**CYPRESS BASIN TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST**

**MEETING 8/18/15**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:** 22 members – Kristi Thomas, David Skinner, Gail Masters, Karen Williams,

Carl Miller, Kay Watson, Michael Mathews, Jill Wright, Stella Barrow, Sue Simmons, Susan

and Steve Sedberry, Tom Walker, Ellen and Floyd Anderson, Pamela Andrews, Vanessa Neace,

Vicki and David Gilliland, Sheila Ritter, Pat and ViAnn Sawyer, and guest Laura Speight.

**OFFICERS:** Officers are Stella Barrow, President, Betty Morgan, Vice President, Karen Williams,

Treasurer, Kristi Thomas, Secretary, Linda Richtsmeier, Membership Chairman, Pat Sawyer,

Webmaster, Vanessa Neace and Doug Weir, Advisors.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at welcome announcements made at 6:30 p.m.

By President Stella Barrow.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve by Susan, seconded by Sue, unanimously

approved.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Per Karen, total is $6,975.85, of which $3,253.85 are regatta funds.

There was one disbursement of $268.87. Sue motioned to approve, Vicki seconded.

Laura Speight with Texas Parks and Wildlife detailed volunteer opportunities that are on the

horizon. One is native grass restoration, and a sign-up list for those interested was circulated.

A second is a volunteer opportunity in which turtles would be counted by photographic

evidence and with citizen survey. Two ways to report would be to TPWD or through INaturalist.

Laura will send more info at a later date. A third opportunity will be 3-phased and entail using

dogs to do zebra mussel checks, with volunteers providing supporting services. More info to

follow, but should happen first in January, then spring to early summer, and late fall. Members

were told that they could google “Working Dogs for Conservtion” to read about the organization

involved.

Other opportunities were discussed, including the Chapter building and maintaining a

trail along the railroad tracks at the refuge and paddle trail maintenance. Members were

split into four groups with different ideas listed to brainstorm and offer ideas and list those

interested. Stella will compile the info for later discussion.

**GENERAL ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS**

**MEETING NIGHT:** ViAnn brought up the fact that it was suggested but never voted on to

change meeting night to Monday so as to resolve conflicts with Chamber. Discussion

ensued. Kay voted to change, ViAnn seconded, and by unanimous vote it was decided to meet

third Monday of each month beginning with September meeting, 9/21.

**STAR GAZING PARTY DISCUSSION:** Decided that a small committee should study and

present to group, discussed possibility of attending a couple before decision made.

**EAB TRAPS REMOVAL:** Discussed, and a sheet for volunteers for take-down circulated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VOLUNTEER PRIORITIES, COMMITTEES, ETC.:** This portion of the meeting was discussed

after Laura Speight visited with the group, as noted above.

**VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/ROLL OUT PLAN:** Goes live in October, Stella went

over details and ideas from meeting earlier in the month; plan to have training sessions of small

groups at Collins academy in September. Meanwhile, members were asked to look at uTube

videos showing how time will be entered to familiarize. It was also stressed that with the new

system volunteers will have to enter hours within 45 days; after that, it will not be possible.

**ROAD TRIP 12/4 TO RIO BRAZOS STAR GAZING PARTY?:** Interest was expressed in

going to Granbury as a group; sign up sheet to circulate for those interested.

**WILD DAZE – COLLINS ACADEMY SPONSORED – 9/25 VO:** Sign up sheet circulated for

volunteers needed to set up archery and maze, will be at Diamond Don’s.

**BOAT TRIP ON 9/27 FOR BARBARA JUDKINS GROUP:** Now have enough boats to take

approximately 25 people out. (Karen, Sue, and Sedberrys)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN OCTOBER – VANESSA – VO:** Wednesday, 10/7 will have

20-25 biologists coming, start at around ten, lunch about eleven, and Vanessa has asked Chapter

to provide lunch. ViAnn motioned to approved, Floyd seconded, group approved unanimously.

Email to follow for food committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:** at 8:15 p.m.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** 1.75

**ADVANCED TRAINING:** NONE

**PLUS YOUR TRAVEL:**

Submitted by Kristi Thomas, Secretary