

Lost Pines Master Naturalist Board Meeting
Minutes
November 5, 2015

The Lost Pines Master Naturalist November Board Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at Bluebonnet Electric Coop by President Julia Akin. Members present included: Audrey Ambrose, Beth Moore, Carroll Moore, Frank May, Jim Estes, Joan Estes, Julia Akin, Larry Gfeller, Michal Hubbard, Mike Barrett, and Paula Weisskopf. Absent members were Marsha Elrod and Rick Johnson. LPMN members Bruce Siebert and Christa Chagra attended as guests.

New Business

Larry Gfeller announced the slate of Officers for the 2016 LPMN Board of /directors.

Julia Akin	President
Paula Weisskopf	Vice President
Treasurer	Carroll Moore
Secretary	Marcia Karr

Michal Hubbard made a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2016 and Jim Estes seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Outgoing Board members are Vice President Mike Barrett and Secretary Joan Estes.

Larry announced that the Board will be making changes in the Committee structure for next year which entails combining Committees. The Education/Resources Committee and Public Relations Committees will consist of several like oriented responsibilities. He said more information will be coming soon and he hopes that the Committees will be in place by January 2016. The Board will also consider expanding their responsibilities.

Carrol Moore and Julia Akin presented a report of the Financial Audit conducted last week. The auditors consisted of Julia Akin, Ronnie Lanier and Carol Brown. There will be an end of the year report of the audit and Julia informed members that the accounting details were in very good order.

Carroll submitted the 2016 Budget to the Board for review. After significant discussion the Budget was approved. Michal Hubbard made a motion to accept the 2016 Budget as presented and Frank May seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried. The Proposed Budget is attached. Carroll also recommended that a Fund Raising Committee be formed to focus on soliciting the required revenue necessary to balance the budget. Audrey Ambrose made a motion to establish a Fund Raising Committee for the Chapter and Michal Hubbard seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

Carroll Moore presented an analysis of the administrative cost of running the chapter. He estimates it costs \$38 per member, which includes the cost of regular background checks. Board members agreed to give notice to chapter members that an increase in dues would be presented as a discussion item at the general membership meeting in December.

Audrey discussed some concerns regarding comments on MeetUp from a member. This was not the first incident for the member and the member was informed of the inappropriate communication on Meetup. It was decided at this time to not act on the latest email but monitor any other suspect communications.

Mike presented the latest list of existing partner agencies for the Chapter. There was significant discussion about the list and the recommendations from Board members was to expand the list from 12-24. Julia will revise the list and send it to the members. The list will be attached to the minutes.

Audrey announced that the maximum travel time allowed to be reported for each volunteer activity has been increased from one hour to two hours by TMN. It was suggested that LPMN consider increasing the maximum since our geographic area is so large, and we have members commuting from Austin. Audrey Ambrose made the motion to increase approved travel time to 2 hours max and Jim Estes seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried. Chapter members will be informed at the November meeting that effective Nov. 1st the new maximum travel time allowed will increase to two hours per volunteer activity.

The VMS committee met and made significant progress on the documentation of the new system.

Audrey announced the results of the LPMN Member of the year as Julia Akin. She also commended Larry Gfeller, Frank May, and Kathryn Hedges for their work with the chapter and their nominations for the award. The Committee will work on the process next year soliciting input from members for simplifying the form.

The Chapter has been asked to support the Texas Bluebird Society's (TBS) March 1st annual meeting in Bastrop. Members have assisted the TBS in the past. Mike will check with TBS to get more specific information regarding the number of people needed, the hours of service and tasks requested.

Julia Akin reported that she and Joan Estes were working on the recommendations for future Chapter leaders.

Paula Weisskopf said she would be working to appoint a member as MeetUp Manager.

Bruce Seibert will be developing a list of community leaders and businesses to send a Chapter Newsletter.

Larry Gfeller is working on continuing development of the Facebook site.

Next year there will be a concerted effort to expand recruiting of members from Caldwell County and increasing support services to Lockhart and the Lockhart State Park. Jim Estes was asked to work on this project.

Julia asked if there were any changes to the September minutes. There were no edits or corrections to the minutes. Carroll Moore made a motion to accept the minutes and Larry Gfeller seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be 5:00 p.m. January 7th at the Bluebonnet Electric Coop in Bastrop.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Estes Sec

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Joan Estes
Secretary LPMN