Final

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

September 26, 2024

Tyler Nature Center (TNC)

**Call to Order**

President Wanda Rauscher called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. There were 14 members present: Wanda Rauscher, Cindy Smith, Bob Lumpkins, Lindsey Smith, Donna Smith, Joe Vorsas, Paul Wick, Vicki Hoppis, Ann Reynolds, Karen Reub-Hall, Rodney Schroeder, Kay Jenkins, Boyd Sanders, and Carol Lanthrum.

**Distribution of Useful Documents**

The following documents were distributed: Meeting Agenda; President’s Report; Summary Treasurer’s Report; Communication Support – Website; 2024 3rd Quarter VMS Report; Project Overview (Tyler Audubon Society Bird Blind).

**Reports of Officers, Directors and Chairs**

*President Report – Wanda Rauscher*

Wanda made the following remarks:

*Refer to President’s Report for details*.

* Wanda stated that the Training Class is going well.
* Wanda stated that documenting the 2024 training class processes will provide us a clearer path for the 2025 class.
* She stated that her volunteer experience at SFA Ecological Adventures was successful. Vicki Hoppis stated that she taught kindergarten through 5th graders. Wanda stated the SFA will need quarterly help for Science & Nature for Kids & Families and that it is an approved VHS project.
* She noted that using Dropbox will not work for chapter documents and we will use jump drives to store data and pass information to officer and director successors.
* She stated that appointment of Lindsey Smith and Carol Lanthrum to the Nominating Committee required Board approval. Wanda proposed that the nominee be approved; Karen Rueb-Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Wanda stated that the position of Vice-President does not automatically become President in Master Naturalist by-laws.
* Wanda informed our chapter project to improve The Tyler Nature Center will be part of the TMN Tuesday Project Fair on October 8th.

*Vice-President/Program Chair – Cindy Smith*

Cindy stated the October chapter meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd, due to the State Meeting starting on Thursday.

*Treasurer – Bob Lumpkins*

Bob explained the Summary Treasurer Report for the October 3, 2024, noting that the majority of the revenue and expenses are due to the 2024 Training Class. He noted that he will need an audit committee in December to comply with chapter By-Laws.

*Secretary – Carol Lanthrum*

No report

*Advanced Training – Karen Rueb-Hall*

Karen noted that there has been a learning curve as requirements have become more stringent. She stated that she has had to deny some requests. She noted that State decided that AT should be restricted to the local ecoregion, that it must be educational and that AT must allow an opportunity to interact/ask questions of the presenter either ‘live’ or by email/phone.

*Community Education/Outreach – Lance Homeniuk*

Lance is not present. Wanda stated she communicated with Lance and that he had nothing to report.

Ann Reynolds noted that the Girl Scout contact wanted a speaker at Camp Bette Perot leader’s meeting, but has not been clear about what she wants. Ann said she will speak on iNaturalist and lead a nature walk unless she gets better information. The meeting is October 19th.

*Volunteer Service Projects – Dawn Bahr*

Dawn is not present.

*Speakers Bureau/Social Media – Greg Marshall*

Greg is not present

*Training Class – Kay Jenkins*

Kay stated that the class is going well in spite of the fact that there has been a number of speaker schedule adjustments. Chapter member help has been great and 2 trainees came to the Wildscape cleanup. She stated that she set up a makeup day for November 9th, but is uncertain if she can get speakers to come a second time. Wanda stated she hoped Kay would be the director for the 2025 class.

*Membership – Donna Smith*

Donna stated that a couple of people want to transfer to our chapter.

*Volunteer Management System Director – Lindsey Smith*

Lindsey stated that our chapter has logged 4115volunteer hours and 598 AT hours have been posted. He stated that the 2024 training class is still learning how to log hours. Joe Vorsas asked how our hours compared to last year and Lindsey stated he will present that information at the December meeting. He stated our volunteer hours are now valued at $28/hr an logging hours can help our state managers justify more staff and services.

*Hospitality – Caryn & Joe Vorsas*

Joe stated that cookies were available for meetings.

Communications Support

* *EBlast* – Wanda continues to email EBlast
* *Newsletter* – *Ann Reynolds*

Ann stated that she has enjoyed doing the newsletter, but it needs new talent.

* *Public Relations – Open*
* *Social Media* – Greg Marshall/Dawn Bahr

Greg and Dawn are not present.

* *Website* – Jessica Coleman

*Refer to Communication Support*: Website

Jessica stated she has updated the website: updated calendar, forms, officer contacts, FAQ, B-Laws, link to Odolympics. She stated she can make any Word Document fillable. She is also updating the ET Nature Gallery by nature group and it is currently under development. She asked for photos so she can expand this area.

Old Business

Kay Jenkins stated that the $300 Wildscape grant has been spent.

New Business

Request for Funding of Bird Blind at Neches River Refuge

*Refer to Project Overview*

Jessica Coleman stated that the Tyler Audubon Society wants to build a bird blind at this 10,000 acre area near Jacksonville, offer outreach and education to the public, enlist the Native Plant Society to plant natives to attract pollinators, install signage, provide ADA access. TAS will apply for a grant to hopefully get $15K. Without grants, they will build the structures in phases. She asked for a contribution. Bob Lumpkins asked how much she would want ETCMN to contribute. She asked for a pledge of $1000. Kay Jenkins made the motion; Joe Vorsas seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Bob asked for a descriptor of the project and Jessica said she could have it by December.

Wanda adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lanthrum

Secretary