

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists  
Board Meeting  
Nov. 29, 2016  
Maureen Nolan-Wilde's home on Tiki Island  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Nolan-Wilde at 12:35pm.

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

Maureen discussed safety related issues:

1. Reminder about the dangers of driving while texting and other types of distracted driving.

### **Old business**

The minutes of the amended November 2016 board meeting were reviewed. No additional changes were proposed. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Bill, seconded by Ellen. Motion passed.

### **New business**

1. Board Transition
  - a. New elected board members will be effective after Thursday's chapter meeting. Slate of board nominees to be voted on during chapter meeting.
  - b. Appointed positions will be asked to remain at the discretion of new board.
  - c. Ellen will complete calendar year as Treasurer in order for "close books" and transition to new person.
  - d. VMS profiles to be updated for current and future board members, including VMS approvals. Transition during January, complete by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Discussion about "Day Away" planning meeting in January. Decision will be up to new board, but highly recommended by current board. Discussion about adding to Chapter Operating Procedures.
2. YE Meeting Planning (Cindy, Bill, Alice)
  - a. Centerpieces being worked on by class members and expected to be completed. One for each 16 classes.
  - b. Setup scheduled to start 4:30pm on Thursday. Dinner to start at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm.
  - c. Donations for door prizes very successful. 15 prizes with total value of approximately \$640. Tickets for drawing to be given out at check-in. Three drawings of 5 each: before eating, after eating, toward end of meeting.
  - d. Much discussion about when and how to do class photos. Ultimately agreed that due to time constraints it would not be feasible. Roaming photographers to be used. Chris Gross will be asked, and also Tim Long.

- e. Drawing for the centerpieces will be done prior to the meeting, and announced at the end of the meeting (Tim Long).

3. TMN Endowment (Tim)

- a. Tim gave an overview of new TMN Endowment program. Description below:

*“The Texas Master Naturalist Program is currently funded through a federal grant that supports two staff dedicated to the program and limited resources to support actions of local chapters. This federal funding, while greatly appreciated, has sustained the program through its growth from one chapter in 1997 to 46 chapters in 2016. In terms we appreciate as naturalists, our current statewide carrying capacity for program growth has exceeded the ability to support the program in a way that meets today’s need. But the potential that the program can reach across Texas is far from completed.*

*The TMN Endowment was created as a partnership effort supported by both the Texas A&M Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Two foundations working together to build sustainable funding for a program speaks to the importance and incredible passion of TMN volunteers.*

*The goal is to create a \$5 million dollar TMN Endowment. This figure was deliberately chosen. The current budget for the TMN state program is approximately \$200,000. If we are able to reach our goal and hold a \$5 million endowment, it would generate a guaranteed minimum 4% return annually, providing \$200,000 back to the TMN State Program. These funds would be used to bolster the TMN Program, duplicate its efforts across the state, and give back to the TMN chapters in ways that could not be done with the current funding and capacity. “*

- b. An email from State to all TMN members is expected in the coming days.

4. Treasures of the Bay

- a. Maureen put forth proposal to create “Beth Cooper Treasure of the Bay” award
  - i. To be for “above and beyond” of nominated individual from last two classes (current year and previous year’s classes) who makes significant impact in the areas of service and/or leadership.
  - ii. First award will be in December 2017
  - iii. Motion by Tim, second by Cindy, approved by unanimous vote.
- b. Maureen gave overall description of “Treasures of the Bay” awards.
- c. Discussion and recommendation that the chapter should consider creating “Dick Benoit Founders Award”. To be suggested to new board.

## **Board reports**

President (M. Nolan-Wilde): Working on transition to new President.

Vice President (C. Howard):

1. Working on transition to new VP.
2. Chuck mentioned that AT Committee would continue to help by suggesting speakers for chapter meetings.

Secretary/State Representative (T. Long): Added to State Rep mailing list.

Treasurer (E. Gerloff):

1. 2017 budget approved at last board meeting.
2. Recent request by Chatt Smith for additional \$500 to be added to Stewardship (STW01) for GISP greenhouse work/parts. Amended STW01 from \$500 to \$700 by moving the \$200 from Misc line. No change to budget total. Motion to approve change made by Jo, second by Cindy, approved by vote.
3. Further discussion about how to request funding for projects, etc. Who to ask? How to engage other volunteer organization and agencies. Process needs to be developed. Suggest to new board.
4. General rule: If you are expecting reimbursement ask for approval first.

Membership (J. Duron):

1. YTD 1000 hours behind last year. Likely reporting issues (people not reporting).
2. 178 members have logged hours, 1 behind last year.
3. 135 have recertified YTD compared to 150 total last year.
4. State is possibly conducting an audit of VMS data. Birthdays and other info possibly under review.
5. Input of VMS service hour input closed Nov 28<sup>th</sup> for awards to be given this Thursday.
6. Spending time getting ready for YE meeting.

Volunteer Service (J. Monday): Education Outreach Committee meeting in the storage closet to re-organize.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder): Chapter sponsored AT is completed for the year. Some possibilities (eg. Bird NERD) still exist before YE.

Class representatives (W. Breaux, A. Rodgers): See "Y Meeting Planning" above.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Stated appreciation of the outgoing board members, and especially Maureen, for all their hard work and support.

## **Other business**

1. Maureen thanked board for their support.
2. Thanks to Maureen for hosting meeting at her house.

Next board meeting likely on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, at Carbide, 2pm. This to be finalized by new board.

Motion was made by Alice and seconded by Chuck to adjourn at 2:34 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Long