

# El Camino Real Texas Master Naturalist

January 7, 2022

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Virtual: Mike Conner, Sue Ann Kendall, Kathy Lester, Lisa Milewski

In Person: Linda Jo Conn, Carolyn Henderson, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Pamela Neeley, Don Travis

**Time: 11:30 a.m.**

**Place: All Saints Episcopal Church meeting room (bring your own lunch)**

- I. Statements of plans for the new year
  - A. President Carolyn Henderson – the objective for this year is for each of us to share our plan. Carolyn’s main objective is to have at least one field trip a month and get things moving again, as much as we can.  
She learned VMS from Clyde Camp, so she can now run reports.
  - B. Vice President Liz Lewis – plans to figure out exactly what she should do. It won’t hurt her feelings to get instructions.
  - C. Secretary Sue Ann Kendall – going to take notes and encourage more bloggers
  - D. Treasurer Mike Connor – no real treasurer plans, but he will be filing the annual report and requesting a review of that. We have 23 paid dues this year. We have around \$5K in the bank.
  - E. Directors
    1. Membership Lisa Milewski – Updating the members in VMS takes a while and she is doing that. Does not enjoy doing the constant reminders. People become inactive March 31. Carolyn can send out the reminders instead. We are only halfway to last year’s total. Mike will send the list of who has paid to Carolyn, who will take over pestering people.  
Lisa got a report of our audit, and we didn’t have to correct anything. What a great job! We need younger members.  
Linda Jo says some chapters ask their members to report within 30 days.  
Carolyn suggests we no longer do exceptions.
    2. Student Training Kathy Lester – 7 people have signed up! She will now send all the checks to Mike. Should we do in-person classes or not? Carolyn says she will leave that up to Kathy. She will ask the class

what they think. It is fine for speakers to be online if that is their preference. Two people declined because it was in the evening. The radio web page post and newspaper looked good. KMIL went over very well. Class starts January 20.

Sue Ann will set up Zoom rooms for each class, just in case they need to use them.

Lisa needs name, email address, and phone number of the students so they can sign into the VMS. They need to get trained early.

3. Communications Don Travis – Don is on the list to get an Owl camera of some sort. An independent Zoom item. It's like what they used at the annual meeting. It's a six-month loan from the Master Naturalist program.

The meeting room in the church does not have Internet right now, making Zoom impossible.

Perhaps we could move the classes to the Chamber of Commerce meeting room until the church WiFi situation is fixed.

Don couldn't find our stuff to run the meeting. Mike has the microphone. He needs to do the updates on the laptop, which can happen at Carolyn's office.

4. Advanced Training Pamela Neeley – Advanced Training Approval form link doesn't work anymore, says Carolyn. There is a PDF version that you can use. They want to be able to fill it out online. She now has two proposals for advanced training. She hopes for field trips, Alan Rudds place, Bioblitz at Pamela's place in spring (also, Liz, Melanie Reed, SAK, etc.).

5. State Representative Linda Jo Conn – Was disappointed that there was no state representative meeting at the conference last year. She is going to check with the program's status with Mary Pearl. It used to focus on fundraising. She intends to be a cheerleader for the Chapter. She does not plan to do the monthly iNat award. But we voted that we wanted to keep it going. We can submit observations to help her out! She suggests VMS be improved.

6. Volunteer Service Projects Donna Lewis – A new position. She will be working on field trips.
  - a. Paul Crump is going to go to the Wildscape and do a talk about pond animals.
  - b. Monique Reed may come and show us things outdoors.
  - c. Working on Mike McCormick the purple martin guy to have us over. If he cannot come, some of us can come to Donna's house to show the babies.
  - d. Outdoor talk about bluebirds is in the works.

- e. Journey North – class on it.
  - f. March 12 Cliff Bald Eagle will teach invasive species (glossy privet) tree girdling at Wilson Ledbetter Park – may give us both AT and VT hours.
- 7. Host Sherri Colley – does she still want to do it?
- 8. Historian – website and blog serve that purpose
- 9. Advisor Tim Siegmund (Speaking at the Jan. 13 regular meeting)
- II. Frequency of board meetings – quarterly unless something comes up
- III. Survey for all members – Carolyn is going to send a survey out to the members with four questions about the chapter. What do you like, not like, want to see, want to help out with. Includes the mission of the program on it.
- IV. Chamber of Commerce – On the web site it says we are members of the Cameron and Rockdale chambers, but we are not. Should we be members? We think so now that we are wanting to use them. Linda Jo moves to re-join both. Pamela seconded it. After discussion, Linda Jo withdrew her motion. Sue Ann moves that we join Cameron. Liz Lewis seconded. The vote passed. We will join as a nonprofit organization, which is not very expensive. Carolyn will investigate the Rockdale Chamber.
- V. Milano Butterfly Garden – see pictures sent with this agenda to decide what we should do about it. No one can take care of it anymore and it is overgrown. There is a lot of passionflower vine. It no longer meets the criteria for being a monarch way station. It says we take care of it but we are not. We need to either work on it or remove the signs.  
The City also said they can't take care of it. Donna suggests that the people who said they could take care of it be notified. Lots of people go by there. Our membership doesn't have anyone who wants to go and help, according to Donna. Decision is to wait to see what Sandra D. says, and if she is unable to help, we will remove the signs.
- VI. Other – any subject relating to ECR TMN any board member would like to discuss
  - A. Pot Luck meals – take a vote of Chapter or just start allowing it in February – we will vote on that next week.
  - B. Sugar Loaf Mountain (Mike) – It is off 2095 near Gause and is an important historical area in the county and state. It is on private land. Land owner has agreed to sell the mountain and a strip of land to the river to preserve it as a public place. Dave Cunningham negotiated this. State of Texas has matching funding. Need to raise \$195K, matched by the state. He is asking for an endorsement from us for the project. Lots of other entities are backing it. Mike Conner moved that we officially endorse the activity. Sue Ann seconds. Does this cost us? No. Will the public get to use it? That is the plan. The motion passed unanimously. Mike will tell people at the meeting next week.

- C. Earth Day (Donna Lewis) – wants to do it indoors. Linda Jo suggests a service-related event. We could do it at the Wildscape and see if the Master Gardeners want to help out. People liked that idea. A service idea would be to go to Orchard Park and give it some TLC.

1.5 hours admin board meeting

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Secretary