

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
10/04/16
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom B – Carbide Park
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Nolan-Wilde at 2:00pm.

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

Absent: Beth Cooper and Jo Monday.

Maureen discussed several safety related issues:

1. Sign-in at all meetings at Carbide so we/they know who is here.
2. Due to a recent accident involving a chapter member at TCPP (broken arm/wrist in accident with mulching machine), we need to look at all processes, what we do and how we do it.
 - a. Clear response procedure needed that should be followed after any accident/injury.
 - b. Look at all locations where we volunteer. Are we doing what we should be? Training? Processes and procedures needed and followed?
3. Finally, do not put your volunteer work with the Chapter ahead of your own health. Take care of yourself, and watch out for watch out for each other.

Old business

The minutes of the September 2016 board meeting were reviewed. One amendment was proposed and approved to add the nomination (approved by email) and award of a MN Conference scholarship to Marie Asscherick. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Chuck, seconded by Ellen. Motion passed.

New business

1. Board Positions
 - a. Maureen announced that Beth Cooper will be taking a leave of absence from the Board. Tim Long will be filling in as Secretary. Alice Rodgers will move up to replace Tim as voting Class Representative.
2. Transition to 2017
 - a. There will be large turnover in board positions (due to term limits) and some appointed positions for 2017. Start preparing for transitioning in next year's replacement. Organize electronic or manual files as necessary to make for smooth handover.
 - b. Nominating committee, headed by Sara Snell, is working on nominations for all positions. To be proposed and voted on at December meeting.
 - c. Maureen will become Past President on 2017 board.
3. 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 previously 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.
 - d. Cindy to send out announcement.
4. Emeritus Meeting
- a. November meeting cancelled due to full calendar. Probably move to February, under new board.
5. End of Year Planning – 15th Anniversary
- a. Tim, Alice, and Bill previewed an example of class photo collages that will be used as part of table decorations for feedback. Also, a prototype of photo frame holder and display.
 - b. A photo booth for class photos is also planned.
 - c. Cindy informed us that the class is also expected to help with room preparation and cleanup. We should have access to the room at 4:30pm on the day of the dinner. 18 tables with 8 per table is the plan.
 - d. \$300 is the budget for decorations, but receipts are needed to reimbursement.
 - e. Alice is also pursuing gift cards from local retailers as drawing prizes.
6. Photo Contest
- a. Judging is complete, and winners will be announced at the October chapter meeting.
7. Gate in Barbed Wire Fence at TCPP
- a. Access to the AMOY nesting sites on Dickinson Bayou on the north side of TCPP has become a safety issue due to the proximity of the current kayak put-in point (4.5 mile round trip paddle). A county fence bordering the bayou and TCPP currently prevents access to a put-in much closer to the nesting sites (1.4 mile round trip). The County has been contacted and agreed that a gate can be added to the fence to allow access from TCPP, but the installation cost (\$515 total) must be paid for. The gate is being supplied by TCPP.
 - b. Motion to spend \$515 for gate installation by Cindy, seconded by Ellen. Approved by unanimous vote.
8. Emmeline Dodd award
- a. Congratulations to Emmeline Dodd on being named the prestigious 2016 Armand Yramategui Conservaton Award winner. Emmeline will be honored at a luncheon at Bay Oaks Country Club on Thursday, October 27th. A table for 10 has been donated by a member. Members and other people who have worked with Emmeline will be invited to attend.

Board reports

President (M. Nolan-Wilde): Marathon Oil Company in Texas City recently reached out for help in establishing a pollinator garden. Martha R., Penny B., and Chris A. of GBAMN provided input and advice via phone and email. Very much appreciated by Marathon representative, and could lead to future collaborative efforts.

Vice President (C. Howard): See comments above regarding October Chapter meeting.

Secretary/State Representative (B. Cooper): Absent. See comments above regarding leave of absence and substitute Secretary (Tim Long).

Treasurer (E. Gerloff):

1. YTD financial report given. YTD spend under budget.
2. Moving forward with 2017 budget. Currently taking input, and will be presented at November board meeting. Balanced budget is goal.
3. New State Curriculum released. 22 volumes (\$35 each) will be purchased for the 2017 class to use (borrow). An additional 3 volumes will be purchased for the chapter library.
4. Motion to accept Treasury report by Bill, seconded by Cindy. Approved by vote.

Membership (J. Duron):

1. Increase in hours over last month. Still slightly behind 2015 YOY, likely due to issues of non-reporting in VMS. We need to continue to improve our reporting, and help those who are still struggling with VMS reporting.
2. 174 members have reported at least 1 hour.
3. 5th member (Marie A.) with 10,000 hours.
4. 12 people recertified in September, 115 YTD. 33 more just need additional service hours, 37 need AT.
5. Need members to add impact data, although current numbers likely more accurate than in the past (less duplication).
6. Next year, Indirect impact option may be added into VMS.
7. 2016 class certification going well, with a few well understood exceptions. Several to receive certification at meeting.
8. Input of service hours after 45 days may not be allowed much longer by state. Need to continue to encourage members to enter hours on a timely basis.

Volunteer Service (J. Monday): Absent

Advanced Training (C. Snyder):

1. 37 members still need AT to recertify. Some people not reporting AT in VMS (see above also). More AT opportunities probably not the answer.
2. Q4 AT opportunities:
 - a. TCPP Hay Ride. October 20th. 3 hours.
 - b. Intro to Herpetology at Eddie Gray Nature Center in Baytown. November 2nd.

Class representatives (T. Long, W. Breaux, A. Rodgers): See "End of Year Planning" above.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey) Julie attended the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI) training in Boston. Excellent, challenging, and fun. Instructors from across the nation.

Other business

1. Maureen and Rick Becker went to TAMUG to talk to Sea Base group about volunteer opportunities with our chapter's efforts. Lots of interest among students and advisor. They receive community service hours. Will be pursuing future opportunities for best fit.
2. Debi Shelton reported on 2017 Class training. All speakers and venues have been confirmed.

Next board meeting on Tuesday, November 1st, 2016.

Motion was made by Ellen and seconded by Bill to adjourn at 4:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Long