



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2016 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Attendance: Laura Biddle, Amanda Chau, Mary Dabney Wilson, Donell Frank, Carol Henrich, Roger Hoestenbach, Denise Kieso, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire, Deb Wilson.

The meeting was brought to order by Bruce Neville at 5:34 pm.

Bruce asked for comments or corrections to the minutes. Deb Wilson motioned to accept. Donell Frank seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bruce asked for questions or modifications to the proposed budget. Deb Wilson moved to approve. Cheryl Lewis seconded. Passed unanimously. We over-budgeted for the retreat and have money in the bank. Discussed possibly purchasing a new laptop.

Betty reminded the board about Brazos Valley Earth Day, April 23 from 11 to 3. Need volunteers and exhibitors. www.brazosvalleyearthday.com. She also reminded the board of the TMN Annual Conference October 21 to 23 in Montgomery, TX at La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa.

VMS hours can be entered from anywhere through any internet portal. VMS administrators must use Internet Explorer which only works on a pc, though.

The retreat – Donell offered a large door prize. Deb said we have 13 signed-up. Jason's Deli food site for the event closes on the 18th. Amanda Chau thinks we may see a surge the day before. The board will sit back and listen. We can view the survey entries to date. The board can talk, but will not dominate the retreat.

Donell discussed scheduling Saturday field trips and questioned how many people would attend. Maybe scheduling field trips or workshops other than birding. Already talked to the LANDS Program presenter (Robert) and he has agreed to come give a talk. The presentation is geared towards kids. Cheryl Lewis discussed landscaping with native plants and working with local schools. Cheryl's waiting to hear from Dusty Tittle who is waiting to hear from Baron Rector to get Extension support on native landscapes. Donell has contacted a Houston contact on urban wildlife management and is waiting to hear back. Betty suggested a combined talk for outreach on monarchs, milk weed, and native prairies. Cheryl said Brenham could be a good resource for

a junior naturalist program connected to the school. Donell has also contacted the Urban Interface about a presentation that would include live birds, but they charge \$125. Probably won't use the Urban Interface due to honorarium cost. Cheryl will give Donell the monarch contact. Native Prairie Association might be a resource. Suggested the Tracy Herbarium; contact Dale Krause. Donell also suggested Kleb Woods for a workshop.

Deb requested the snacks/social topic be brought up for discussion at the retreat. The board agreed. Discuss frequency, amount, type, necessary or not, etc.

Bruce recommended Communications Committee send out a reminder February 17th about last day to sign-up for lunch, we value your opinion, please fill out and send the survey, and feel free to brown bag the retreat if you miss the Jason's Deli deadline.

We publicize our BVTMN events on KAMU, KBTX. Mary Dabney Wilson's email messages have the contacts in the TO area and Cheryl can use this as means of finding contacts to advertise.

Donell discussed water quality monitoring at Lick Creek Park. Selected the first iron bridge to test with a group and two test kits.

Carol offered to set up a new domain for our email contacts and the Board approved. She will work on that. She will also work on generic business cards through vistaprint.

The meeting was concluded by Bruce Neville at 6:26 pm.