

Texas Master Naturalist – Gideon Lincecum Chapter

Board Meeting November 1, 2019

Winedale Conference Center

Officers Present: President Betsy Palkowsky, Vice President Mark Brown

Board Members Present: Cindy Hobbs, Chris Morrison, Tom Shaughnessy, Lori Buffum

Also Present: Nita Tiemann, MaryAnn Butler

Called to order at 10 am.

September board meeting minutes approved.

State Meeting Updates – Betsy

TMN dragonfly logo used must comply with State trademarked logo. Recent apparel designed for GLC does not comply. Going forward, check any uses of logo with State.

2020 State Meeting will be October 16-18 at the Omni West in Houston. Local chapters are asked to send representatives to the planning meetings (tentatively beginning November 18, 2019).

An issue was raised at President's breakfast about being sensitive with conduct and language used during TMN activities like meetings, or service projects. Please be respectful of people's values and personal space.

Review of Operating Handbook

Chapter Board members were asked to review the Chapter Operating Handbook and that review is now complete. (The State may be conducting an official statewide review in 2020.)

Memorial ideas to honor Lefty Yarnold

We had a discussion of possible ways to honor Lefty's (and LuAn's) dedication to Texas Master Naturalists. Lori suggested planting a tree at one of the elementary schools and she will investigate with Natalie James what the procedure might be. A bench with a plaque was also suggested. We could solicit memorial funds from chapter members to get tree or a bench.

Chapter Mail

Because of delays in receiving chapter mail that arrives at the Washington County AG office, our treasurer will supply Kara Matheney with stamped manila envelopes to send on the mail every week or two.

Holiday Celebration/Volunteer Appreciation Event

December 8 pot luck beginning at 2 pm (eat at 2:30 and adjourn at 5) with an optional white elephant wrapped gift exchange. New Ulm Lion's Club Hall. Nita will handle set up and getting the "meats". Lori will get the invitation sent out soon.

2020 Budget Process

All board members and project leaders should have budget estimates to Treasurer Pam Green no later than December 15. Then a 2020 budget will be prepared for presentation to the chapter for discussion and approval at the January Chapter Meeting.

A copy of the treasurer's latest report was handed out and discussed. Income received from the successful Landowner Summit fundraiser was discussed.

Board and Chapter Meetings – Setting dates, times, locations for the year

After some discussion, and based on feedback from chapter members and attendance records, the board decided to keep the board meetings at 10 am on the first Friday of every other month and to alternate between La Grange and Winedale. Chapter meetings (9:30 the third Saturday every other month) will be held at Winedale in January, March and May and at the Brenham Library in July, September, November. Mark Brown will reconfirm the locations (Lori will use her contact with Brenham Library to check on and reserve the appropriate dates.)

Officers

The current slate of officers has agreed to continue for the next 2-yr term so the slate will be presented to the November Chapter Meeting but the floor open for nominations. The next term begins January 2020. Current officers are President Betsy Palkowsky, Vice President Mark Brown, Secretary Linda Esco, Treasurer Pam Green.

Training Class

13 people are registered already (their pay status is unknown but will be verified with Pam).

Speakers are confirmed except for a couple. Tom will make one more marketing push in November with the note that class fee increases as of December 1.

Officer and project director reports were given.

VMS and Out of Service Area Volunteering

Chris urged everyone to refer to the VMS Guide for questions about how to record service or AT hours. She works closely with State VMS folks as categories change.

After consulting with State VMS folks, Chris wrote a new guideline for "Proposed out of area volunteer service opportunities". A discussion ensued for clarification.

Marketing Director

Tom Shaughnessy is training Ken English who will be the new Chapter Marketing Director beginning January.

Scholarships

Since FFA students have been working closely with TMN volunteers at BISD events, Lori suggested we consider adding a scholarship for the FFA organization. Lori will talk with Donna Mueller to investigate how that might be handled.

Account for TMN project related shopping at Home Depot and Lowes

Tom Shaughnessy discovered that those two companies can provide an ID number for tax exempt shopping for those of us getting TMN project related supplies.

Chapter Monies

Currently, the chapter has funds in the bank that could be invested in a CD to earn a bit of interest. Also, the chapter members may have some ideas about using some of those funds to support existing or future projects. One idea was to buy a “trunk” from Texas Wildlife Association or other organization that could be used for educational experiences with kids.

The next board meeting will be at Winedale on January 10, 2020 at 10 am (note change of usual date).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted and Corrected,

Lori Buffum

[Filling in for Linda Esco, Secretary]