

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes July 31, 2016

Present: Mike Adolph, Bernie Buchholz, Cindy Buchholz, Mike Carr, Cody Considine, David Crites, Cindy Crosby, Betty Higby, Dee Hudson, Laurie Faller, Jan Grainger, Bill Kleiman, Kathy Lawrence, Kent Lawrence, Joe Richardson, Al Meier, Mary Meier, Mike Saxton, Paul Say, Carol Soderholm, Paul Soderholm, Emmylou Studier, Daniel Thompson, and Mary Vieregg

Location and Lunch:

The meeting took place at Kickapoo/Mud Creek Nature Conservancy, 1919 N Limekiln Rd, Oregon, Illinois. Thank you to Kent and Kathy Lawrence for inviting us to their air conditioned, energy-efficient facility.

Pizza from Father and Son Pizzeria in Oregon, salad, and cookies were served, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Opening: President Bernie Buchholz called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their roles with Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (Friends).

Bernie gave a brief history and overview of Friends, a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity created in 2008 by Nachusa Grasslands volunteers dedicated to supporting Nachusa Grasslands. We are not affiliated with The Nature Conservancy. Our mission is to fund endowments; conduct and encourage stewardship; and support education and scientific activity at Nachusa Grasslands. In perpetuity, annual proceeds from the endowments will help defray the cost of the operations at the preserve, regardless of who owns the property.

Bernie also explained that the Friends Bylaws establish that we are a strong Board-led organization. The voting members elect the Board of Directors, and then the Board makes all the decisions affecting the group by a majority vote after listening to the views expressed by the members.

Quorum: A quorum (10% of the 40 voting members) was established.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 25, 2015, Annual Meeting were approved.

Board of Directors Election: The membership unanimously elected Mike Carr and Betty Higby to two-year terms.

Kirk Hallowell is continuing to serve the two-year term to which he was elected last year.

John Heneghan decided not to stand for election to our Board for another term. He has been a valued Board member since July 2011. We thank him for his service.

Election of Officers by Board of Directors: The Board elected the following officers – for one-year terms – President: Bernie Buchholz; Vice President: Mike Saxton; Vice President: Cindy Crosby; Treasurer: David Crites; and Secretary: Mary Meier.

Nancy Hotchkiss decided not to stand for election to Vice President for another one-year term. She has served us well since 2012, and we thank her for her service. We will not

immediately propose a replacement. Nancy will continue to write thank you letters to major donors.

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Treasurer's Report 2015-2016: Treasurer David Crites presented an income and expenditures report for July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, as well as a proposed budget for July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

During the meeting, the majority of the members requested that the Board of Directors amend the proposed 2016-2017 budget as follows:

- Increase Science Grants to \$23,000 (\$22,000 for awards and \$1,000 for Science Symposium expenses).
- Decrease the Development amount to \$7,000 (Science Symposium expenses were previously included in the amount).
- Decrease the Ending Cash Balance to \$6,239.74.

The "Development" category includes expenses related to fundraising, donor acknowledgments, publications, and social events, such as the Prairie Potluck and the Annual Meeting meal.

Friends spent only 3% of our income on Development, which is very low for a nonprofit organization. We attribute our low expenses to the fact that all of our administrative tasks are performed by volunteers. The officers and directors are encouraged to keep track of their volunteer hours as a way to impress potential donors.

Appended to the end of the Minutes is the final budget approved by the Board of Directors.

The following topics were discussed, although not all in the order presented below. A few sections include follow-up notes as well.

Cash Flow Chart: To help members and supporters better understand the sources and utilization of Friends income, the flow chart appended to the end of the Minutes was distributed and discussed.

Basically, all income is deposited in our checking account and then used at the guidance of our Board of Directors.

Endowments: Friends has two Endowments, both with permanent principal. The Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment was set up in 2009 through an agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands, held and managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL), was established in 2014 at the request of donors who prefer local control of their gifts.

We cannot withdraw any of the funds (other than annual distributions) or transfer the balances to other endowment managers, regardless of the wishes of our Board of Directors or other members. Annual distributions primarily benefit Nachusa Grasslands by partially funding operations and making scientific research grants.

As of June 30, 2016, total endowed funds were \$904,720. Our goal for the combined endowments is \$3,000,000, which will yield approximately \$135,000 per year to support stewardship at Nachusa. We are also on track to meet our interim target of \$1,000,000 in endowed funds this year.

In addition to donating to Friends, individuals can give directly to the Endowments. These funds do not pass through the Friends organization and are not included as income. This year, \$8,340 was contributed to the endowments in direct contributions. The CFNIL Endowment received \$5,340, and the TNC Endowment received \$3,000.

Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment: The balance in the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (TNC Endowment) was \$543,351 as of June 30, 2016. Distributions are used by TNC to fund Nachusa operations.

Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands: The balance in the Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL Endowment) was \$361,269 as of June 30, 2016. Distributions are paid to the Friends and used as determined by the Friends' Board of Directors. The Board approved the recommendation that the 2016-2017 distribution be directed to TNC to support Nachusa operations, the same as in 2015-2016.

In 2014, Friends was selected by CFNIL to participate in a Carroll Starr Endowment Challenge. We had three years to raise \$150,000 (including our 2014-2015 CRP earnings) to qualify for a \$50,000 matching grant. This year we exceeded the challenge, and CFNIL added \$50,000 to the CFNIL Endowment.

On August 1, 2016, Friends applied for another Carroll Starr Endowment Challenge, with a similar \$150,000 goal and the possibility of a \$50,000 match. Selections will be announced in late August 2016.

Gifts, CRP, and Endowment Cash Flow Designations: The Board of Directors approved the following rules for handling cash flow for the 2016-2017 fiscal year:

- Donor gift designations will always be honored.
Our remitter envelopes now list designation options for the TNC Endowment, CFNIL Endowment, Science Research Grants, and Undesignated, to be used as most needed.
- Undesignated gifts will fund Science Grants and Symposium costs, banking fees, government fees, insurance premiums (General Liability and Directors and Officers coverage), and development expenses.
- All remaining undesignated donations will be split evenly between the TNC and CFNIL Endowments, unless we are selected to participate in the Carroll Starr Challenge.
- In that case, all undesignated donations (minus the expenses listed above) will flow to the CFNIL Endowment until we reach the \$150,000 amount required for the match.
- Once the Carroll Starr challenge has been met, all non-designated donations will be divided evenly between the TNC and CFNIL Endowments.
- All Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) receipts will flow to the CFNIL Endowment (see CRP details below).

Members and Giving

Donor Households: 240 (20% increase over 2014-2015)

Total Cash Donations – \$180,651.86 (14% increase over 2014-2015)

Average Donation per Household – \$780 (includes direct gifts to the Endowments)

Donor Tiers:

Restoration Benefactors – \$5,000 or more: 13
Conservation Champions – \$1,500 to \$4,999: 11
Supporters – \$1 to \$1,499: 226

Prairie Perennials: 124

Donors who have given to the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in consecutive fiscal years (July 1 through June 30) at the same or a higher level

New Donors: 55

Recurring Donors: 15, through PayPal or employer programs

One-Time Online Donors: 45

Annual Solicitation Results: In response to our November 2015 solicitation letter and remitter envelopes included with the Annual Report, along with a follow-up letter and new trifold mailing in May 2016, we received approximately \$159,500 in donations from about 200 households.

Our May mailing went to about 100 previous donors who had not yet supported us in 2015-2016. We received about 30 donations in response, totaling approximately \$28,000 (these statistics are included in the 200 donor and \$159,500 donation amounts noted above).

Heritage Heroes Legacy Project: Heritage Heroes is a Friends initiative led by Kirk Hollowell with assistance from Bernie Buchholz. The project was started in early 2015 to encourage planned giving among Friends donors.

To date, eleven couples or individuals have named or are committed to naming Friends in their estate plans or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account. Everyone who has not requested to be anonymous will be recognized in our Annual Report.

A new “Legacy Gift” educational handout has been developed by Kirk and Bernie with the assistance of CFNIL representatives. Copies were distributed at the meeting for review by Friends.

A second Heritage Heroes mailing to selected Friends donors will take place in early 2017.

Mobile Fundraising: Mike Saxton will investigate giving to Friends by text (example: text 555-555-5555 to donate \$10; Friends would receive \$9.50 or \$9.75).

He will also look into setting up mobile credit card giving, using a service such as PayPalHere or Square. Per standard swipe, PayPal charges a 2.75% transaction fee, and Square charges 2.8%.

Another option to consider is using Kickstarter or another crowd-sourced platform to raise funds for special projects.

Donor Development: As noted above, Friends needs a new Vice President of Development. The members offered the following characteristics for a successful development officer:

- Has a passion for what we do at Nachusa Grasslands
- Understands grants and grant writing; submits applications

- Keeps track of details and deadlines; follows up as needed
- Is willing to share our story with potential donors (contacting them and arranging for tours if they are interested)
- Shows a genuine interest in people – listens and learns their story

In general, our fundraising approach has been organic, based on developing relationships and an appreciation for Nachusa Grasslands.

In 2016-2017, we are adopting a new donor development program called "5 X 2 X 10." We are asking 5 members to develop 2 potential donors each with the capacity to give \$10,000. These 5 or more Friends would either identify their own candidates or accept donor candidates assigned by our development program. They will create their own development plan for each prospective donor. We will offer sample letters and contact ideas to supplement their efforts.

The general thrust of "5 X 2 X 10" will be to invite the donor to Nachusa Grasslands for a visit or tour. We have observed that donors and visitors are usually quite impressed and inspired by the dedicated staff and volunteers and by the sheer beauty and boldness of what is being accomplished. We believe that if we can get a potential donor to our site, we have a better than 75% chance of turning them into a donor.

To date, Bernie Buchholz, Kirk Hallowell, Jeff Cologna, David Crites, and Mike Saxton have agreed to participate in "5 X 2 X 10." More members are welcome. Bernie is developing a list of potential donors and requests referrals.

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands GuideStar Profile: GuideStar is an online information service specializing in reporting on nonprofit organizations in order to advance transparency, enable users to make better decisions, and encourage charitable giving (<http://www2.guidestar.org/organizations/26-3303031/friends-nachusa-grasslands.aspx>)

Kathy Lawrence will continue to update our GuideStar profile, as she has done for the past year. Thanks, Kathy!

Note that all Friends supporters can submit reviews of Friends on the GuideStar site in order to enhance the stature of the group and perhaps increase donations.

NeonCRM Donor Management System: In September 2015, Friends subscribed to NeonCRM, an online donor management system designed for small to midsized nonprofits, owned by Z2 Systems, Inc.

With NeonCRM, we receive, record, and acknowledge donations, create financial and donor reports, and communicate with our supporters.

The program has been very effective in making our administrative tasks much easier and more efficient.

Mary Viereggs asked about the security of the system. After the meeting, Mary Meier looked into the matter and learned the following:

NeonCRM is hosted with Rackspace, a global leader in uptime and security.

NeonCRM is fully Payment Card Industry compliant and works closely with every merchant account to ensure that the integrity of NeonCRM's security is never compromised.

NeonCRM securely processes online credit card donations to Friends via PayPal Pro.

All NeonCRM pages are secured and encrypted for safe and secure transmission of sensitive information. For online donations to Friends, NeonCRM's premium Thawte SSL includes the use of the "z2systems.com" name and URL, SHA-2 Certificate, and a \$1,000,000 warranty if any financial loss occurs.

Friends' Individual Online Donation Page:

<https://nachusagrasslands.z2systems.com/np/clients/nachusagrasslands/donation.jsp>

Even though the online donation page has a different URL than the rest of the website, it looks like the rest of the page, and donors are returned to a Thank You page on the Friends site after they complete their transactions.

Communication

Website: Dee Hudson presented an overview of the Friends' mobile-friendly website, www.nachusagrasslands.org, which we launched on December 1, 2015.

Through a variety of pages, resources, and photos, the Website Committee, Dee Hudson, Mary Meier, Jeff Cologna, and Charles Larry, strive to provide useful and interesting information for both Nachusa newcomers and seasoned volunteers.

Our web hosting service company is Weebly, which offers an easy-to-use drag-and-drop website builder, but also has some quirks and limitations which can be challenging at times.

Since December, we have had about 27,000 unique visitors (individual users who have accessed the site) and 109,000 page views, so the web page is receiving quite a bit of traffic.

Dee asked for feedback on the website, and Mike Carr expressed high praise for the project. Hank Hartman was also thanked for his many years of website management.

Dee also requested suggestions for new pages. Joe Richardson is working on an overview of Nachusa geology. Another one currently under consideration is a history of Nachusa, inspired by the presentations at this year's Potluck. Dee is also looking into developing another hike app of Clear Creek Knolls and would appreciate help with content and editing.

After the meeting, Kent Lawrence suggested that we add a "What's Blooming/Happening Now" page to the website.

Blog:

Our new bi-weekly blog began in April 2016. Jeff Cologna and Dee Hudson are coordinating this aspect of the web page. So far, four Friends have contributed entries, and more editors are welcome. Contact Dee if you are interested and also if you have any topics to suggest.

Subscribing to the blog so that users receive emails when a new item is posted is not offered by Weebly.

Weebly's Help entry addressing the issue says: "What about letting visitors sign up for an email list that automatically pings them when you create a new blog post? We don't recommend it. There are several reasons why we don't, but the main one is that, aside from Google's rapidly aging, and likely to be canceled at any minute, Feedburner service, there isn't an automated email notification system that will ping subscribers every time you publish a post. If you really want to keep visitors updated via email, it's better to have them sign-up for a Newsletter mailing list and then regularly send them an email (maybe once a month or every two weeks) using your favorite posts as the content of that newsletter to encourage them to come back and read what you've written." (See below regarding **Prairie-Update MailChimp Emails**.)

Advice and assistance with this limitation is welcome – talk to Jeff or Dee.

The bloggers have experienced difficulties linking posts to Facebook and Twitter, and Dee has learned that some HTML coding is required. Anyone with coding experience willing to help out should get in touch with Dee.

Prairie-Update MailChimp Emails: Mary Meier has been creating and sending **Prairie-Update** emails regarding various Friends and Nachusa activities. We currently have 668 subscribers.

For the past year, Mary has been writing "What We Do at Nachusa Grasslands" **Prairie-Updates**, but is running out of ideas, time, and energy.

A suggestion was made to convert our blog posts into **Prairie-Updates** after they've been published. Anyone who would like to help with this task or develop other newsletters should contact Mary.

Facebook: Mary Meier reported that the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Nachusa>) has about 4,050 followers, an increase of about 1,275 over last year. From July 6 to August 2, about 64,600 users saw, liked, commented on, or shared posts on our page.

Mary, Kirk Hollowell, and Charles Larry update the page frequently with photos, news about upcoming events, and links to items of interest. Suggestions for postings as well as submission of photos are welcome.

Mary recently added a "Donate" button to the page, but doesn't have a way of determining its utilization.

Charles also administers the "Photography at Nachusa Grasslands" Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/356617574475489>), which now has 485 members.

Twitter: Cindy Crosby recently started managing the Nachusa Grasslands Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/nachusa>; @Nachusa).

She regularly tweets information about Nachusa happenings and links to blog posts and relevant web pages.

We currently have 210 followers and expect that more users will sign on soon.

SignUpGenius: SignUpGenius is a free online software tool for volunteer management and event planning.

To date, Kirk Hallowell has used it for lining up stewards to lead workdays (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4faaa92ca0fb6-nachusa>); Mary Meier has used it for TNC Public Tour Leader and Participant sign ups (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EAFAC2CA3FC1-nachusa2> and <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044faba72ca5f94-nachusa>); and Susan Kleiman has used it for recruiting AOTP volunteers (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a48ada929a3fe3-autumn/32333711>).

We may come up with some Friends-related applications in the future.

Donation Acknowledgments and Thank You Notes: Mary Meier provides formal tax receipt donation acknowledgments to all our donors, even though it is not required for amounts under \$250. Through NeonCRM, she sends emails to everyone who has provided an email address, and she mails letters to those without email.

The Torkel Korling *The Prairie – Swell and Swale* book is mailed to first-time donors.

Nancy Hotchkiss mails handwritten thank you cards to everyone who donates more than \$100 during the year.

Bernie Buchholz occasionally telephones larger donors as well.

Photo Corps: Kirk Hallowell, Charles Larry, Dee Hudson, Mark Jordan, Betty Higby, Cindy Crosby, and several other photographers take marvelous photos of Nachusa and share them on Facebook, Friends and TNC websites, blogs, the Annual Report, and other media.

Annual Report: Our 2014-2015 Friends Annual Report entitled “Simple Pleasures” focused on the everyday small joys that help make our time on the prairie worth the effort. The contents and design were once again very attractive and professional. Thank you to everyone who contributed essays, quotes, photos, and illustrations, including Graphic Designer: Betsy Bowron-Komerska, Managing Editor: Cindy Crosby, Assigning Editor: Mike Saxton, Copy Editors and Assistants: Bernie Buchholz, Ron and Gwen Deters, Dee Hudson, Kirk Hallowell, Charles Larry, Mary Meier, and Mary Vieregg.

We mailed about 280 copies along with remitter envelopes and a request for donations. As noted above, about 200 recipients responded with gifts.

Cindy reported that our 2015-2016 Friends Annual Report theme is “A Prairie Journal,” which will follow the seasons, beginning with November, highlighting images from each of the 12 months. Rather than essays, we’ll have short insights from different people involved at Nachusa (2-3 lines) about that season at Nachusa. We’ll probably also have some boxed info on seasonal highlights.

Cindy will again serve as the Annual Report editor and will request assistance as needed.

Trifold: Cindy Crosby and Bernie Buchholz also developed a new attractive and informative Friends trifold, which is designed to last for two years.

Several are available in the Barn, so please hand them out (along with a remitter envelope) to visitors who seem interested in learning more about Friends.

Maximizing the Impact of Our Communication Assets: After the meeting, Kent Lawrence suggested that we look at all of our digital and print communications to see if we can unify messaging and use tailored language to reach to a younger audience and drive visitation, volunteerism, and giving by appealing to the widest possible audience. Asking a college or graduate student to review our publications could help us achieve this goal.

Visitors and New Volunteers: The bison are still bringing many visitors to Nachusa. As Friends representatives, we can welcome folks and share information about the preserve as well as our organization when possible. Such efforts have resulted in several new Friends supporters.

This year we have had several new regular volunteers at Nachusa and really enjoy and appreciate their participation.

After the meeting, Bernie suggested that next year Friends focus on developing new volunteers by looking at how we are doing and how to improve; what first time volunteers experience; and how we recruit and communicate with the broader public. This project would require reports and proposals prepared by a smaller group and then presented at next year's Annual Meeting.

Science Grant Program

Science Research Grants Committee: Committee members read applications after the November 30 deadline and meet sometime during the first half of December to help select recipients and determine specific grant amounts. Many also help with the annual Science Symposium.

2015-2016 Members – Mary Vieregg, John Heneghan, Jeff Cologna, Laurie Faller, Cindy Crosby, Mike Saxton, and Mike Carr; Bill Kleiman and Cody Considine – non-voting consultants

2016-2017 Members – Mary Vieregg, Jeff Cologna, Laurie Faller, Cindy Crosby, Mike Saxton, Mike Carr, David Crites, and Jan Grainger (David and Jan joined the committee after the meeting); Bill Kleiman and Cody Considine – non-voting consultants

Thank you to Mary Vieregg for her leadership and to John Heneghan who served on the committee for several years.

2015-2016 Scientific Research Project Grants – \$20,000

- Laura Adamovicz, DVM, PhD graduate student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Health and Disease Risk of Ornate Box Turtles (\$1,960)
- Nicholas Barber, PhD., Northern Illinois University: Impact of Bison on Dung Beetles in Remnants and Restored Prairies (\$500)
- Ryan Blackburn, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University: Bison Habitat Preference and Diet (\$1,500)
- Julia Brockman, Master's degree graduate student, Southern Illinois University: Bison Habitat Selection (\$2,000)

- Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar, PhD graduate student, Rutgers University: Effect of Bison on Bee Communities (\$3,340)
- Angela Burke, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University: Effect of Fire and Bison on Small Mammal Populations in Remnants and Restored Prairie (\$1,500)
- Karley Chantos, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University: Geochemical and Microbial Soil Changes Due to Bison (\$1,500)
- Heather Herakovich, PhD graduate student, Northern Illinois University: Grassland Bird Density, Pre- and Post-Bison and Fire (\$1,700)
- Richard King, PhD., Northern Illinois University, Thomas B. Anton and David Mauger, Independent researchers, and Monika Kastle, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University: Blanding's Turtle Movement Patterns and Habitat Use (\$3,500)
- Jodi Vandermyde, Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey: Long-Term Monitoring of Effects of Bison Grazing and Fire on Stream Water Quality and Aquatic Diversity (\$2,500)

Reports on most of these projects are linked to <http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/science-grants-2016.html>.

Maximum Amount and Number of Grants for 2016-2017: Mary Viereg, Chair of the Science Research Grants Committee, reported that the Committee has decided to award a maximum of 10 grants for the upcoming year.

The group requested an allocation of \$22,000 for grants and \$1,000 for the 2016 Science Symposium. The Board agreed, and the 2016-2017 budget was adjusted accordingly.

The application for next year's grants is being developed and will be published in the late summer. Specific research priorities will be listed, and scientists choosing to study these topics may be given preference.

Future Science Grants: Friends hopes to double the amount of awards (but not projects) in the next 2-3 years by obtaining funding from foundations and corporations.

Increasing funding will enable us to more fully support applicants, attract researchers doing more long-term, in-depth, costly projects, and provide us better leverage with other organizations.

Science Symposium: Friends' inaugural Science Symposium was held in October 2015 at the Franklin Creek Gristmill, 1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove. About 40 people attended, and 7 scientists presented their findings. Cindy and Bernie Buchholz and Mary and Jim Viereg coordinated the event, which was very successful.

The 2016 Science Symposium will take place at the Grist Mill on Saturday, October 22. The Committee is already planning the event and will soon send out invitations. A maximum of 80 people (potentially including 10 researchers) can attend, so RSVPs will be required.

The symposium will begin in the mid-morning, break for an informal lunch, and continue into the afternoon with more presentations and a poster session. The poster session will allow researchers to share more information with attendees who are interested in speaking with them personally.

Conflict of Interest Policy: As required by our Bylaws, the Directors and Officers acknowledged that they had all read and were in compliance with the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Conflict of Interest Policy.

Donor Confidentiality Policy: In August 2015, the Board of Directors adopted a Friends of Donor Confidentiality Policy. A copy is posted at <http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/friends-of-nachusa-grasslands-donor-confidentiality-policy.html>.

2016 Prairie Potluck Review: About 150 guests attended this year's Homecoming potluck on June 18. Former volunteers and seasonal crew members were invited to celebrate Nachusa's 30th anniversary. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and especially appreciated the tours and program featuring reminiscences from several Nachusa folks.

Thank you to Mike Saxton for coordinating the event with the assistance of Bernie Buchholz, Mary Meier for helping with communications, Bill Kleiman and the summer crew for setting up, Laurie Faller, Cindy Buchholz, and Susan Kleiman for organizing the meal, Cindy Crosby for welcoming guests, Jeff Crosby and Jess Fliginger for overseeing parking, and everyone else who helped with the event, including set up, tours, and clean up.

Cindy Crosby asked about soliciting donations during the potluck. We had remitter envelopes and a donations receptacle on the welcome table, but we didn't verbally request support. We could consider doing so next year.

The date for the 2017 Prairie Potluck will be Saturday, June 17. No program will take place – we will save that aspect for another significant year, such as Nachusa's 35th anniversary. We will continue to invite recent supporters as we have in past years.

Laurie, Cindy, and Susan will again oversee the food, and we need volunteers to help with updating our electronic and print invitations; printing and mailing hard copies; recording RSVPs; and organizing and overseeing set-up, tours, and take down.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The Federal government reimburses landowners for reserving tillable acreage for wildlife habitat and soil conservation. Friends currently leases 412 acres of CRP land from TNC for this purpose and is responsible for monitoring and managing the land. For the last fiscal year, the payments from the USDA totaled \$50,000, and we expect to receive the same amount this year. Management activities were conducted as required by our contract.

Expand Board of Directors: According to our Bylaws, we can have 3 to 5 Directors. We currently have 3 Directors, so we can consider adding more in 2017 or a subsequent year.

TNC-Nachusa Grasslands Updates by Cody Considine and Bill Kleiman

Bison Herd: Cody reported that the bison are doing well. The current number is between 90 and 100 – they are very difficult to count in the tallgrass, so we will wait until the fall roundup to come up with an exact number. Watch for more information on herd management, tracking, and mapping.

Fencing is being installed around Holland House and the new house at 201 Stonebarn Road to keep the bison from damaging cars and buildings.

Thank you to the Bison Corps, Brian Bielema, Dick Gambrel, Tom Duym, and Kirk Hallowell, who regularly patrol the fences.

Visitor Outreach: Bill said that design and construction of the interpretive facility is behind schedule, so now it should be open in the summer of 2017.

2017 Annual Meeting: The next Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Group Photo: Thank you to Dee Hudson for taking the photograph of the Friends on the next page.

Respectfully Submitted,

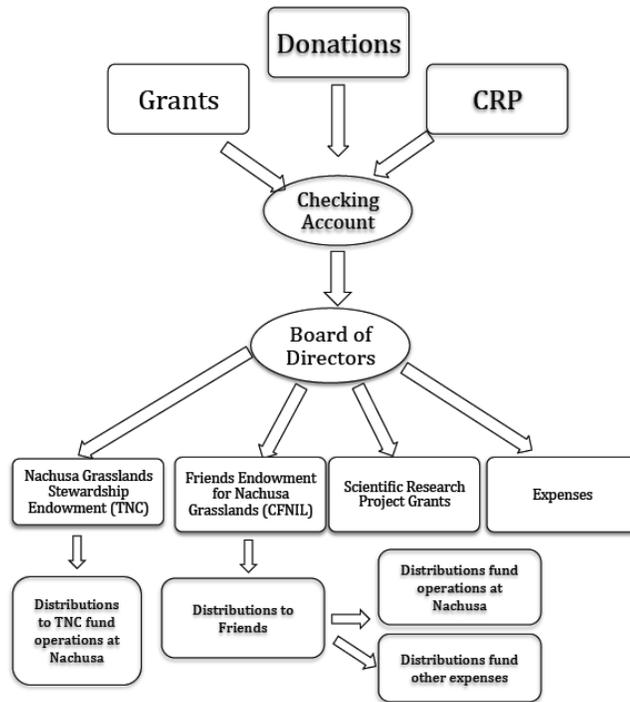
Mary Meier, Secretary
August 10, 2016

Amended and Approved July 29, 2017

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Treasurer's Report 2015-2016

Budget and Actual Results:	2015-2016 Actual	Percent of Actual	2015-2016 Budget	Variance	Proposed 2016-2017 Budget	Percent of Budget
Beginning Balance	23,378.51		23,378.51		25,392.74	
Revenue						
Cash Donations	180,651.86	73%	150,000.00	30,651.86	150,000.00	75%
CRP Annual Payment	50,000.00	20%	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	24%
CFNIL Endowment Income	2,086.38	<1%	1,000.00	1,086.38	2,500.00	1%
Grant Income	15,000.00	6%		15,000.00		
Amazon Smile Income	72.79	<1%	25.00	47.79	75.00	<1%
Total Revenue	247,811.03	100%	200,025.00	31,786.03	200,075.00	100%
Direct Gifts to Endowments	8,340.00					
In Kind Donations	270.21					
CFNIL Matching Grant	50,000.00					
Total Support from all Sources	306,421.24					
Disbursements						
In Direct Support of Our Mission Statement						
Gifts to TNC Endowment	65,000.00	26%	35,000.00	30,000.00	50,000.00	24%
CFNIL Nachusa Endowment	128,000.00	52%	130,000.00	-2,000.00	125,000.00	61%
Science Grants	20,000.00	8%	20,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	10%
Nachusa Operations via TNC	2,086.38	<1%	1,000.00	1,086.38	2,500.00	1%
Stewardship	16,968.75	7%	5,000.00	11,968.75	5,000.00	2%
Grants to other Organizations	2,450.00	1%	1,100.00	1,350.00	2,500.00	1%
Subtotal	234,505.13	95.4%	192,100.00	42,405.13	208,000.00	94.4%
Expenses						
Banking Fees	367.21	<1%	100.00	267.21	400.00	<1%
Government Fees	28.00	<1%	28.00	0.00	28.00	<1%
Insurance	3,514.00	1%	3,653.00	-139.00	3,800.00	2%
Development	7,382.46	3%	8,000.00	-617.54	7,000.00	3%
Subtotal	11,291.67	4.6%	11,781.00	-489.33	11,228.00	5.6%
Total Disbursements	245,796.80	100%	203,881.00	41,915.80	219,228.00	100%
Ending Cash Balance	25,392.74		14,859.85	10,532.89	6,239.74	

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Cash Flow Model



Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2015 Annual Meeting Attendees

Photo by Dee Hudson