

WV Master Naturalist Program
Annual Meeting
June 16, 2018
Cacapon State Park

Chapters Represented:

Canaan Valley
Kanawha Valley
Mid-Ohio Valley
New River Gorge
Monongahela
Potomac Valley
Tygart Valley

Chapters absent from meeting but considered active:

Ohio Valley

Meeting called to order at 4:44 p.m.

Ellen Hrabovsky, as outgoing Chair of the Program, welcomed the group. Recognized that as we have the chapters coordinating the state conferences we have been experiencing a great deal of innovation in the offerings at the Conferences.

Introduced Scott Warner, our DNR liaison.

Scott Warner: Seeks to elevate the exposure of the Master Naturalist Program in the community and our role in the DNR. Now having Master Naturalist Advisory Council meetings throughout the year in a variety of places around the state. Many of the agenda items tonight are due to Ellen's leadership: the bylaws, updated curriculum, presence on DNR social media, newspapers, magazines. Now we're a 501-c3 entity. Is willing to do whatever he can to help the individual chapters in any way they need.

Ellen: Scott's leadership has helped to set our meeting and have effective follow-through with agenda items.

Chapter recognition: See top of minutes for chapters represented. Both Potomac Valley and Monongahela had a great many members attending.

Annual Conference Venues: Using the state parks for our conferences, this is the third conference: North Bend, Chief Logan, Cacapon and next year at Pipestem.

In the four years of Ellen's leadership, we have added a new chapter, moved the conference to the state parks, incorporated the program, achieved non-profit status, took control of finances of the program from Davis and Elkins College, and rewrote the Bylaws of the program. Our membership has grown significantly.

Business overview: Recognized the Bylaws that were being used by the program were inadequate for the program. Ellen, Kieran O'Malley, Scott Warner and Becky Linger worked to revise the Bylaws to properly reflect the needs of the program. The bylaws are posted on: mnofwv.org. Each chapter is able to run in a way that best fits their organization. Chapters are required to present the core curriculum and electives to meet the requirements for certification, but edicts on how the chapter is structured and officer roles is no longer prescribed.

Also, a major change has occurred in the financial business of our program. We used to use Davis and Elkins College as our financial office, with monies being held by them. With a new president at D&E, we were told that we needed to set up our own bank account. With that, we recognized that we needed to have an employee identification number, which meant that we needed to be incorporated as an entity, and then register as a business with the state. Working with the IRS and WV state offices, we have become incorporated, registered as a non-profit organization and set up a bank account with United Bank (who has the most and most widespread banks in the state). Now program officers know where we stand financially. While we chose to not have credit or debit cards, with this conference, we discovered issues that may cause us to have these financial instruments, but with an organization this size, having credit/debit cards can be problematic. This may be an issue that the officers may need to address in the coming year.

Thanks to Potomac Valley for organizing and implementing a fantastic conference that has showcased the interesting aspects of the local area for the program members who are spread across the state. We do need to recognize that there are only about six state parks that can handle a group of our size and the catering requirements.

Treasurer's Report: Since the last treasurer's report, major expenditures for the WV Master Naturalist Program, Inc. have been:

Deposit paid for our 2019 conference at Pipestem State Park: \$126.14

Payment made to 2017 conference instructor (Doug Abrogast) of \$343.63.

Expenses related to 2018 conference are very incomplete, but so far total \$4,707.51, not including major charges expected from Cacapon Resort.

River and Trail: \$994.00

Enterprise Van rentals: 1,098.36

Instructors: 2,229.29

Receipts for this year's conference, which may also be incomplete, total \$10,187.00

As of June 14, 2018, our account balance was \$12,507.82.

Election of new officers for the West Virginia Master Naturalist Program, Inc.

Proposed Slate

Chair: Andrea Dalton

Vice-Chair: Clark Dixon

Secretary: Rebecca Linger

Treasurer: Carol Nix

Member-at-Large: Sue Flowers

Past Chair: Ellen Hrabovsky

New position: Treasurer, due to the needed changes to our program organization.

Other Member-at-Large; Sam Muncy, still has one year in his term.

A motion was made to close nominations and accept the slate unanimously. Seconded. Voted: Aye: majority. Nay: none. Passed.

Recognizes new Chair, Andrea Dalton.

Andrea Dalton, chapter coordinator of Canaan Valley: introduced herself and recognizes that the 2020 conference could held in Canaan Valley or Tucker County. Her email is: adalton2000@yahoo.com

Meeting ended at 5:17 p.m. Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. Chapter Photos can be done on the veranda.

Next Conference: June 7-9, 2019 at Pipestem Resort and State Park

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Linger.