

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
Alamo Area Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist
October 11, 2011

Members present:

Nancy Thoss, Jessica Leslie, Jamie Daily, Nancy Brown, Bill Woller, Anton Hajek, Linda Gindler, Richard Heilbrun, Judit Green, Bryan Davis, Barbara Harder, John Sells, Nancy Phillips, Ron Tullius, Tim Brotherman, Damon Bartlett

The meeting was called to order by Liz Robbins at 5:26 p.m.

September minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Daily

Jamie reported a beginning balance of \$7,159.58, total expenses of \$814.10, an outstanding check in the amount of 41.16, leaving a balance of \$6304.32 as of October 11. Jamie reported that the CD (\$10,476.48) will mature on the 17th of October.

Treasurer's report stands as read.

Unfinished Business

Budget presentation – Jamie Daily and Nancy Thoss

Nancy explained exhibit 'A' – Transaction Detail by Account - which shows a negative cash flow of -173.56. She stated that the balance should stay around zero.

She also explained exhibit 'B' – Balance Sheet' – which shows what monies are being spent on; it shows a balance of \$3,605.82, as of August 31, 2011. Nancy offered ideas on income-generating projects, such as workshops, plant sales, etc. Exhibit 'C' is 2012 Budget based upon 2010/2011 transactions, which is a projection of next year's budget. A discussion of workshops and other fund raisers ensued and Judit and Ron mentioned the possibility of raising funds through workshops at Cibilo Nature Center and San Antonio Botanical Garden, respectively. Some other ideas regarding how to limit our expenses included: having a more structured method of deciding what we will become involved in, asking that participation fees be waived, making the spring party more profitable, and looking at how other organizations operate in this regard.

The Plan - Background checks, membership dues and liability forms -

Bryan Davis discussed the process of background checks and stated that no one in AAMN has been denied membership as a result of their background check. A motion was made by Linda that the board vote on going forward with asking the membership in November to vote on paying \$12 annual dues. Ron seconded the motion and after a discussion and a tie-breaking vote by Judit, the motion passed. If the vote for dues is voted down in November, the members will pay for their own background checks every 3 years. Nancy Thoss suggested renting a new PO Box that would be more convenient for her. Liz appointed her ad hoc committee chair and this item was tabled for future discussion.

Ways and Means Committee

Jessica is keeping track of donations collected for guest speakers. Jessica asked whether there will be a budget item included for stipends for guest speakers in addition to the \$25 gift. We will continue to collect donations and see if it needs to be included in the budget. Currently, the \$25 gift is being covered by the donations.

Hours Coding – Linda Gindler and Richard Heilbrun

This project has been completed. Richard stated that there is a high probability that the codes will change this summer and Michelle Haggerty, TMN State Coordinator, will contact our chapter about this when the time comes. Liz congratulated Richard on his promotion to Conservation Outreach Coordinator with TPWD. His office will continue to be located in San Antonio. Another advisor should be on board by the end of this year.

New Business

Time change for next meeting- Jessica Leslie

Jessica suggested changing the time for the General Meeting next month in order to accommodate the election and also allow time for the program. Ron made a motion that was seconded to start the November 8th meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried and the membership will be notified via email (5 via mail) prior to the meeting.

Assignments for annual report – Linda Gindler

Linda passed out packets to those who will provide information to her for the annual report. She would appreciate a timely response from those involved. She also asked that all members review new projects this past year that involved new trails or habitat restoration as she needs an acreage count for the annual report.

Committee/Advisors Reports

State Advisors – Judit Green, Bryan Davis, Richard Heilbrun

Bryan mentioned the upcoming Farm and Ranch Show on Nov. 10, 11, 12. Members will receive AT hours for attending talks on topics such as Feral Hogs, Brush Management, and Soil Surveys. Bryan will send Pam the list for approval for AT. Bryan also thanked those who will be working on the annual report for their time.

State Representative – Ron Tullius

The deadline for the annual TMN state meeting is tonight at midnight. Liz announced that the winner of the \$50 scholarship to attend the meeting is John Sells, a new member.

Activities – Pam Ball

Pam stated that she has started the process of approving ongoing activities for next year. She also moved that the workshops for TPWD have blanket approval. The motion carried. Agrilife will continue to submit individual activities for approval.

Chapter Programs – Jessica Leslie

Jessica stated that the committee members will be meeting on Oct. 25th and would like to have suggestions for program topics by then. There will be no programs in July and December.

Community Outreach – Lissa Martinez

Lissa again requested that photos be taken at activity sites. Upcoming events include: Work at Camp Bullis, Farm and Ranch Show, Mission Library rain garden stage 2, and Green Spaces Alliance. She mentioned that she received an award for her part in the Grafitti Wipeout. Also suggested was that we consider doing a specific project for both TPWD and Agrilife next year.

Membership & Pin Awards – Nancy Thoss

Nancy has pins ready for the meeting tonight.

Training – Pam Ball

Upcoming graduation is Saturday, Nov 12 at the Auld House. Pam requested that those present tonight attend.

Special Committee Reports

SARA – Ron Tullius

Ron discussed the completion of our commitment to SARA to provide 125 hours for Operation Rewind at the Mission Reach. In addition to the original 5 hikes agreed upon, AAMN helped with 4 more for a total of 165 hours. The Rewind program is now over.

Alamo Forest Partnership –Lissa Martinez

Lissa mentioned that volunteers are needed on Nov 12 for Arbor Day activities.

Rodeo

Bryan stated that there will be no Texas Dept of Agriculture Texas Experience pavilion this year due to HEB's acquiring the space previously used for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Barbara Harder, Secretary

Liz Robbins, President