

Lost Pines Texas Master Naturalist Board Meeting

March 3rd, 2016 – Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

In attendance: Carroll Moore, Beth Freedman, Paula Weisskopf, Bruce Siebert, Marsha Elrod, Larry Gfeller, Christa Chagra, Audrey Ambrose, Cat May, Frank May, Kelly Alecci, Julia Akin, and Marcia Karr

Meeting called to order by President Julia Akin at 5:35pm.

I. New Business:

A. Welcome Kelly Alecci to Board – Jr Master Naturalist Report:

- Julia welcomed Kelly Alecci to the Board.
- The JMN committee first met last June. The committee consists of Kelly, Kathryn Hedges, Kim Iberg, Julia Akin, and Tom Viets.
- The first class will be held on April 7th. The initial program will consist of 5 classes with plans to expand to a full year certification program starting in September of 2016.
- The committee eventually wants to include the certified kids in our volunteer activities.
- We have partnered with *Beyond the Bell*, a community program that provides administrative support such as printing, venues, registration administration, and snacks.
- There are six kids signed up as of today's date. A flyer went out to the community on Thursday. We are hoping for 15 students.
- The classes will have one speaker and three aides. Kathryn has developed sample curriculum. The class speakers are: Plants – Louise Ridlon, Birds – Anna Stalcup, Mammals – Marcia Karr, Water – no speaker yet, and Geology – Jim Estes.
- The cost is \$30 for the first session. Kelly said that we still need to accumulate supplies. Bruce told Kelly that we have \$800 to use towards supplies and/or scholarships.

B. Review Volunteer Project Approval request re bio-census for private landowners:

- The Board referenced the Chapter Management and Operations Protocols Bad/Better/Best document.
- It was decided that the property owner must be present in order to be educated about the property, rather than just handed an inventory list of species found.
- Marsha suggested that the proposal be re-written to include verbiage that specifically states that the owner or owner's designee must be present during the bio-census. Bruce motioned to approve the activity for volunteer hours with that adjustment to the text. The motion was seconded by Paula. All in favor, zero opposed.
- Larry suggested that the Chapter should consider using this activity to help advise private homeowners about wildlife management plans, taking some of the burden off the county wildlife biologists.

C. Set date for May board meeting – consider change due to conflict with JMN session:

- The decision was made to keep the date the same, but start at 6pm instead.

II. Committee Reports:

A. Finance – Carroll Moore:

1. Consider revisions to the 2016 budget:
 - Dues figures need to be updated in order to reflect dues increase.
 - There are potential updates needed to the training class income and expenses. A motion is required to approve the adjustment; however, Julia has questions regarding the number of students that have paid training dues already and if those dues have been transferred to the dues actual line item. It was determined that the Board could not motion to adjust those numbers until Julia has an opportunity to speak with Michal Hubbard to clarify those issues.
 - Carroll suggested a transfer of \$2000 from the LPNT budget to the contingency

budget. After lengthy conversations with Frank and Carol Brown regarding what they actually need, it was determined that their budget was higher than necessary.

- There was a discussion regarding the JMN income and expenses, and how to allow for that program in the budget. It was determined that without any prior year history, the budget is what it is for this year and will be adjusted next year as necessary.
 - Marsha brought up that the budgeted column should not change, only the actuals should change as these figures are adjusted.
2. Review financial activity year to date:
 - Carroll reviewed the current budget lines.
 - A discussion started regarding how to handle outstanding dues for members who are still reporting hours but not paying dues. Audrey will send a letter to members with outstanding dues.
 3. Check request for \$450 dollars:
 - A check request was made by Julia for board manuals and flyer reimbursement. Beth motioned to approve. Kelly and Audrey seconded. All in favor, zero opposed.

B. Resource Development – Bruce Siebert:

1. Process for approval and prioritization of programs and projects:
 - There has been some confusion regarding who's approval is needed for new Chapter programs and the funds for those programs. Bruce will spearhead an effort to formalize a process for getting programs approved for funds.
2. LPNT/CRR – LPTMN's role (volunteer and fundraising):
 - Bruce feels like too many Chapter resources are being spent on the LPNT. There was a discussion about how the Chapter is in the process of handing it off to the Tahitian residents; however, there was also some debate about the resources being spent given the benefits to the community and the Chapter as a result.

III. Old Business:

A. Strategic Plan progress:

- Larry discussed the February 4th Strategic Planning meeting. He thought there had been a lot of great progress. He suggested another follow-up meeting in order to continue the discussion.
- There was some discussion about planning the Fall retreat. Going to a location on the Gulf Coast was suggested.

B. Update re pending disciplinary action:

- A decision has been made and the state wants to deliver the news face-to-face with the 2015 Executive Committee. They will meet at Rachel Bauer's office on March 15th at 9am.

IV. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2016:

- Beth motioned to accept, Paula seconded. All in favor, zero opposed.

Meeting adjourned by President Akin at 8:24pm.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2016, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted on April 12, 2016 by:

Marcia A. Karr
Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist – Lost Pines Chapter