



Florida Native Plant Society

**Council of Chapters Meeting Minutes 01/26/2020**

ONLINE Go2Meeting

taken by Athena Philips – CoC Secretary

Kara Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

**In attendance (14)**

\* indicates proxy

Citrus – Gail Taylor

Cuplet Fern – Mark Kateli

Eugenia – David Martin

Heartland – Gregory Thomas

Ixia – Jessica Spencer

Lake Beautyberry – Patricia Burgos

Martin – Dianna Wentink

Naples – Kara Driscoll CoC Chair

Pawpaw – Karen Walker

Pawpaw – Sandi Habali

Pinellas – David Perky

Sweetbay – Jody Wood-Putnam\*

?? – Debra Mixon\*

Athena Philips CoC Secretary

➤ **Announcements/Reminders:**

- **Forum:** Meetings are posted to the Forum and you can be notified when a new post is made (Kara does demo on screen). And you can go to the Board of Directors meeting link and get those reports. It's viewable to anyone.
- **Proxies:** If you can't attend a meeting, I want someone from the chapter to attend, as we record attendance.
- **Next Meeting:** The next In-person meeting is Feb 8th, in Jacksonville and the *entire meeting will be streamed!* It's important that everyone be able to attend these meetings, even if not in person.

## ➤ Old Business

- Inter-Chapter Disaster Relief –

**Mark Kateli:** I called all the Representatives last year. This idea came after Hurricane Mathew, which was a concerning event. My thought was was, what would happen if this happened to a heavily populated area? This project could be a safety net for chapters. The draft emailed to everyone is based on a FEMA plan. We'll list funds, goods, or services you could provide a chapter after a disaster – which right now chapters are on their own, working from their own brain-power and resources, which is the least desirable way.

FEMA declarations may be the best way to make disaster determination. The plan draft has five steps: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, Recovery.

Examples:

Prevention - score existing equipment, such as tents, garden supplies, etc.

Protection - a plan of action and communication. After disaster can we communicate on Facebook or publicly?

Mitigation – threats and hazards. What lessons have we already learned? Cuplet Fern used to meet at a run-down location, so it's likely that venue would be shut down after a storm. Plan for alternative.

Response - informing the public about the status of the chapter. Sharing access to website and Facebook, for updates to be made about meetings, rebuilding, and replacement needs. Here chapters can assist with replacement goods.

Recovery – Board members may be effected. Someone needs help with book keeping, program booking, etc, while they tend to their own personal needs/recovery.

This could build better relations between chapters and is essentially foundational. If our organization suffers in time of disaster, the faster we recover the better.

Financial development: Even 3 chapters setting money aside, could accumulate quickly when unused. Instead of money, chapters could lend out goods, such as outreach materials, signs, or services like bookkeeping.

**Kara:** This system is worth investing in. Looking back to Hurricane Micheal, there were three chapters in the path. The area itself still hasn't built back and that can effect chapters, too. My chapter once had a financial problem, where this might have helped with legal costs.

**Mark:** I have presented the Draft and look forward to hearing back and getting collaboration with other chapters. I'm happy to create an annual report to summarize activity. We may experience more disasters, more often and should be prepared.

- **Review: Council Purpose -**

**Kara:** Last meeting in Nov, we drafted a Council Purpose.

*"The purpose of the Council is to facilitate communication among the Chapters and with the Board. It serves as a conduit of information that supports and strengthens the FNPS Chapters in their pursuit of the FNPS mission, and elevates local and regional issues and shares solutions throughout the Society."*

I think this can evolve as the Council moves forward, but I think this captures where we are. We had a Purpose handed to us by the Board, in the SOP and likely each had our own idea of Purpose. It's good to have this created by us. Scott will get the Minutes to me soon, from the last meeting, and they'll be posted on the Forum.

- **Nominating Committee -**

**Kara:** I put my foot down at the last meeting, that we'll participate with the Society Nominating Committee. I see the Council Governance as a service position, and the Chair is a lot of work. My position is, I don't mind if the Vice-Chair is a past Representative and not current. How do you all feel about it?

**Mark:** I'm fine with that. Finding someone with good skills is important.

**Greg:** Will you please repeat the openings?

**Kara:** Vice-Chair and Secretary. The positions are described in the [SOP](#), which needs updating. I'm trying to open up these positions.

**Jessica:** I think the approach of broadening the pool to people with past experience is a great strategy.

**Kara:** I don't recall anyone stepping up to be on our Nominating Committee. Was there?

**Gail T:** Not that I recall.

**Kara:** We do need to fill these positions and need participation.

## ➤ **New Business**

- **2019 Council Accomplishments –**

Kara: Main achievements:

\*Disaster Relief

\*Setting aside funds for Conference student attendance

\*the Purpose

\*Google Drive

\*Regional Meeting discussion

others?

Greg: Could you elaborate on student funds?

Gail T: At the last Conference in May we determined that there were students attending at a discount or free, but they didn't attend Socials and had to pay for gas and hotels. We thought chapters could set aside money to put towards helping a student. Those students I spoke to said that \$300-500 would be good.

Mark: This year, staying at the host hotel, the Socials are included. So that's a big incentive.

Gail T: Some of these young professionals are also taking time off work.

Greg: Is each chapter on their own or pooling money?

Kara: Right now, mostly on their own, but chapters could work together.

Athena: We had discussed collaborating on this on Facebook.

- **Key Goals for 2020 -**

Kara: I posted a survey on the Forum and asked at the last meeting. If you could fill it out, please do.

Suggestions were for more educational handouts, adding to the Speakers Bureau, regional meetings, improved website, e-meetings, build chapter outreach, funding Disaster Relief, and Conference scholarships. Other suggestions now, or can we pick a couple to work on now?

Gail T: I'd like to know thoughts on how to regional meetings.

**Mark:** I'm on the fence about regional meetings. We have done shared field trips, which are fun and the communication works. A sit-down is too organized.

**Gail T:** When I became President, I had a trip with three chapters. Each chapter stayed in their own group. I was very disappointed.

**Mark:** My experience is the opposite. You sit down with the people you're always with. The ice-breaker is the plants.

**Greg:** Heartland has joined a few trips with Suncoast. We mingled with each other, but no real official business.

**Jody:** We had a trip with Sarracenia and found it a good way to meet with another chapter. Regional meetings could be beneficial, since it can be difficult for us to get to Society meetings.

**Kara:** Starting with field trips could be the best first step. SE Region working together as a group has produced a Policy document for the Society. Their area is unique in Florida, so there is an advantage for regions meeting to work together.

**Jessica:** Rather than it being an Agenda item gathering, the field trip aspect could build membership with advertising in that trip area – advertise our cause and invigorate chapters that may be struggling.

**David P:** Last couple of years, we've had a joint holiday event. It's turned out to be a nice event. It's not really a Business meeting, but a good get together.

**Jessica:** I am co-chair in our CISMA, which is regional. We have coordinated with neighboring CISMA for grass workshops. Maybe chapters get together for educational workshops, open to the public, with Eventbrite tickets to cutoff at limit.

**Mark:** Workshop is great idea. Seems like we have two camps: sit-down and field trips. Maybe there's a third option of both components, where we can have discussion and a field trip to accompany it.

**Kara:** I think it should happen organically. Coming together for administrative reasons, such as Naples meeting with Coccoloba to learn about holding more plant sales.

For Feb 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, I'll ask for an extra hour, but don't know if it will happen. I'll

send a poll later about topics. I'd like goals for 2020.

Currently, I'm establishing a MailChimp account for Council emails, to include a lot of basic information everyone needs.

Questions?

➤ **Open Floor**

- [none]

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:34PM**