

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists  
Board Meeting  
April 4, 2017  
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:01 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Ron Morehead, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Tim Long, Lynn Wright, Chuck Snyder, Jo Monday, William Breaux, Alice Rodgers, Julie Massey, Debi Shelton, and Ellen Gerloff. Jim Duron was unable to attend.

George discussed safety by reviewing a hand drawn diagram of the building and the fire evacuation route, and location of fire extinguishers and AED devices.

### **Old business**

1. The minutes of the March 2017 board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Maureen, seconded by Lynn. Motion was passed.

### **New business**

1. Sponsorship of GCBO (Maureen)
  - a. Request from Dr. Susan Heath of GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) to help sponsor Galveston Bay area nesting island signs. TMN logo would be added to signs ie. publicity. \$250 request.
  - b. Money could come from Stewardship budget line.
  - c. Maureen made motion to provide \$250 sponsorship to GCBO as requested. Second by Tim. Motion passed.
2. Communication Committee (Tim)
  - a. Tim reported on the first Communication Committee meeting held on March 21. All current aspects of chapter communication were reviewed: The Midden, Constant Contact, Website, Image Database, Facebook.
  - b. A few minor changes and improvements are suggested.
  - c. Bill Breaux appointed as Outside Media coordinator, replacing Maureen.
  - d. Putting out “feelers” for chapter members interested in helping with communication, especially the website.
  - e. Tim added as Admin for Facebook page.
  - f. Communication team will lead effort for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project (see below)
  - g. Discussed development of Communication Strategy document. Soliciting input and examples from other chapters.
  - h. Next Communication Comm meeting will be in May.
3. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project (Chuck)
  - a. Video project for TMN 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018.
  - b. Guidelines on state website, including suggested interview questions.
  - c. iPad video kit to be used. Located in College Station at District Agrilife office

- i. Chuck has built his own iPad kit to replicate the state's
  - d. Video must be submitted by October. Raw interview video to be submitted and State will edit/compile into larger feature length video.
  - e. Probably will interview 30-40 members
  - f. Core team: Chuck (leader), Alan, Maureen, Tim.
    - i. Will recruit a couple of others to help
4. Stewardship Committee (George)
- a. No changes since last month.
  - b. Charter needs updating. George will do this.
  - c. Committee will be George plus 4 people, including one from new class.
  - d. Still trying to determine what committee did in the past? What is Stewardship? Subset of all VS activities? Lots of discussion....to be continued.
5. Update from State on Annual Meeting (Maureen)
- a. State would like our "Partners" to give presentations at Annual Conference (e.g. TERN last year). Exploration Green presentation??
  - b. Date for 2018 will be different weekend than historically.
  - c. Cost for this year will go up a bit due to venue.
6. Transition of New Class Reps
- a. This year class reps being "chosen", not elected by class.
  - b. 2016 and 2017 class reps will all attend May board meeting.
  - c. June meeting – only 2017 class reps.
7. Bayou Preservation Association Award (Maureen)
- a. Dick Benoit nominated for Terry Hershey Bayou Stewardship Award.
  - b. Luncheon will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at Junior League of Houston.
  - c. Table of 8 for \$1500. \$100 individual tickets.
  - d. Seats/tables can be donated. Money to be handled by Lynn.
  - e. Motion by Tim: GBA-TMN to donate \$500 toward a \$1500 table (8 people) resulting in \$125 per person for member who wanted to attend. Second by Maureen. Motion passed
  - f. Amendment per later emails: Subsequent discussion with luncheon organizers determined that they would seat together \$100 individual tickets from chapter members. So, above motion above no longer needed to get reduced price.

## **Board reports**

### President (G. Kyame):

1. Will announce at upcoming chapter meeting soliciting "Project of the Year" ideas.
2. TCPP Earth Day sign up at chapter meeting.

### Past President (M. Nolan-Wilde)

1. Alan Wilde is one of "Unsung Heroes of Galveston County", awarded by Galveston Daily News, for his work with NICK-AMOY. Luncheon on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Galvez.

Vice President (R. Morehead - absent):

1. Speakers being lined up for future meetings.

Secretary/State Representative (T. Long):

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (L. Wright):

1. March Treasurers report presented to board. YTD spend under budget.
2. New format of report includes Current Month, YTD, Budget, and Budget Remaining.
3. Motion to approve made by Maureen, second by Jo. Motion passed.

Membership: (J. Duron - absent) :

1. Jim absent, but report given by George based upon email sent by Jim:
2. The chapter is currently ahead of last years pace for VS and AT by about 300 hours.
3. The service awards are running at a very good pace. Thus far 45 members have recertified. The service levels are also OK for this time of the year.
4. The number of members for this year has dropped from last year's totals. I have sent out the last notice and will close the books very soon (probably after the chapter meeting on Thursday).
  - a. The number of active members is down from last year (215 vs 222). The 215 is comprised of 179 members that have paid their dues, 3 honorary members, 22 members of the new class and 11 members who responded to my last email message on dues and promised to pay. Of the remaining members, 11 decided to definitely drop the program and the remaining 15 did not respond to any of my renewal messages.
  - b. Thus far 162 members have reported hours in the VMS.
  - c. In-Active members are individuals that were in the chapter at one time but have not paid dues and hence are no longer in the chapter with an active status.
  - d. Total is the sum of the Active/paid and the In-Active members.
5. Thus far 21 of 22 new class members have reported at least 1 hour of volunteer service or advanced training into the VMS. One member has completed the hourly requirements for initial certification immediately after the class ends.
6. I am planning to begin generating the new 2017 member directory after the Chapter Meeting on Thursday. It will take several days to prepare and release the document for review.
7. We received a notice from the State concerning Background Checks. I will need to schedule a VMS Team meeting to address the issues and get the chapter in compliance. This activity will begin in the next 2/3 weeks.

Volunteer Service (J. Monday):

1. Nothing to report.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder):

1. Upcoming AT for April/May:
  - a. "Shrimp and Oysters" – Apr 29<sup>th</sup> at Carbide. Nathan, Bill, and Julie to teach.
  - b. CoCoRaHS training – Rain gauge monitoring network. May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - c. "Benthic Community" – Cindy Howard on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Possible boat trip as followup.

Class representatives (W. Breaux, A. Rodgers):

1. Nothing to report

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. SeaGrant budget future still unknown. Hopeful that will be maintained.

## **Other business**

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at Carbide, 2-4 pm.

Motion was made by Jo and seconded by Bill, seconded by Alice, to adjourn at 3:54 pm. Motion enthusiastically passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Long