

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists  
Board Meeting  
September 5, 2017  
TCPP  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:06 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Jim Duron, Jo Monday, Patty Trimmingham, Andrea Stromeyer, Julie Massey, Chuck Snyder and Lynn Wright.

George discussed safety of the building and the fire evacuation route, rest room and fire extinguisher location.

## **Old business**

1. August Board Meeting Minutes
  - a. The minutes of the August 2017 board meeting were reviewed. Correction to #2 on page 3; George was referencing the 'day away' that was held January 2016. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Tim. Motion was passed.
2. Project of the Year (Tim)
  - a. Not much activity, the group is still rescuing and transporting birds(almost 300, 46 species).
    - i. Of note, a frigate (name appropriately "Harvey") was transported.
    - ii. The bridled tern that was found died.
  - b. They are still collecting pictures and have a lot of information in dropbox.
  - c. The team hopes to meet next week.
3. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project update (Chuck)
  - a. There is a lot of catching up to do (interviews).
  - b. Hope to start interviewing next week.
4. Guardian Award (Maureen)
  - a. Due to Harvey, the EPA has put the award on hold.
  - b. Hope to start interviewing next week.
5. Grant for Estuaries (Maureen)
  - a. GBAC did not get the grant. They are focusing on recovery efforts due to Harvey.
  - b. The grant application was well written and we were encouraged to apply next year.
6. Guide Certification (George)
  - a. George has received a lot of information from Bobette that can/will be used. He needs to go through it and put pictures with words.
  - b. Julie suggested we look at TPWD – they have a lot of information that could be used as long as we give credit.
  - c. Galveston Island Nature Council would like a proof of concept completed by October.

7. TXMN Conference (George)
  - a. Conference still on, the Omni only had minor damage.
  - b. Some of the activities might be cancelled due to damage.
  - c. Still not sure where the donated money will be applied. Julie will ask if they need sponsorship for one of the activities or a restoration project.
8. College Scholarships (Julie)
  - a. Jacob's check was mailed to A&M.
  - b. We would like to put his picture in the Midden. Julie will contact Jacob to see if he can send us a picture (high school) or perhaps we can find one of him from Camp Wild.

## **New business**

1. Discussion on dropbox use (George)
  - a. It was suggested that dropbox be a recommended tool for those working on projects with lots of information (documents/pictures).
  - b. Currently, several board members have individual accounts. It was suggested that the communication team (Tim) will look into setting up a generic account for GBAC.
  - c. Chuck suggested that everyone be careful with the large documents so that others won't have to pay for an account.
  - d. Julie mentioned that this should be in the budget next year (to pay for an account).
2. Harvey
  - a. The county extension building was still being used as a shelter for 40 people. The red cross is trying to find them a hotel/house but they could be there the month of Sept. or longer.
  - b. Julie will check to see if the other building (where the seniors meet) is available for the Oct. meeting.
  - c. Discussion regarding the status of members post Harvey.
    - i. We contacted (phone and/or email) over 200 members.
    - ii. Five members had flooding that was pretty bad. Two others that are close to the chapter also had flooding.
    - iii. We have assisted some, but will contact them again to see if they need any additional help following the cleanup (meals, funds, etc.).
  - d. We should have a post review to discuss lessons learned (what went right, what went wrong, how to improve for next time).
    - i. A plan should be built for future events like this. We might be able to utilize parts of plans that companies use so that we don't have to reinvent the wheel.
    - ii. The Communication team (Tim) will lead this effort.
  - e. Jim explained that he keeps has been updating the chapter address list, but not necessarily the VMS. Information for the spreadsheet came from the VMS.
    - i. Some called using the phone numbers from the spreadsheet, others used the phone numbers from the chapter list.
    - ii. We need to have better procedures in place to eliminate possible single point failures.
    - iii. We should continue to keep the spreadsheet updated as we hear from members regarding their status.

## **Board reports**

### President (G. Kyame):

1. Joanie Steinhaus (TERN) contacted George to see if we would have any volunteers to help with the 'Teach kids to fish' activity.
  - a) She had volunteers to teach the fishing.
  - b) Her need was for someone to teach bay ecology during the September-October. time frame.
  - c) This will be turned over to the Education Outreach committee (Sara).
2. George will send out an email to remind everyone of the photo contest.

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

1. Steve Alexander and his students are interested in helping with the TPWD grant that Scenic Galveston won (restoring bird habitats on the new breakwater at Virginia Point).
  - a. John Wright, Tim Long and Alan Wilde are the lead volunteers.
2. Bobette with the Adopt a Highway group is in need of vests and cones.
  - a. Julie has about 10 vests – she will ask the road and highway group for cones.

### Vice President/State Representative (T. Long):

1. Tim will work on developing the emergency phone process.
2. He will reach out to Steven Curtis to make sure he is still going to speak at the October meeting.

### Secretary (P. Trimmingham):

1. Mentioned that the Beckers were in the AARP magazine – for a remodeling project with Property Brothers.
2. Andrea was pictured in the Galveston Daily News for being recognized as the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year.

### Treasurer (L. Wright):

1. Aug. Treasurer's report presented to board. Four transactions were posted for August
  - a. Two speaker gift reimbursements.
  - b. Check for Jacob Hale (scholarship recipient) to A&M.
  - c. Reimbursement for P3 promotional sticker purchase.
2. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Maureen, second by Julie. Motion passed.
3. Mel had someone use his credit card (fraudulently) so it is being cancelled and reissued.
4. In October, Lynn will start working on the budget for next year. It's usually around a \$20,000 budget.
5. We need to check to see if any of the monofilament receptacles need replacing after the storm as there is still money in that account.

### Membership: (J. Duron):

1. 30,242.5 volunteer service hours YTD, 2,100 over last year.
2. Activity slowed down due to Harvey.
3. New class: All have completed the class. 21 have already certified, and 13 have re-certified, 2,300 service hours.
4. YTD 179 members have reported hours. 221 Active/paid members.

5. YTD 22 new Certifications, 114 re-certifications.
6. Impact Data:
  - a. Jim has a procedure set up to extract the data. He is still tweaking it.
  - b. Impact data has been extracted and sent to those who requested it.
  - c. The Education Outreach committee will be in charge of re-training everyone on how to enter impact data correctly.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder):

1. Noted that 75% of those who have reported hours have their 8 hours of AT, 10% have 16 hours.
2. Some of the AT has been cancelled/postponed due to the storm.

Class representatives (A. Stromeier):

1. Andrea sent out email to class mates asking their status post Harvey, all responded favorably.
2. Class meeting for the end of August was cancelled due to the storm, it will be rescheduled soon.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. New administrative assistant Joanna Mendoza has been hired and has started.
2. Debi Shelton resigned as New Class training coordinator. We will need to find a replacement. Julie has the list of prospective class members.
3. Budget cuts – Sea Grant is OK, but Texas Coastal Watershed will no longer be a partner with Agrilife.

**Other business**

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, location TBD, 2-4 pm.

Motion was made by Tim and seconded by Jo, to adjourn at 4:10 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Trimmingham