board resolution from us that would include the amount and the authorized signers? Do you have a State-wide resolution that you can provide for us to consider? If you can answer this question tomorrow, Friday, I'd appreciate it. Our next meeting is Wednesday April 3 and this will be discussed.

Thanks, Connie

On Mar 28, 2019, at 5:12 PM, Brock Wimberley <bwimberley@cnps.org> wrote:

Hi Connie,

Below is information on the chapter investment option we discussed earlier this week.

Investment Accounts

Chapters with excess reserves on hand may choose to take advantage of higher rates of return by way of pooled investments. Annualized rate of return from invested funds equaled 4.25% since 2014. The CNPS Investment Policy emphasizes short to midterm investments for cash and long term investments for endowments and reserves. The policy also emphasizes low to medium risk investments. The full CNPS Investment Policy is attached for your information.

CNPS maintains investment accounts, in which chapters are encouraged to invest. Chapter investments are maintained in a chapter specific restricted fund and earn interest monthly. In order to participate the chapter would need to invest at the beginning of a quarter and withdraw at the end of any quarter. The attached form is used for withdrawals from chapter restricted funds.

Any decision to invest must be approved and documented by a resolution of the chapter board. Resolution must include the desired investment amount and the names of at least two (2) chapter members as authorized signers.

Let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you.

Brock Wimberley
Finance and Operations Director
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 738-7603
<http://CNPS.org>

ATTACHMENT 2 – Southern California Conservation Analyst Support

On Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7:35:11 PM PST, Julie Clark De Blasio <clarkdeblasio@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Frank,

Here's the skinny on time sensitivity in learning various chapter donation commitments to the position:

The Switzer Foundation gave a large donation last year, which helped offset the one-time bequest from the Liz Schwartz Estate. In a rare decision, Switzer is offering a second year of the fellowship in 2019. However, this is conditional on the foundation seeing a commitment by CNPS of internal contributions and efforts to sustain the SoCal Analyst position in the long run. Dan and Christine Pieper (CNPS Development Director) expect Switzer to request these numbers in the next 1-4 weeks. Essentially, they will not give the fellowship again without CNPS fiscal commitment.

Nick and Greg shared the accomplishments of the Analyst the first 14 months of its tenure. San Diego chapter benefits from Nick's work on SCAG regional and natural lands planning, Newland Sierra, and DRECP defense.

I hope this information is useful to you and your chapter. We hope you will choose to donate again this year, after discussing the merits and value of the SoCal Analyst. Again, kindly share what you believe your chapter can commit to as a contribution to either me, Dan, or Christine at your earliest convenience so we can assure the Switzer Foundation that there is organizational and sustainable support for the position.

Thank you,
Julie

ATTACHMENT 3 – SOS Initiative asking for CNPS support again for 2019-2020 (ballot issue)

Hi Frank and Justin,

CNPS signed on as a supporter of the S.O.S. initiative last year. This is the initiative that would require development projects that require County General Plan amendments to go to a vote by the general public.

Diane Coombs, one of the leaders of the effort, recently called me with a request to CNPS San Diego. She probably thought of me, because I did a little support work for the initiative last year.

Diane reminded me that this will be on the ballot next year. The group that has led this effort is looking for co-sponsors and would like to know if CNPS wants to sign on as a supporter again.

She wants CNPS to be alerted early, because the publicity will be out in the summer, and she hopes that the environmental community will be on board and in writing in the publicity.

If you want to contact Diane, I used this email address last year. I hope it works.
drbcoombs@msn.com

Sincerely,
Kay

Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com> Wed, Mar 27, 3:26 PM (5 days ago)

Hi Justin, I'm Dan Silver with San Diegans for Managed Growth. I'm happy to answer your questions.

A vote of the people on a general plan amendment only kicks in subsequent to board of supervisor approval. If the supervisors denied the GPA, then there's no vote. If they approve the project, then there is a vote essentially to ratify or not the board decision. All CEQA has already occurred prior to board decision making, so there is no loss of accountability or process in that regard. Lawsuits could still be filed.

There are exemptions for an increase of 5 units or less and for housing needed to meet state low income requirements.

Please let me know if this does not answer the questions or other information would be helpful. We look forward to your group's consideration.

Dan

Justin
Daniel <californiamanticore@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27,
4:16 PM (5
days ago)

Hi Dan-

Thank you for the prompt response!

I just wanted to know if there was any changes to the wording of the initiative before going on the ballot over the past year, or otherwise any not-obvious issues that may have come up with the SOS as is. As long as the initiative doesn't result in allowing bypassing the CEQA process like the Carlsbad 2016 "Measure A" Agua Hedionda appeared to try to do, I believe you can count CNPS in supporting SOS again. Between your assessment and Frank's description, I have the concise wording to bring this to the attention of the Board thoughtfully. An approval on our April minutes would support the signing on officially by our chapter.

Justin Daniel, President
California Native Plant Society

Frank Landis Wed, Mar 27, 4:25 PM (5 days ago)

Hi Justin,

Dan will say it better than I do, but basically, there are three ways a project can get approved:

- standard planning process (EIR, etc.)
- Mounting an initiative (as with Measure A), in which case CEQA is not involved, and either
- the lead agency can approve it outright, or
- they will send it to the ballot.

All the SOS initiative does is to add an extra step to the County's standard planning process, but only for GPAs that increase housing density above five units. If the development complies with the County General Plan, SOS is not triggered.

Dan Silver Wed, Mar 27, 4:25 PM (5 days ago)

Appreciated, Justin. And no, no changes whatsoever. It has to be on the ballot as initially circulated.

Best

Dan

ATTACHMENT 4 – CNPS State Online Rare Plant Inventory Database

Hi rare plant aficionados and Rare Plant Program supporters,

We are seeking help for developing a new database for the CNPS Inventory, which feeds information directly to the Online Inventory, and I was asked by a potential volunteer what the project is, who it serves, and what problem it solves (they also asked how it's going to save the world, but I don't have an answer for that yet). In response I came up with the following list of bullets, and am hopeful that they can help illustrate the importance and stimulate support.

I realize these are CNPS centric and somewhat put CNPS on a pedestal, but as a successful process running for 50 years, and with a free public database going on 18 years, I feel these points ring true. Sending to you as talking points for potential funders or interested parties you may come across in your work.

Importance of the CNPS Inventory database and CNPS Online Inventory from a conservation context:

- CNPS is fully responsible for giving plants official rarity and conservation status in California--- without the CNPS Rare Plant Program initiating the rare plant status review process and maintaining the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS Inventory), many rare and endangered plants and populations would go unnoticed, mostly lack legal protections, and could in turn ultimately be lost from development and other threats. (In other words, the CNPS Inventory is ground zero for rare plant conservation status in California.)
- Plants that are given official conservation status by CNPS are included in our Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, which has been continuously published by CNPS since 1974, and provided as a free online resource since 2001 (www.rareplants.cnps.org).
- The CNPS Inventory holds two major functions: it helps prevent plants from becoming State or Federally Listed, and at the same time prioritizes plants that need to be Listed.
- Most plants included in the CNPS Inventory (currently 1,716 plants) meet the qualifications of State/Federal Listing, and are legally protected under CEQA/NEPA, and an additional 670 plants may meet these qualifications. (Without CNPS status, most rare plants would not have CEQA/NEPA protection, or would not be identified as potentially having these protections.)
- Only 406 plants in California are currently State and/or Federally Listed, whereas the CNPS Inventory currently includes 2,386 rare plants. This means that without CNPS status, 1,980 plants would otherwise not have adequate conservation status or be identified for conservation concern.
- Government agencies, industry, academia, NGOs, and conservationists use the CNPS Online Inventory on a daily basis for professional use as the most authoritative and up-to-date, public resource on the status of California's rare

plants (to identify the rare plants that meet protections, and find out where they generally occur).

The problem: The underlying database that has been feeding information to the CNPS Online Inventory (rareplants.cnps.org) since 2001 will stop working in less than 3 months

- Once it stops working, for the first time in the history of rare plant conservation in California, CNPS will no longer be able to provide updates of rare plant data in the CNPS Online Inventory; most importantly, we will no longer be able to display newly ranked plants or plants that have undergone a rank change to a higher or lower conservation status.
- This means that any plants that are newly added to the CNPS Inventory will no longer be obtainable by the public from the CNPS Online Inventory, and will potentially go unnoticed, unprotected, and could therefore ultimately fall under the dozer.
- There are over 200 plants currently without conservation status in California that have been proposed for addition to the CNPS Inventory, a number of which are completely new to science.
- An additional 100 plants have been identified as needing a change in status (either going from a lower to higher conservation status or vice versa).
- Without the database, the CNPS Online Inventory will not display any of these new additions or changes, and many rare plant populations could be left in the dust.

In summary, when our database breaks in less than 3 months, it can lead to serious consequences for the conservation of California's rare and endangered plants.

Cheers,
Aaron--

Aaron E. Sims, Rare Plant Botanist | California Native Plant Society
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