

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program

Executive Board Meeting

9 August 2018 12:30pm-3:30 pm Platte River Nature Conservancy Wood River

Welcome and Call to Order—Faas

The Nebraska Master Naturalist Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by acting chair, Andrea Faas at 12:30pm. Thank you to Platte River Nature Conservancy staff for hosting this meeting was extended on behalf of the NMN Executive Board.

Roll Call—Dublinske

Faas-present	Guests—Vicki Von Loh and Bob Wells--
Schrad-present	representatives of the NMN Foundation
Ferraro-present	
Krohn-present	
Stone-Present	
Klein-present	
Jones, A.-present	
Dublinske-present	
Robie-present	
Jones, M-present	
Stoner-absent	
Hayes-absent	

Review of Minutes from the April 5, 2018 Executive Board Meeting—Dublinske

Suggestion to correct the name on p.2, MOU Committee Update from Stone to Stoner.

Suggestion to add the word “template” under Chapter Bylaws in the last sentence, so that it reads, “Proposed bylaws template was approved.”

Moved by Ferraro, seconded by Schrad to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Executive Session—Faas

Executive Board went into executive session at 12:35pm. Executive Session ended at 12:52pm.

Planning Committee—Schrade—continuing and ongoing. No specific report.

Memorandum of Understanding Committee—Krohn

MOU with the Foundation is in progress. There is a need to review and make final changes, and obtain the necessary signatures.

Procedures Updates:

Chapter Bylaws—Klein

Karen Klein will update changes and amendments as approved at the April 5, 2018 meeting for final draft. Suggestion to review if the chapter bylaws need to contain a clause as to what happens when a vacancy occurs, the length of terms, and language for at large representatives to the Executive Board, as designated by the individual chapters, since those individuals are not elected on a statewide ballot. Midge Dublinske and Karen Klein will bring suggestions to next meeting.

Discussion was held as to whether there should be term limits in chapter bylaws, as in statewide program bylaws, or to have no limits to the number of terms in either chapter or statewide program bylaws. The consensus was that chapter bylaws and statewide program bylaws should reflect the same length of terms of service of representatives. Andrea Faas and Midge Dublinske will bring suggestions to next meeting.

Foundation—Vicki Von Loh and Bob Wells

Representatives of the foundation discussed the formation of a website to promote the NMN Foundation and to promote the NMN program to include funding, calendars, chapter pages, and to increase the awareness that the NMN Foundation exists. The Program is listed as a 501© 3 status for the website.

Moved by Schrade and seconded by Ferraro to approve the construction of a website for the benefit of all NMN members funded by the NMN Foundation. Motion carried.

Report on Grants and Funding—Ferraro

NET grant is in progress with the assistance of Brice Krohn, Kristal Stoner and Dennis Ferraro. Current funding for the coordinator position is available, with possible future funding coming through the Foundation and matching funds from grants. Tentatively,

the Foundation would have to issue a letter of intent (commitment) for such funding for that purpose. There may be possible changes in job description for the coordinator in July, 2019.

Break from 2:15-2:25 pm

Reports and Updates continued.

It was determined that a checking account for the NMN program was no longer needed, and funding for February Gala would be made to the Foundation.

No further contact with the Isaac Walton League becoming a partner. Suggestion is mute at this time.

Report from Matt Jones, Program Coordinator on registering volunteer hours. Currently 121 NM are active with 67 having met their obligations for education and volunteering. Current total of 63,600 volunteer hours for the program are recorded, but no report on where the volunteer hours are being served throughout the state.

Upcoming Trainings will be at Niobrara Valley Nature Conservancy, Cedar Point, Crane Trust. NMN statewide conference to be held at Crane Trust on October 5 and 6th. Legacy Conference in Ainsworth September 19-20th.

Chapter Updates:

River City NMN—Klein

River City NM continues to provide service projects and social events. Recently they participated in NMN outreach to Heron Haven, Glacier Creek, and Earth Day programs in Metro area. RCNMN plan to offer Core+ training, BioBlitz, social and lake clean up at Lake Wanahoo near Wahoo.

Salt Valley Proposed Chapter—Dublinske

Lincoln area NMN continue to do stream clean up at Trendwood Park. Several NMN participated at the Weatherfest booth, serve as contacts for the Prairie Corridor at Haines Branch project in conjunction with Lincoln Parks and Recreation program, and provided assistance to the Nebraska Games and Parks for School Science Nights. During the summer months, Lincoln area members continue to do meet ups on the first Wednesday in the month. Members are participating and volunteering, however meeting attendance has been minimal.

Proposed Greater Nebraska Chapter—M. Jones

There will be efforts in May and after the conference in October to set a date and site for a meeting of those interested in forming a greater Nebraska chapter. Bader Park near Chapman has been using naturalists for their summer programs.

Committee Reports:

Marketing—there has been an advertisement for NMN program in the July issue of Nebraska Life, along with Facebook posts, and press releases regarding the NET grant.

Evaluation—no report.

Sustainability—NET grant in progress—Krohn, Stoner and Ferraro.

Membership—request for list of newly trained NMN and list of partner representatives. Matt will follow up.

Educational Program and Curriculum—there has been a good response to Core, Core+ programs for both the week long trainings and week-end trainings. There is not a significant difference in members retained based on Core and Core+ trainings held over two week-ends of the week long training. There is on-going examination of budgetary needs for trainings.

External Review—Ferraro and UN-L on-going. No specific report at this time.

Foundation—next Foundation board meeting will be August 24, 2018 to include NET grant and procedures. This involves Brice Krohn, Matt Jones, Dennis Ferraro and Kristal Stoner.

No update on future Gala, location or date.

Next meeting November 16, 2018, 8:30am-12:30pm at Hardin Hall, east campus UN-L.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Midge Dublinske, Acting Secretary