

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
09/06/16
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom B – Carbide Park
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Nolan-Wilde at 2:02pm.

Present: Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Chuck Snyder, Ellen Gerloff, Jim Duron, Jo Monday, Julie Massey, William Breaux, Alice Rodgers and Cindy Howard.

Absent: Beth Cooper and Tim Long.

Maureen shared that Beth has not been feeling well and is undergoing medical tests this week. Tim is climbing Mt. Whitney with his sons; no decision yet on the coastal warden position.

Old business

1. The minutes of the August 2016 board meeting were reviewed; a motion to approve as read was made by Jo, seconded by Chuck. Motion passed. Maureen is now posting minutes to the GBA-MN website and minutes with corrections were approved.

New business

1. Day Away initiatives
 - a. Transitions team: Emeritus Luncheon completed
 - i. Luncheon to occur on Friday, Sept. 9 at Carbide, 11am-1pm with goal of reconnecting with inactive members and current active members who are no longer able to volunteer as they have in the past.
 - ii. 10 will attend (out of 50 invited), including one from GBAC first class.
 - iii. Plan to be informal: show videos of what the chapter is doing in the community, visit over lunch; Sara will help run the lunch as an informal meeting about what they may be interested in doing, including hosting future lunches.
 - iv. Transitions team: Chris Anastas, Debi Shelton, Jim Duron, Beth Cooper, Sara Snell and Maureen Nolan-Wilde; Ellen will be the official greeter
 - v. Suggestion to print name tags for everyone ahead of the lunch.
 - b. Updated GBA-MN chapter brochure
 - i. Project headed by Chris and Beth.
 - ii. Final version of the brochure will be ready for the October chapter meeting.
2. October Chapter meeting
 - a. Dr. Huilin Gao and Dr. Daniel Roelke from Texas A&M University in Galveston will present on their models for freshwater inflows to Galveston Bay.
 - b. Since there are two presenters, it was decided that we would split the usual speaker gift of a \$50 gift card into two \$25 cards and include a hat or t-shirt from the MN store.
 - c. Cindy will be able to attend only the beginning of the meeting due to work, so Julie or Maureen will introduce the speakers.
3. Texas Master Naturalist State Conference and scholarship
 - a. Maureen thanked the board for the fast email vote on the scholarship

- i. Two GBAC-MNs were nominated, but one would be unable to attend, so we had one final nominee: Stennie Meadours, who received unanimous vote.
 1. Marie Asscherick was also nominated and given a scholarship by a unanimous email vote after the board meeting.
- ii. Stennie is making a presentation at the conference on 3P and will also be representing the chapter for Project of the Year.
- b. 10-12 GBAC-MN chapter members will be attending the State conference, also Kari Howard, representing Audubon TERN.
- c. Articles about what was learned at the conference will be published in the *Midden*

Board reports

President (M. Nolan-Wilde): Maureen received a nice letter from Martin Dietz, who our chapter awarded a scholarship to participate in the Coastal Brigade. Chariss and Derek York were the brains behind the camp and all agreed it was a real success. Maureen also has received letters from our sponsors who now recognize GBAC-MN volunteers as “dedicated citizen scientists”. This is a positive reflection on our chapter’s work for our sponsors and helps them acquire project grant support (e.g., GBCO)

Vice President (C. Howard): No further report.

Secretary/State Representative (B. Cooper): Absent.

Treasurer (E. Gerloff): Ellen provided updated report. She inquired about the status of the Photo Contest (will continue through September 23). Maureen requested a budget line for Penny Bessire, who is sending out thank-you notes for the chapter and notes plus a pecan pie for members experiencing life events. Ellen reported that she has provided committee leads with balance information from 2016 and is preparing the 2017 draft budget for discussion in October. The 2017 budget should be completed no later than the December board meeting. Treasurer’s report acceptance moved by Jo, second by Cindy, approved by unanimous vote.

Membership (J. Duron): On track with last year’s numbers. Eight more members recertified in August, 171 have reported hours. One VMS issue: some members lost opportunities linked to an application that was run in VMS by someone in another chapter; impacted only those members who had a transferred folder (three in our chapter). Jim will send an email to those close to recertifying (about 31 people); did this last year in November, which didn’t give recipients enough time. Chuck suggested that Maureen remind everyone at the October chapter meeting that they have two months to complete their 2016 hours. He also presented a pie graph of how our members volunteer (will publish on the first page of the next *Midden*). Maureen pointed out that one of the benefits of the VMS is the ability to mine data; shows that our chapter’s focus at present is the same as it was seven years ago, but we have expanded the range of opportunities. Chuck will work with members needing AT for the year. He added that half of our AT opportunities are GBAC-sponsored (in-house) and half are from our partners (e.g., ABNC, Audubon TERN).

Volunteer Service (J. Monday): The Education Outreach Committee has developed its “Top Six” categories for curriculum, all include modules with PowerPoints and materials in a tub in the storage room at Carbide:

- Gems of the Sea
- Water, Water Everywhere
- Master Naturalists: Who We Are
- Sea Turtles

- Backyard Birds

- Prairies

Presentation on the Attwater prairie chicken facility at NASA will be out very shortly, will offer volunteer activity. A question was asked if this would be a good habitat restoration/improvement effort for AgriLife. Chapter members should report all presentations they give as MNs to Education Outreach for record keeping.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder): Two AT opportunities coming up: (1) hayride without hay at TCPP October 19 in the morning and (2) talk on reptiles/amphibians by Tracy Prothro at Eddie Gray Wetlands Center on November 2. Committee worked on a plankton AT with Steve Alexander but couldn't work out the schedule, will defer to spring.

Class representatives: Bill was welcomed back after being out for his foot injury; no other report.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Julie was selected to participate in an Ocean and Climate Change training. She will start the first phase in Boston next week with Shelley DuPuy. She will use what she learns in the training classes and community. First assignment is to complete a general survey of people's knowledge and views on climate change.
2. Julie stressed the importance of documenting all that our chapter does and our results over time, so that we don't lose any details of our projects and their outcomes. This information could lead to publications for the scientific community. This could include oral histories and videos.

Other business

1. New state MN curriculum book. Planning to order a set (\$770) for the training class that each member will check out and use during training. Will also order a copy for the MN store and chapter members can sign up to purchase a copy through the store. Some questions were raised on the relevance of this manual to our chapter, but may be of general interest.
2. Treasures of the Bay awards. Will be asking for nominations in mid-October for names of non-profits and outstanding chapter members. Awards made at the December meeting. Last year's award to Audubon TERN resulted in attention from their national office.

Next board meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.