

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists  
Board Meeting  
October 3, 2017  
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:03 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Jim Duron, Chuck Snyder, Patty Trimmingham, Sara Snell, Sandy Parker, Julie Massey, Jo Monday and Lynn Wright.

George thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them back. George discussed safety of the building and the fire evacuation route, and location of fire extinguishers and AED devices.

Julie introduced the new administrative assistant, Joanna Mendoza. Everyone welcomed Joanna; her email is Joanna.mendoza@ag.tamu.edu.

## **Old business**

1. September Board Meeting Minutes
  - a. The minutes of the September 2017 board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Maureen. Motion was passed.
2. Project of the Year (Sandy/Sara)
  - a. The poster board is almost complete
    - i. The amount of words on the board were kept to a minimum; the bird species will be included on the board.
    - ii. Sandy is working on notes for the judges.
    - iii. The three ring binder is being finalized. It will include the narrative.
  - b. Maureen suggested the statistic chart be blown up to 9X11 and laminated so it can be displayed on the table.
    - i. The judges like to see statistics and will probably ask about them.
    - ii. Numbers such as volunteers, hours, birds, species, face book followers etc. are what the judges look for.
  - c. This project could be started by any chapter/organization.
    - i. Maureen suggested focusing on what has been done versus what can be done.
    - ii. This is the first time we have show-cased the project. After the conference it can be promoted to other organizations.
  - b. George or Tim will mention the POY at the upcoming chapter meeting.
3. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project update (Chuck)
  - a. No progress has been made; interviews should begin next week.
  - b. Chuck will ask Tim to send out invitations to those who are going to be interviewed.
4. Guardian Award (Maureen)
  - a. Activity was paused due to Harvey.

- b. Maureen, Alan Wilde, and Stennie Meadours will be speaking to them tomorrow and will try to secure a date for the videographer to come and film our chapter members doing a clean up somewhere.
  - c. League City Nature Center is in need of a clean up.
  - d. Julie suggested contacting the Clear Creek Environmental Foundation – they might have a location.
  - e. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> is still the date for the awards to be handed out in Alabama.
5. Guide Certification (George)
- a. The project is moving along nicely.
  - b. There is a soft finish slated for mid-October.
  - c. A beta test will be done on October 30/31<sup>st</sup> for the system and content.
6. State Conference (George)
- a. Maureen will pick 10 or so photos from the image database to be sent in for the conference slide show. They like to have representation from each chapter.
  - b. George has some pictures that haven't been added to the database. He will send them to Chuck for inclusion.
  - c. Pictures should show the members doing volunteer work.
7. Photo Contest (Maureen)
- a. Entries have been received; however, there were no entries from the 2017 class. Patty will send out reminder to class.
  - b. Judging has to occur next week.
  - c. Winners can be forwarded to State.
8. Status of members affected by Harvey (George)
- a. All affected members are making progress.
  - b. George let them know that the Red Cross was offering up to \$400. He sent them the information.
  - c. Michelle Hagerty is going to replace badges and bling for them.
  - d. Mary Pearl Meuth is going to donate a Master Naturalist book for each of them.
  - e. They will be given the above items in private.
9. Mel's store for the upcoming meeting (all)
- a. It was agreed that the store didn't need to be open for the October chapter meeting due to the location change.
  - b. There is a special until Oct 9<sup>th</sup>; if we order 10 or more Master Naturalist books, the price is cut by 50%
    - i. Motion by Chuck to purchase 10 books for the store. Seconded by Lynn. Motion passed.

## **New business**

1. Table Cloths (George)
- a. George referenced the email from State about Master Naturalist table cloths that are available for purchase at the conference.

- b. Maureen stated we have one already, it just needs to be cleaned.
2. Updated partner list (Jim)
- a. The partner list does not need approval; it goes through a review process.
  - b. The wording on the website indicates an approval is needed.
  - c. Maureen will correct the wording on the website.
3. 2018 Training class (Sara)
- a. Sara volunteered to lead the class of 2018. She would love to have an understudy who will lead the class of 2019.
  - b. Team has been assembled consisting of Jo, Beverly and Cindy H. They will meet tomorrow.
  - c. There are 32 on the list for the 2018 class.
  - d. There is a possibility for an open house to be held like last year. The room is already scheduled.
    - i. Patty attended the open house last year and thought it was very informative.
    - ii. Chuck reported that he watched a good video of Mary Pearl who explained what a Master Naturalist was – in the context of a book review.
    - iii. Chuck will find the link and send it out. <http://www.pbs.org/video/mary-pearl-meuth-texas-master-naturalist-xa4sph/>
4. Budget (Lynn)
- a. Lynn passed out a draft budget for 2018.
  - b. Over half of our income comes from corporate companies.
    - i. Corporate donations are a little low this year.
    - ii. Members need to be reminded that their companies might donate if they volunteer so many hours.
  - c. Discussion on money received from awards (P3 and Jr. Master Naturalist).
    - i. The money is not for individuals; the Chapter can use it on any project.
    - ii. Everyone should bring ideas to the next meeting on where it could be best used.
    - iii. The money for the two awards does not need to be kept separate; it can be combined.
    - iv. Awards from the State should be used within the calendar year and not carried over from year to year.
  - d. Everyone should review their specific budget areas and send Lynn updates **before** the next board meeting.

## Board reports

### President (G. Kyame):

1. George let everyone know that there are Bolivar cleanup activities ongoing from now through December.
2. Discussion on room availability for the December chapter meeting.
  - a) Julie will check to see if Walter Hall is available because the Wayne Johnson building might not be ready in time.
3. The Master Naturalists are taking over the logistics of the Prairie Pandemonium at Armand Bayou on October 21.
  - a) George encouraged participation.

- b) It was recommended he forward the signup email from Armand Bayou to the chapter membership.
4. Those attending the State conference should get together afterwards to collaborate on articles for the Midden.
5. George received information about a mini grant that needs to be applied for by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - a) He forwarded information to Maureen who will take a look at it.
  - b) Grant is being offered by GOMA (Gulf of Mexico Alliance).

Past President (M. Nolan-Wilde)

1. Maureen wanted to know if anyone was going to send TCPP a thank you for the use of their meeting room.
2. This is something Penny can do (as part of hospitality).
3. Motion by Maureen to donate \$100 to TCPP. Patty seconded. Motion passed.

Vice President/State Representative (T. Long):

1. Not present to report.

Secretary (P. Trimmingham):

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (L. Wright):

1. September Treasurer's report presented to board. 4 transactions as noted below.
  - a. The anonymous donation was used to sponsor a coffee/snack session in honor of Dick Benoit at the State conference.
  - b. \$300 donation to State conference
  - c. Badges
  - d. Upgrade treasurer's PC to Windows 10
2. Motion to approve made by Maureen, second by Jo. Motion passed.
3. Reminder to send budget numbers to Lynn.

Membership: (J. Duron):

1. 32,293 volunteer service hours YTD, about 1000 hours ahead of last year at this time.
2. 2017 class: All have finished the class and certified; 13 have re-certified.
3. YTD 179 members have reported hours. 221 Active/paid members.
4. 116 re-certifications.
5. Impact Data numbers are low due to Harvey.
  - a. Jim has been following his procedure to extract the data and it is working.
  - b. Reports were emailed to those who requested them.
6. Jim has a few extra 10K pins.

Volunteer Services (J. Monday):

1. The Education Outreach meeting was cancelled due to Harvey.
  - a. It will be rescheduled for late Oct. or Nov.

Advanced Training (C. Snyder):

1. The AT team is working on getting one or two more AT's schedule before year end.
  - a. Other AT opportunities include the Chapter meeting, Heritage Book Club and Armand Bayou Volunteer meeting, and the Native Plants Society of Texas (NPSOT) meeting.

Class representatives (Patty for J. Mason, A. Stromeyer):

1. The class met and finalized the theme and decorations for the December meeting.
2. They will meet again on Nov 1.
3. The class had several questions:
  - a. Will table cloths be provided? Yes, they are white.
  - b. Is there a budget? Yes, \$300.
  - c. How will donors be recognized? On a power point slide and we can make flyers to put on the tables.
  - d. Can we send out invitations with the theme? Julie will send out the invitations, the theme can be included if we let her know what we want on the flyer.

Chapter sponsor (J. Massey)

1. The book review group wants to rename the Master Naturalist's library to the Elsie Smith library.
  - a. It will be announced at the Chapter meeting.
  - b. We will get a corsage for her.
2. Chancellor Sharp was chosen to lead the Rebuild Texas commission.
  - a. Rebuild Texas is now the main focus of the AgriLife Extension.
  - b. They are making great progress, but it's turned into quite an effort and is taking up a lot of time.

**Other business**

1. Treasurers of the Bay
  - a. The form needs to be updated and sent out for nominations.
  - b. Nominations go to Julie and are judged by Julie, George and one or two more members.
  - c. We haven't had any nominations for the private companies in several years; those categories should probably be retired.
  - d. Lynn will help Julie and George with this.
2. Election of officers
  - a. George instructed Maureen to contact the current officers to see if they are interested in serving another year.
  - b. If there are any openings, nominations will be solicited.

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7th, 2017, at Carbide, 2-4 pm.

Motion was made by Julie and seconded by Maureen, to adjourn at 4:32 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Trimmingham