Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
May 30, 2017
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:00 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Jim Duron, Jo Monday, Janet Mason, Patty Trimingham, Andrea Stromeyer, Julie Massey, and Debi Shelton. Chuck Snyder, Ron Morehead, and Lynn Wright were 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. April Board Meeting Minutes
    a. The minutes of the May 2017 board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Julie, seconded by Maureen. Motion was passed.

2. 20th Anniversary Project update (Tim and Maureen)
    a. Project team (Chuck – leader, Maureen, Alan, and Tim) has met twice.
        i. Requirements for video interviews reviewed.
        ii. Equipment reviewed and tested.
        iii. Questions edited to make more conversational and improve flow. Additional questions added to capture chapter history.
        iv. Initial list of people to request for interview has been made. Includes founding members of chapter, past presidents, and others with significant chapter history.
        v. Practice interviews were done with Tim and Maureen.
    b. Next step is to begin to schedule interviews.
    c. Need to complete by end of September, possibly October.

New business

1. EPA Gulf Guardian Award (Maureen)
    a. GBA-TMN Chapter awarded 1st Place (Civic/Non-Profit Category) for EPA Gulf Guardian Award. Maureen sent in application in late 2016. Focus was on our chapter's efforts in addressing the plastic pollution in the Galveston Bay area, including efforts by NICK-AMOY in nesting bird habitat cleanup and restoration.
    b. Awarded every two years. Covers the entire 31 state Gulf of Mexico watershed. It is a BIG award!
    c. Will be announced to chapter by email, and also at this week's chapter meeting.
    d. Award ceremony will be November 30th in Point Clear, Alabama.

2. <u>CoCoRaHS reporting hours (Janet)</u>
    a. Suggestion to make a standard monthly reporting (e.g. 4 hours) for CoCoRaHS rain water reporting, or leave it to the discretion of individual.
    b. After discussion, it was concluded that a recommendation of 5 hours (reported monthly) would be made, with flexibility given to change based upon individual situation. Jo will send email of CoCoRaHS participants.

3. <u>Chapter Meeting (All)</u>
    a. Speaker: Game Warden Jennifer Provaznik.
    b. AV support in Chuck's absence will be provided by Maureen/Alan/Julie.
    c. Julie to send email announcing meeting.
    d. Maureen will work on agenda and Powerpoint presentation.

4. Helen Mueller retiring
    a. Helen Mueller (AgriLife Admin) will be retiring effective next Monday. Position will eventually be filled. In the interim, all TMN needs should be requested through Julie.
    b. George will arrange for flowers in recognition and thanks to Helen for her support.

Board reports

President (G. Kyame):

1. Possible future volunteer opportunity: freshwater eel monitoring. Still under discussion.
2. Diana Foss (TPWD Urban Wildlife Biologist) has opened conversation with chapter regarding support for the building of Chimney Swift nesting towers. Materials supplied, labor/skilled team needed. Still gathering information. Jo will be contacting Diane. Would be run as a project.
3. Camp Wild is next week.
4. Katy Prairie Conservancy has made request for us to share (ie. give them) our instructional and training materials to add to their database. Much discussion….. In general, not in favor of giving out our material without review and seeking permissions where needed. More discussion needed.

Past President (M. Nolan-Wilde)

1. So far, no applicants for our annual $1000 scholarship for college bound students. Still time for people to apply. Julie knows of possible candidate. Will advertise to chapter via email, etc.

Vice President (R. Morehead - absent):

Secretary/State Representative (T. Long):

1. Nothing to report as Secretary or State Rep.

Treasurer (L. Wright) – absent):

1. May Treasurer's report presented to board (Lynn sent email). Balance sheet in good shape. YTD spend still under budget.
2. To answer question from last meeting, the YE Meeting has a budget of $1200. Most is for the food, but $300-400 is set aside for the cost of table decorations. $323 was spent in 2016.
3. Motion to approve made by Jo, second by Patty. Motion passed.

Membership: (J. Duron):

1. 19,416 volunteer service hours YTD, about 500 ahead of last year.
2. New class: 15 have already certified, and 3 have re-certified.
3. YTD 175 members have reported hours. 220 Active/paid members.
4. VMS audit was conducted by State.
    a. Still have issue with background checks. Reminders sent to all Camp Wild volunteers.
    b. Only 3% of hours entered after 45 days.
    c. <1% of entries had erroneous dates e.g. dates in future.
5. YTD 15 new Certifications, 81 re-certifications.
6. Updated 2017 Member Directory will be re-released by next week.

Volunteer Service (J. Monday):

1. Houston Audubon – change status to "Partner". Jo to send info to Jim for Directory. Future projects include improvements at High Island and Bolivar bird sanctuaries.
2. Education Outreach Comm:
    a. Standardized speaker request form finalized.
    b. Hughes Road Elementary (Dickinson) relationship re-established after incidents during last couple of GISP tours. Hopefully, will lead to changes that will help with further tours.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder - absent):

Class representatives (J. Mason, P. Trimingham, A. Stromeyer):

1. New class doing very well in gaining certification. 11 members of new class are volunteering at Camp Wild next week.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Re-iterated that support requests should be made directly to her since Helen is retiring.

Other business

After discussion, next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27th, 2017, at Carbide, 2-4 pm. Agenda items should include:

1. "Treasures of the Bay" nominations
2. Project of the Year nominations
3. Scholarships for State Annual Meeting
4. Review progress of Day Away goals

Motion was made by Patty and seconded by Maureen, to adjourn at 4:07 pm. Motion enthusiastically passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Long