



## **Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Executive Board Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2014 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Amanda Chau, Joyce Conner, Molly Harris, Sarah Laughlin, Amanda Schwede, Steve Simcik, Betty Vermeire, Sue McBeth Welfel.

Sarah Laughlin brought meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

### **I. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President - Sarah Laughlin – See two new business items below
- B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of May 2014 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau –\$3436.15 current budget with 46 paid members.
- E. Committees
  - 1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs –
  - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – So far this month, 20 members submitted hours for May, 304 volunteer hours and 43.5 AT hours. Year-to-date, 7 members have re-certified, one has certified, and 3 have reached milestones, one each 250, 500, and 1000 hours.
  - 3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair –
  - 4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
  - 5. Host/Social – Melissa Kamerbeek and Jim Balthrop, Co-Chairs –
  - 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. Texas Master Naturalist Liability Insurance: request that Master Naturalist Liability Coverage be covered at the upcoming annual meeting. So that all chapters can have a good understanding of what is and what is not covered. I suggest that the discussion also cover Liability Waivers in a broad way, pointing out what kind of clauses to watch out for as this is a common issue for volunteer activities. No access and not up-to-date on

State website. Suggested a presentation on this topic at the State Meeting. Also each person has to update background check every three years. We also need to become 501C3 non-profit tax-exempt (Liable for a lot without it. With it, not liable for many things.) Need a new TIN number and a new person (or entity, depending on how we apply) attached to it before applying for 501C3. Suggested talking to Katharine Cupps and Jim Balthrop.-Joyce Conner

### **III. New Business**

- A.** Historian Committee Chair Position is Open. Working to find someone to fill the position. Amanda C. and Elrey are on the Historian Committee. Historian keeps archives and photos in hard copy, even though we have them online. Scrapbooking. Joyce suggested assigning someone camera duty for each event so that photos are taken. She suggested asking the general membership later this evening.-Sarah Laughlin
- B.** Request for Outreach at Millican Reserve: Camp Millican. Possibly teach classes or lead nature walks around the reserve. The camp is for kids age 5-10 and is held from 8:30 am to 2:30 or 5:30 pm. The camp runs week days from July 14-18. Sarah will send out via email if anyone's interested and to Mike for volunteer credit approval. Olivia may be able to volunteer and Joyce said Cheryl may be able to as well.
- C.** Storage units very expensive. Contacted Heather Prestridge at BRTC about BVTMN placing a 10x10 storage unit there and she asked if we could do that. If we give a "gift" to Jim Cathey's Texas Master Naturalist fund, he would put the building on TAMU's inventory and we could keep on parking lot of BRTC. Lowe's 8x10 \$299. Home Depot \$278. Neither include the floor. Predicted ~\$100 to build a floor. Amanda C.-would be subject to humidity and heat. Joyce suggested keeping our options open.-Olivia Ash
- D.** New BVTMN brochure-Joyce Conner
- E.** Master Gardeners: Pre-planning stages to involve both Mstr Grdnrs and BVTMN. Site visit.-Molly Harris

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.