



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Agenda for November 13, 2014
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Attendance: Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Bill Eisele, Laura Laughlin, Bruce Neville, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire.

Sarah brought the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

I. Officer and Committee Reports

- A. President - Sarah Laughlin –
- B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of October 2014 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – As of 11/12/14 \$5078.50 current balance and 47 active members.
- E. Committees
 - 1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
 - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your October hours. TMN Online Volunteer Management System (VMS) (see handout) will be new way to submit hours. Will be implemented by one year from now for everyone. 45 day limit after event to enter, or have to cajole chapter admin into allowing a later submission. Will include drop down menus and submission will stay in queue until chapter admin (Betty) approves and/or provides comments. Betty suggests our chapter's chairs, admin, and at least one person from committee attend the VMS training. Round to 15 minutes, not 30. Ebird is entered under environment. Chapter development includes time with committees. December 30th is the Gibbons Creek bird count.
 - 3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
 - 4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
 - 5. Host/Social – Jim Balthrop, Chair –
 - 6. Historian – TBD, Chair –
 - 7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
 - 8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –
 - 9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –

II. Old Business

- A. See annual meeting notes attachment-Sarah Laughlin
- B.

III. New Business

- A. Volunteer hour discussion-Sarah Laughlin: It's been noted our hours are not coming from projects but from food. Bringing food as volunteer hours is not in line with our organization's mission. Board agrees they have no problem removing it. Volunteer hours should be coming from working with nature. But we have some projects coming up that will give volunteer hours working outside, such as working with greenways, working with monarch butterflies, and others.

Ebirding data entry only will count for hours, not the birding itself (unless it is for a survey). As of November 13, 2014, the chapter will no longer accept or approve submitted volunteer hours for bringing food or birding. Betty is waiting to hear back from Michelle Haggerty as to whether or not this will be retroactive and if so, when in 2014 the hours will be removed from credit.

- B.** Dues discussion-Sarah Laughlin. Amanda C: propose to raise our membership fee to \$25 for a single person and \$40 for a couple. Amanda can do an end-of-year report that will show what each committee has spent, except for those that have said they have expenses for reimbursement but have not submitted them. She will email Jan 1 to Dec 31 account year-in-report to Board. She will give a deadline of the social to have all reimbursement requests submitted in order to be able to have an accurate report. Preliminary report to committee chairs first for approval and then to Board. End-of-year report and January 2015 budget will be sent to officers plus chairs. Bruce moved to tabled tentative dues increase until review of budget. In spring 2015, Board will look at numbers to make a decision for 2016.
- C.** Possible upcoming projects and events: Kyle Field Day April 25 at Bluebonnet Stadium with a table and an activity. Adopt-a-Greenway-looking for groups, free, can go as often as we want. Enchanted Rock field trip and volunteer-in desperate need of volunteers to clean up, could be a good chapter field trip. L.A.N.D.S. participation.--Sarah Laughlin.
- D.** Reminder: December meeting/Holiday social - food sign-up sheet is here. Jim said the church is reserved at 5:30 PM.-Sarah Laughlin
- E.** Would BVTMN like to contribute any funds toward a Bird Tale project already in progress at the Winnie L Nursing Home in Cameron, TX-Joyce Conner: We need to get the budget, numbers, and receipts straight and then we can talk about this request.-Sarah Laughlin.

Steve Simcik moved to adjourn. Amanda C. seconded. Adjourned at 6:33 PM.