

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 12, 2016

MINUTES

[With a quorum present, President Matt Carley called the meeting to order.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom. The President and the Secretary were present. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected.

REPORTS (Officers, Advisors, Standing Committees)

The **Vice-President** announced the completion of the *Annual State Report*, mentioning that 225 active chapter members earned more than 23,000 volunteer service hours in 2015. The chapter has amassed over 203,000 volunteer service hours since the chapter's inception in 1997. The complete *2015 Annual State Report* will be posted on the chapter website.

Stan Drezek, the State Representative, announced efforts by the TMN State Coordinator to establish new duties for *State Representative*--a voting member of a chapter's board of directors. Currently, our State Representative keeps chapter members informed about events and matters that may be of interest to all chapters and volunteers in the state-wide Texas Master Naturalist program.

Pam Ball, reporting on behalf of the **Volunteer and Activities Information Committee**, stated that ongoing programs have, for the most part, been approved for 2016. She reiterated the need for complete information when submitting a request for activity approval, to include names, dates, sites, maps and contact information.

Tom Brotherman reported that the **Program Committee** has programs in place through February. He requested suggestions from the membership for additional program topics and presenters.

Jeanette Geiman, Community Outreach Director, is responding to requests from various agencies and groups for chapter participation. A schedule will be established in the near future.

Keeley Porter, Chapter Historian and Archivist, requested that members collect and submit to her any print articles related to chapter activities and members.

Evelyn Penrod, reporting for the **Media and Technology Committee**, introduced Webmaster Pat Symchych, who is making numerous beneficial changes and improvements to the chapter website.

Nancy Thoss, Director of the Membership Committee, reported that volunteer hours earned in 2015 will be updated to the new VMS (Volunteer Management System) at the end of January.

Liz Robbins, reporting on behalf of the **New Class Committee**, reported that the committee has been expanded to ten members. The chapter's training schedule has been expanded with the addition of an Orientation for New Trainees to be held the week before the start of curriculum presentations.

REPORTS (ad hoc Committees and Chapter Liaisons)

Lissa Martinez, ACORN liaison, reported that Northside Independent School District has received a grant to expand ACORN to eight additional schools. A pass-through grant has been awarded to the Alamo Area Chapter, TMN to support ACORN teachers to become Texas Master Naturalists.

Stan Drezek, speaking on behalf of **Friends of San Antonio Nature Areas**, requested that AAMN place a link to FoSANA on our Natural Areas and Greenway Trails tab. The President directed that it be done.

Howard Homan, liaison to Headwaters @ Incarnate Word, Inc., announced that Headwaters continues to collect volunteers, Helen Ballew is going on sabbatical, a new volunteer schedule is being formed.

Donald Ewers, liaison to SARA, announced Project ACORN field trips to the San Antonio River. Volunteers are needed at Acequia Park.

Drake White announced a SARA-sponsored Raingardens event at Phil Harderberger Park-Urban Ecology Center on the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Kayla Gasker, on behalf of John Garland, announced that John is seeking a replacement liaison to the **SARA-Environmental Advisory Committee**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy Thoss, Membership Committee Director, stated that four VMS (Volunteer Management System) classes for members have been conducted. On-line training is available on the chapter website.

Evelyn Penrod, reporting on the chapter's Wildscape Demonstration Garden on the San Antonio River, reported that SARA (San Antonio River Authority) may sell the property where the garden is located. SARA officials are assisting the chapter to find new property and to offer monetary support to the chapter through a contract with the purchasing entity. Garden bed preparation at the new site will likely be outsourced to a professional landscape agency or nursery.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sam Womble, the new AgriLife extension agent and AAMN chapter advisor, was welcomed by the president and invited to introduce himself.

The President announced the commemoration and celebration of 20 years of existence of the Alamo Area Chapter and the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to pursue appropriate activities (Keeley Porter - chair, Tom Brotherman, Mary Frances Anderson, Judit Green, Ron Tullius).

The President announced the formation of additional *ad hoc* committees for 2016 to include:

ad hoc Nominating Committee

Liz Robbins - chair
Wendy Thornton
Ron Tullius

ad hoc Annual Financial Examination Committee

Mike Tayloe - chair
Aubrey George
Ron Tullius

ad hoc Annual COH Revision Committee

Stan Drezek - chair
Matt Carley
Ron Tullius

ad hoc Committee for Archives Preservation

Keeley Porter - chair
(additional members to be determined)

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Ron Tullius, Secretary

Matt Carley, President