

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists

May 7th Board Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2019

Texas AgriLife at Carbide Park

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

The board members present were George Kyame, Cindy Liening, Lynn Wright, Susette Mahaffey, Janet Mason, Robin Kendrick Yates, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimmingham, Jo Monday, Ellen Gerloff, Maureen Nolan-Wilde. This represents 92% of the board. Julie Massey was absent. We had Tiffany Cummings sit in with us.

George asked if we needed to review safety measures before the meeting, and we decided to bypass the safety information. Maureen did add how critical it is to be safe on the water and to wear a floatation device. There have been 2 deaths in the last couple of days of people drowning while out in kayaks. If the water temperature is under 60°F, you need a wet or dry suit.

Old Business:

1. Ellen pointed out a question that she had about the April minutes. Under #4 Reports, the sentence “One from the Blanchard’s from Shell” was changed to “A donation was made by Marathon Oil.” Once the correction was noted, Patty made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Robin. The motion passed.
2. Next, we returned to the discussion about corporate donations. Lynn is looking into that information and will bring it back to the board next meeting. Tiffany offered that a family member worked for a corporation, and their template allowed a place to request money be given for a specific project. Maureen said that corporations look at our website to determine if our organization meets the criteria for a donation for volunteer hours for an employee. Lynn had a letter from Exxon Mobile that said we as a group had received \$5,000.00 from the company and could receive no more. Ellen asked if at any time in the past a request had been made to designate funds for a specific project. Maureen said that had occurred when she was president. We will return to this next meeting.
3. Susette spoke about the MOU for Bayside Regional Park that was presented in April. Neither Stennie nor Sandie were able to attend today. The project was approved by the board last year. Once George signs the MOU for Bayside Regional Park, it must then go before the commissioners’ court to be approved. The MOU is for the period of one year at which time we would have the opportunity to extend it. Stennie and Sandie will be here at the end of May to tell us more about the project. George said that he was happy to sign the MOU.
4. Lynn said that the trip to GISP that we auctioned last year at the October conference went well. The two men were provided with snacks, food and a trip to see the birds on the

islands. They were content with that and left once they saw what they wanted to see. They did arrive a day early, but it worked out. She thinks they were happy with the trip.

New Business:

1. George and Cindy attended a leadership meeting for Galveston county. On May 23rd, the Texas Community Futures Forum will be held at Carbide Park from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. At this meeting decisions will be made that will affect Galveston County for the next four years. George will be leading the Community Development forum. He encouraged all of us to attend.
2. Lynn shared a newspaper article about Dr. Marshall at Texas A&M. He is forming the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. Now you can buy a personalized license plate with a sea turtle on it.
3. Patty requested a copy of the Appendices to the CMOP/Chapter Management and Operating Protocols document. It will be provided to her.
4. Maureen asked about the conference in July for Texas County Extension Agents. She would like to know the dates and what volunteers Julie will need.

Board reports:

1. George said that he had a few things to share. He said that Camp Wild appears to be in good shape.
The North American Prairie Conference will be in Houston the same week as Camp Wild. People are volunteering for both events.
Emily Morris has sent information about the TAEE / Texas Association for Environmental Education Conference on September 27 & 28. Alan has sent out an email with information about it and request for volunteers.
George has received 350 green milkweed plants for Exploration Green. They are part of the monarch watch program.
Dave Bary will be organizing the Nature Walk-About at Galveston Island State Park for November 9th this year. He is seeking volunteers for the event.
2. Cindy reported that Dr. Laura Jurgens will do a presentation about oysters at the June meeting.
3. Susette had nothing else to report.
4. Lynn went through the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Activity reports. The money from the Kempner fund is being spent and now the balance is \$364.43. She has deposits to make from the store sales. April was a quiet month regarding the finances. The chapter remains in strong shape.
Ellen asked if money had been set aside for the TMN State Conference donation from our chapter. It has been and is \$300.00.
Susette made the motion to accept the treasurer's report with Janet seconding the motion. The motion passed.
5. Patty reported on chapter membership. 224 members have paid their dues. The pins for this year have not yet arrived. 3 of the new class have already completed their initial certification.

Patty is working on the format of the membership directory. Pages 2 – 5 are being removed, because this information is already on the website.

22 members have marked 'no' to authorizing the criminal background check on the VMS system. Patty is reaching out to them. TPWD will start sending emails to those who have not authorized a background check.

Patty encouraged people to enter their impact hours. We have never entered indirect contact hours, e.g., talking to people at a booth at Featherfest.

George said that the hot topic in 2014/2015 was moving from a spreadsheet for keeping hours to the VMS system. Now the hot topic is the enforcement of the deadline of 45 days to enter hours into the VMS system.

6. Jo reported for Julie that Treasures of the Bay has made with 14 people registered to attend. The dates are June 18, 19, and 20.

Jo also reported that the Volunteer Services Committee is reviewing the list of sponsors, partners, and volunteer opportunities. They are going to be working with Patty on choices and information in the VMS system to make it better and more user friendly.

7. Ellen reported on the AT committee. The Beginner's Guide to Solitary Bees workshop went well but was \$45.00 over budget. Her budget has the funds to cover that.

George did the Exploration Green Tour for the new class members on Monday, April 22nd. It was not mandatory but served as a make-up session for the Sheldon Lake lesson. There were 2 opportunities to see the Attwater Prairie Chickens at NASA. 20 people attended those sessions.

Future AT:

- ✓ Ecology Still Matters – Part 3 by Cindy Howard will be Saturday, June 22nd at Carbide Park from 9:00 to 12:00.
 - ✓ Green Fire movie and discussion: Life and Work of Aldo Leopold will be Wednesday, August 14 from 9:30 to 12:00.
 - ✓ Why Ecology Matters – Part 4 by Cindy Howard will be on Saturday, November 16th 9:30 – 12:00.
 - ✓ The committee is looking into the National Weather Service: SKYWARN: citizen scientist training for storm spotter program or another program from the National Weather Service.
8. Janet said that Thursday would be the last training class for 2019. The class had organized lunch of chicken and beef fajitas for the group. There would be 18 exhibits with volunteer opportunities for new class member to see, and Mel would have the store open for sales.

The volunteer appreciation luncheon would be May 16th.

9. Maureen spoke for Julie about the trip to College Station to the Sea Grant review. She said that 5 judges listened to presentations from programs across the country. She said that the team was very interested in our chapter and the theme of 'Beach Heroes for the Galveston Coast.' The presentation went well!

Maureen has been notified by NOAA that they are watching what the monofilament team is doing and have ordered supplies through Home Depot to make 20 more monofilament tubes to place in Galveston County. The latest Facebook posts have had 5700 hits with

one comment of “Go, Seniors!” People from Alabama and Florida are looking at our pictures, and Texas A&M is reposting some of our pictures. Florida is looking into using the signs we have had made for their tubes.

10. Neither Robin nor Mike had anything to report; however, Robin encouraged us to go to the Van Gogh exhibit in Houston. Robin said that he was surprised at how close to nature Van Gogh’s art was. *The Starry Night* is his favorite Van Gogh painting.
11. May 28th will be the next board meeting. It will begin at 1:00 and be a transition meeting where the 2018 class representatives move aside for the 2019 class representatives.
12. Patty moved that we close the meeting 15 minutes early. Robin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Goals for 2019:

1. Chapter Inclusiveness and Identification of New Leaders – George, Julie, Lynn
 - a. Communication Committee and Director of the committee work to keep the membership informed about the chapter.
 - b. Compile a current list of membership in each committee
 - c. Make a slide for the membership to show committees and service opportunities
 - d. Plan for future board needs
2. Emeritus Program – Penny Bessire
 - a. Rides and get togethers
 - b. Let the chapter know your needs – advertise
3. Identify chapter archive location – Lynn and Susette
 - a. What do other chapters do?
 - b. Storage of historical information, photos, grants, and awards
4. Green Team and Implementation – Sally Pachulski and Stephanie Shipp

The following (a & b) is taken from the November 6, 2018 board minutes:

 - a. Reduce plastics at the chapter meetings with the goal to become plastic free during meetings and field trips.
 - b. Create a committee to recommend alternatives for single use plastics and other recyclables. The committee should create goals and how to achieve them.
5. Project of the Year – Robin and Susette
 - a. Monofilament project
 - b. P3 Bayou
 - c. School program with art project
 - d. Plastic art
 - e. Green team