

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CCA MEMBERS MEETING January 15, 2022

The Annual Members Meeting took place via Zoom due to Covid 19.

**Attending were:** Chris Eastoe, Birgit DeGregorio, Katie and Tom Talbott, Pearl Mast, David Omick, Erik Revere, Barbara Clark, Gail Loveland, Susan Tollefson, Tom Orum, Nancy Ferguson, Cindy Salo, Lynn Smith Lovin, Anna Lands, Sue Newman, Vera Moritz, Bill Doelle, John Welch, Bonner McAllester, Patrick McGinnis, Layla Verbance, Matts Myhrman, Karen McKelvey, Jim McPherson, Elna Otter, Matt Clark

**I. INTRODUCTION:** Chris chaired the Zoom meeting.

**A. Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves, cued by Chris.

### **B. Sojourner Comments**

Susan read sojourner comment from November, 2021:

*"I am urban by nurture, but wilderness by nature. As I have come to learn this, I seek ever more places of solitude, the wild, and the feeling of timelessness. To witness and appreciate the simplest of things – a tarantula crossing the wash, a leaf being taken by water's current. All provide a sense of connectedness – a better holistic view and perspective, in contrast to ever more reductionist approaches society takes. The Corbett Center provides inspiration and subtle education of ways that sojourners may reduce their environmental impact, as to best leave it as we found it."*

### **C. Minutes of last meeting September 18, 2021**

Lynn moved acceptance of the minutes. Tom T seconded. Minutes were accepted without further discussion.

## **II. Business and Administration**

### **A. Financial report** (See attached 2021 Financial Report.)

Birgit shared the 2021 Financial Report. She pointed out that we spent about \$20K from our capital, for a final balance of about \$320K. She discussed the graph of income and payments, noting that we took in income of ~\$34K, with expenses of ~\$55K. She pointed out the list of people who were paid more than \$600 and who received 1099's, including what they were paid for. She also presented the list of In-Kind donations. Some additions were suggested. Lynn expressed appreciation for the format and content of the financial report, which she said demonstrated CCA's financial status very well. There was discussion about what kind of volunteer work should be included in in-kind donations. Katie will ask David Blocker for a more defined definition of what should be recorded. There was encouragement to keep track of volunteer hours even if it isn't counted as an in-kind donation, as this can be helpful to know what it takes to run the organization and also for grant applications. Matt Clark chatted suggesting an on-line form that participants would fill in with volunteer hours. Lynn motioned to accept the financial report. The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

David O suggested that the board recommend engaging David Blocker to update our bookkeeping system, which is outdated. Seconded by Tom T and Birgit. There was discussion about whether to get an estimate before approving the motion. David O suggested that we decide on the issue in principle, and then get an estimate from David B to be finally decided by the Board outside of a members meeting. Barbara abstained, but otherwise it was passed unanimously.

### **B. Baicatcan Land Committee**

Erik reported that Mick's Cottage and the campground are getting good use, including supporting workshops and organizational help. Billable hours for campground host in 2021 are under 30 hours. He reported that Edith Robinson is serving as temporary campground host.

Erik reminded the attendees that the Wert family have a special relationship to Baicatcan in that they have the right to have a homestead there as result of the agreement with them when CCA purchased the land from them. There are many ambiguities about how that agreement will work on the ground, but the Werts would need to make their homestead on one of the building envelopes, probably in the area of the hangar. Brandon agreed at his last visit that they will take responsibility for maintenance of the hangar, especially to make sure it is not a hazard. Erik stated that the committee will continue to be guided by the agreement upon CCA's purchase of the land and also the agreement that was in place while the Werts were co-owners.

Bill Doelle reported on a grant awarded to ASW by Southwestern Foundation to grow ancient agaves on the upper airstrip adjacent to ancient agave fields. The first step would be to survey by drone to make an updated map of the terraces and rock piles. Anything land-disturbing would be on the runway, at the north end. One of the goals is to grow out Agave sanpedroensis, which have been affected by the drought. It would help to stabilize the residual population. Partners include CCA, Desert Botanical Garden, the Tohono O'odham and volunteer participation in getting the pups started. Discussion about whether the former orchard might serve as agave field, and Bill stated that they will want to look at all options.

### **C. Communication**

Pearl presented the need for a person to coordinate communicating with members and the wider community. She explained as at our last meeting that Katie and she questioned doing another newsletter, and that neither are willing to lead doing one this year. Several people stated that a paper newsletter functions to reach additional people and serves as an on-going record. Katie described the visit we expect from the U of A Liverman Scholars and that they are expecting to produce a communication piece of some kind. A communications person could work with them this year. Lynn offered to help with them. Birgit reported that there is still considerable income that comes in from envelopes sent with newsletters. She supported a printed newsletter, and offered to help with it. Katie noted that all of this is what should be discussed with a communications person.

### **D. Saguaro-Juniper announcements**

Tom Orum reported that in December there was a special SJ shareholder meeting at which the Board was expanded. Three new board members were added: Katie Talbott, Ann Russel, and James Callegary. He stated that the Board is newly invigorated and that the transition undertaken in SJ in the last year is on-going.

David O. presented a proposal put together by David, Alex Binford-Walsh, and Katie Talbott. It is for a grant to SJ to improve the water system in the Cascabel Pasture in order to more efficiently direct water to different parts of the range to help distribute the herd and maximize rangeland health. It would be granted in recognition of the benefit CCA receives from SJ's 2 state grazing leases and the deeded land SJ holds in and around Hot Springs Canyon. Katie shared a map (attached) to show how CCA depends on cooperation with SJ to continue a viable hermitage program, and how intertwined the organizations are relative to that large block of land. David made an official motion, seconded by Tom T supporting the proposal as written (see attached). It was noted that this project would serve water conservation and spread out the herd, which is advantageous for wildland health. Patrick had several questions about SJ practice and how that relates to CCA practice of the Covenant and how the 2 are connected. The motion was accepted with Katie, David, Tom O and Nancy abstaining.

### **III. Conservation Program (see attached report)**

Pearl reported that both SunZia and the Villages at Vigneto cases have been quiet since the last meeting. The wildlife cameras are out in the field. The main event was a meeting held in December at Baicatcan of landowners in the Hot Springs-Paige Canyons wildlife corridor to talk about how fencing

can affect wildlife in such a corridor and what initiatives landowners would be interested in to encourage wildlife movement.

She also mentioned the need for more participants on the committee. Anna Lands has retired from the committee and Pearl (chair) will probably be away for half of this year. The committee is discussing how to deal with leadership during her absence.

#### **IV. Hermitage Program** (See attached report)

Susan reported that the monthly sabbatical gatherings continue the second Saturday of the month. They always start by reading the Covenant. Sites visited since the last meeting are Pearl and David's old homestead, the site for the new Caravan, where Mick's ashes are buried, the old site of the tent-ramada, and a workday at the strawbale hermitage. She also reported on several groups that have used the Corbett Center, plus a good schedule of individual sojourners.

Katie reported that the Caravan hermitage is under construction. There have been some supply chain issues, and the schedule for the completion of the Caravan has been delayed until later this spring, with placement at its site in the fall. It will be available for trial stays this spring. Contact Katie if you're interested. Katie reported that the budget for the Caravan is \$22,500 in answer to a question from Lynn.

Susan reported that the committee has raised over \$5000 for a new truck, plus a matching grant, and that they are now looking for that new truck.

Karen reported on the work day at the strawbale legacy site. She stated that there was great participation and that they stripped the building down to its essence. April 9 has been selected as a special day commemorating its history and what its place will be in the future of the hermitage as a legacy site.

Katie reported that the Hermitage Committee coordinated with the neighbors to get the road to the Corbett Center fixed, and also that the committee continues to collaborate with SJ in their transitions.

#### **V. Garden**

Gail did the garden report. She noted that the garden program raises its own funds and that it received \$437 from their share of the quilt fundraiser. She also reported that the garden has transitioned to a no-till approach to promote living soil with multiple species in about half of the garden beds, while David has led the effort to define those beds. She reported that 15-20 people have been showing up for garden work days, and that lots of work has been getting done, like setting up those beds and planting 2000 onions and lots of garlic. She ended by noting that in these times of stress, the garden is a great place to be.

#### **VI. Announcements**

Katie mentioned Cowmunion an event to be held on January 29.

Chris reminded us about the commemoration at the strawbale hermitage legacy site on April 9.

Pearl reminded us of the Liverman Scholars coming on Feb. 12-13.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

April 23 at 12 noon in hopes of having the meeting in person.

Pearl Mast, Meeting Secretary