

# Lost Pines Master Naturalist Board Meeting

## May 5, 2016 – Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

In attendance: Beth Freedman Moore, Marsha Elrod, Larry Gfeller, Donna Nelson (Guest), Audrey Ambrose, Marcia Karr, Christa Chagra, Bruce Siebert, Paula Weisskopf, and Kathryn Hedges

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Larry Gfeller.

Larry started by reading a letter from Julia regarding her intention to end her term as President as of the end of 2016. This opened a conversation regarding open Board positions, how to proceed, and what the vision for the future is. We agreed that the Strategic Plan was a good tool to use as a guide as the Board transitions to new members.

### New Business

1. *TMN Annual Meeting* – Marsha Elrod – Mary Pearl and Michelle are asking for help getting speakers together for the annual meeting. Marsha asked for suggestions for speakers, based on who we've liked at meeting and classes. The annual meeting will be held on 10/21-23<sup>rd</sup> in Montgomery TX, at the La Torretta Spa & Resort.
2. *TXMN License plate* – an email regarding this was distributed with the board meeting packet. Paula will stand up at the Chapter meeting to poll our Chapter members on:
  1. How many would purchase one?
  2. Are we willing to pay \$174, our share of the \$8000?
3. *2016 Board Retreat* – Bruce found a venue in Rockport, the Lighthouse Inn. They need a head count by mid-May. We discussed a potential schedule of Friday night, all day Saturday, wrap-up Sunday morning. Audrey will be in charge of logistics, planning, and head count.

### Committee Reports

4. *Training Committee* – Larry read a report from Michal Hubbard.  
We are on schedule to certify 16 new members. Things that have worked well:
  - digital make-up classes via DVD,
  - pairing Monday evening class topic with a follow-up field trip on the same topic the following Saturday,
  - using the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative building for classes,
  - food for class.Things that could have gone better:
  - better support from TPWD – having a hard time getting locations and speakers from the TPWD;
  - need a larger training committee – need at least two more people.
5. *Outreach – Christa Chagra*
  1. City of Smithville Parks and Recreation – Smithville received a grant and is using it to put on a program for kids to learn about and engage with nature. They will need volunteers to help put on the program.
  2. 2017 Nature Fest – The Goodwater chapter is interested in hosting a Central Texas Nature Fest. They are interested in having a number of Chapters work together to find

the site, arrange speakers, booths, etc. Christa will be attending a meeting in Georgetown to discuss our potential participation.

6. *Resource Development – Bruce Siebert*

1. A project, program and event submission and approval process is being developed. Upon further discussion it was decided that this would be discussed further at the Strategic Planning meeting; however, the idea is that program requests would be submitted to the Executive committee, who would assess it, and then present it to the Board for approval. It would then be implemented by the most appropriate committee head.

7. *Junior Master Naturalist – Kathryn Hedges*

1. There are currently 12 kids attending. So far Anna has taught birds, Louise taught plants, and Marcia taught Mammals. This is the pilot program for the full-year program, which will begin in September 2016. Sessions are taking place at Cedar Creek Intermediate school. The full program will include a service project. Some potential service projects were discussed such as planting a butterfly garden and leading hikes.

## Old Business

8. *Strategic Plan* – This will be discussed in great detail at the follow up meeting on May 12, 2016 at 5:30pm.
9. *Update on disciplinary action* – The state and chapter members met in April regarding this situation and the state did not agree with our position. They made the decision to transfer Mr. Buckwalter themselves, but they did not ask the Chapter to provide a letter of good standing.
10. *Biocensus for private landowners* – We weren't sure what to discuss as no one had anything new to contribute to this topic.
11. *Lost Pines Nature Trails* – Bruce asked for follow-up on how the LPNT's security and maintenance transition to the Tahitian residents was going. Specifically, a trail is washed out and he wondered if liability could fall on the Chapter if something happens to someone on a washed out trail. Frank was not present to speak to this topic, so it will roll to the next meeting.

Approve Board Meeting minutes from March 3, 2016 – Audrey motioned, Beth seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

Adjourned by Larry Gfeller at 8:36pm.

Next meeting: July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

Respectfully submitted on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016:

Marcia A. Karr

*Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Lost Pines Chapter*