



SOUTHWEST VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

SWVMA Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:00AM-11:30AM
Meeting on Google Meet

Minutes for 12/7/2022

CALLED TO ORDER: (X=present; E=excused; A=absent)

A. Introductions / Roll Call / Call to Order

a. Willie Sommers, President	X	DFFM
b. Juanita Armstrong, Vice President	X	Maricopa County Parks
c. Corina Anderson, Treasurer	E	SWCA
d. Kris Haskins, Secretary / Past President	E	Arboretum at Flagstaff (retired)
e. Tom Dinn, Board Member	A	Envu
f. Nick Brasier, Board Member	X	SWCA
g. VACANT, Board Member	-	(VACANT)
h. Curt Deuser, Board Member	X	National Park Service
i. Dan McLendon, Board Member	X	American Conservation Experience

Other participants – Peter Lefebvre, Tom Ohmart, John Scheuring.

B. Meeting Called to Order: 10:07 am

- a. Approval of November 2, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Juanita, Second by Curt. All in favor or approval, motion carries.

C. Treasurer Report: Corina – given by Willie. We are working on a draft budget for 2023. So we have an idea of expenses and income, from our fall 2022 conference. Corina will prepare a summary of expenses and income for the board. PayPal account funds will be transferred with the exception of \$500. Marlo provided a bill for his services, it will be paid - \$1,700 for his help with conference, etc.

D. Secretary Report: Kris – given by Willie. Kris will transition off the board as Past President and off the board as Secretary. Kris has done a lot of work for us over the past year. We do want to thank her at some point for being such a big help.

E. Old Business:

- a. Grant applications --- Greenlee County \$2,500 grant, we got a signed agreement now. Willie will request Corina to cut a check for half of the grant funding (\$1,250). U of A Cooperative Extension \$1,300 grant, lots of back and forth on details of agreement, we will have a signed agreement this week. The second half of funding comes at the midpoint of the project, once they provide a midterm progress report. Juanita provided an update on the website – added some photos from the field trips, added a donation button with three options, sponsorship information is still there. Juanita also added our grant awards information to the website. We do need to a volunteer to take over the website admin for Juanita. Willie clarified grantee expectations, including giving a presentation of the project results at our annual conference.
- b. Nominations for Weed Manager of the Year Award --- we received 2 nominations, ADEQ as an agency for their outreach on WOTUS program, which didn't fit our criteria. The other nomination was for volunteers with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy that treat buffelgrass and fountain grass. Paul Staker is the lead volunteer with the group. They will be a awardee. Dan spoke about the dedication of the volunteers and how it's well deserved. Willie spoke about the new Invasive Plant Grant agreement with the City of Scottsdale for treatment in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The volunteers will be involved with treatment. Discussion occurred about the award and what to provide. Curt asked about a good forum, like an upcoming meeting, where we can present the award. Tom Ohmart suggested Arrow Awards in north Phoenix, they have made



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awards for SWVMA in the past. Tom also suggested a battery-operated backpack sprayer, if they don't have a place to display the award. Curt mentioned that a plaque will last a long time and provide history to the organization and volunteers. Juanita suggested that we have a silent auction at our next in person meeting for fundraising, have items like field equipment. Curt asked if we will have an announcement on our website about the award winner.

- c. Board and Officers Insurance --- Willie is still working on it, he's going to be in touch with the Arizona Alliance for Nonprofits. They can help us get an insurance policy.
- d. Additions to Noxious Weed List --- John and Willie put together a request to the Arizona Department of Agriculture to add new plants to the list. John talked about a justification for adding African sumac, which is not currently listed as a noxious weed in the neighboring states. There is at least one plant nursery that sells African sumac. It will be considered for public comment along with the other plants we proposed. We'll know more in January. Willie went over the list of species that were proposed additions – *Tamarix* spp., African sumac, Siberian elm, ripgut brome, red brome, cheatgrass, and Lehmann's lovegrass. Juanita asked for the letter so the group could have it in their files. John said he's been getting positive feedback about listing Siberian elm, and some of the other species. Willie mentioned that Siberian elm is well established in drainages in Prescott and Prescott Valley.
- e. Nominations for vacant board positions --- VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member --- Juanita reached out to Mary Fastiggi of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy for the Secretary role. And Corina was nominated for Vice President, which will open up the Treasurer role. Kris Haskins nominated Andy Pigg from the Coconino National Forest. Curt and Dan are familiar with Andy having worked with him before. John had suggested someone from southern Arizona to be on the board. John suggested that ADOT representation would be good and is important. Juanita asked about interest in the Secretary or Treasurer role. Nick was asked by Corina to take the Treasurer role, he's willing to as long as the Facebook admin can be passed to someone else. Juanita, Willie and Nick can go to the bank to get new members on the account. Curt asked about the nomination process and how we find new members. And if we want a description of representation by agencies, NGOs and areas of the state. Willie read from the Bylaws on the makeup of the board.

F. New Business:

- a. EPA pesticide registration review --- Willie received a review email just today, hasn't had a chance to review it. The one he received is related to the Endangered Species Act and non-target species. Willie will forward this to the board, if anyone wants to sign up to receive the messages.
- b. Budget for 2023 --- the board will have a chance to see the budget numbers for costs and income.
- c. Operation plan for 2023 --- on Monday a draft was put together for 2023, it is intended to be a checklist for what we get done. The main thing this organization does each year is put on a fall conference. Some items on the checklist are simple and others require lots of work. Juanita mentioned the new invaders watch list and wanting to get that up and running, along with having an intern. Due to time constraints that won't happen in 2023, but maybe after Juanita is done being President she can put some time into this. Willie mentioned that the SD-CWMA has an EDRR work group, and they are looking into new invaders for the Sonoran Desert.
- d. Fall 2023 conference --- this will be run by Corina as VP, we're looking at an in-person Phoenix meeting with an option to participate remotely. Willie has offered a tour of projects on the Lower



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Gila River in Avondale, Goodyear and Buckeye for this conference. Work that is being funded by DFFM and done in partnership with AGFD and others. This could be a full day field trip. Willie suggested we shop around for a venue that has the technology built in for an in-person hybrid. Juanita mentioned ASU and AGFD HQ for possible venues.

Board Appointed Positions and committees: Updates – skipped for this meeting.

Board-Appointed Positions	*Bold indicates a standing committee, others are ad hoc
Representative to North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)	Eleanor Gladding
Advocacy	John Scheuring, Tyler Bowen
Website Committee	<i>Juanita Armstrong</i>
Facebook Admin.	<i>Nick Brasier</i>
Committees	
Grants	<i>Kris H., Willie S., Curt Deuser</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Willie Sommers, Kris H, and Juanita</i>
Weed Management Areas	<i>Kim Franklin, Willie Sommers, Kris H, and Corina Anderson</i>
State Weed List	<i>John Scheuring, John Brock and Patti Fenner</i>
Conference Planning	<i>Juanita Armstrong, Willie Sommers, Kris H, Corina Anderson, Tom Ohmart and Dan McLendon</i>
Education/Conservation	<i>Michael C, John S, one more</i>
Nominating	<i>Kris H and Tom Ohmart</i>

H. Round Robin (*if time permits*) – brief updates from Board members and participants related to vegetation management – skipped for this meeting.

I. Adjourn - Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 @10:00 am

Images of the month – N/A