

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Riverside Nature Center
March 28, 2016

Present: Brenda Fest, Kathy Ward, Floyd Trefny, Rheda Boardman, Bridget Langdale, Lisa Flanagan, Liz Ross, Vern Crawford, Diane McMahon
Absent: Michele Haggerty, Roy Walston, Claire Mitchell, Diana Armbrust, Lisa Barrett
Quorum Met: 63%

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 1330.

Welcome and Review Agenda

Operational

- Board meeting time will remain at 1330

- Changing of dates and places for May, July, and December board meetings.
May: Riverside Nature Center is not available for the board meeting. Brenda Fest will find a substitute meeting site and post notification.
July: Because the new class application deadline is July 13, the decision by the board was to move the July board meeting to July 18.
Vern Crawford made a motion to move the board meeting to July 18, 2016
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.
Motioned carried.
Dec: Decision to move the board meeting time for December was tabled until the date of the Christmas party has been determined.
Floyd Trefny will notify Kristie Denbow of the changes.

- Approval of February 22, 2016 Minutes– Rheda Boardman
Vern Crawford made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.
Brenda Fest seconded the motion.
Motioned carried

- Approval of Treasurer's Reports – Diane McMahon
Kathy Ward made a motion to accept the February Treasurer's reports.
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion
Motioned carried

- Vice-President's Report on Programs – Floyd Trefny
 1. March 28, 2016 "Chronic Wasting Disease"-Mitch Lockwood and Bob Ditmar
No Dinner for speaker prior to meeting
 2. April 25, 2016 "Monarch Butterfly Update"- Cathy Downs
 3. May 23, 2016 "Tawny(Raspberry) Crazy Ant"-Robert T. Puckett- Texas A&M AgriLife
 4. September 26, 2016 "Viticulture"-Andrew Labay-Texas A&M AgriLife

Directors' Reports

1. Membership – Lisa Flanagan
Currently 26 people have shown interest in applying for the 2016 class.
Kristie Denbow will have the application online on April 1, 2016
After the applicant completes the online application they will be directed to a link to apply for VMS.
Applicants will be sent an acceptance letter. Letter will include the request of their bio.
Applications will be sent to the board as received. Applications will be numbered.

2. Volunteer Projects - Claire Mitchell (absent)
Claire has been posting volunteer activities.
Because Bridget Langdale will not be available for "Blooms & Barrels" a replacement volunteer is needed.
Email blast will be sent to membership asking for a volunteer.
Lisa Flanagan has trifold brochures, copies of newsletters, and an information board available for the event.

3. Advanced Training – Liz Ross
Membership was notified by email informing them that she was not available during her move.

4. Communications – Bridget Langdale
Class brochure completed.
There will be a meeting with her team on the distribution of the brochures. Brochures will be distributed by April 1, 2016.
Texas Master Naturalist brochures will be ordered from Texas A&M AgriLife Communications. Brochures will be printed with the addition of Hill Country Master Naturalist. Brochures are very inexpensive.

5. New Class – Diana Armbrust- Absent
Everything is in place. Curriculum is not ordered.
Speaker bio will be printed and distributed at the start of each class day.

6. Membership Survey-Kathy Ward
Suggestion box will be available at the meetings.
The Feb. survey was very favorable.
There was a request for a program on bees
Comment on reducing the time taken for awards presentation

Strategic Initiatives

- Hill Country Chapter Honorary Members – Floyd Trefny
Floyd recommended that Mike Kruger-retired Texas Parks and Wildlife-president of Hill Country Land Trust be nominated for Hill Country Chapter honorary member.
Floyd Trefny made a motion nominating Mike Kruger for Hill Country Chapter Honorary Member
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion

Discussion: Diane McMahon requested that Mr. Kruger's bio be sent to the board for review. Board would vote at the April board meeting and Chapter would vote at the May board meeting.

Lisa Flanagan made a motion to amend the motion

Liz Ross seconded the motion

Floyd Trefny made a motion to nominate Mike Kruger to be an Hill Country Chapter Honorary Member. The board will be sent a bio and will vote to approve the nomination at the April Board Meeting. The chapter will vote at the May membership meeting.

Diane McMahon seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

- Kerr County Pollinator Project update – Brenda Fest
Recent project history was reported by Brenda.
A \$400 grant was received from NPSOT for Bring Back the Monarchs.
The plan was presented at the March meeting of the Kerr County Commissioners Court. The court vote was 3 to 2.
Four days later the court responded with revisions. Original goals were reestablished and there was progress in the importance of pollinators in Kerr County. The court also decided to move the project to a more desirable location on the courthouse grounds.
- Budget Philosophy – What is our policy? Is our budget a framework to be used for guidance in conducting chapter activities OR budget is an absolute and must be amended each time there is an expense not included or an expense that exceeds the amount allocated.
Diane McMahon- Annual budget should be a framework
Floyd Trefny- Since we are a 501(c)3 the financial management board has the responsibility to have an absolute budget.
After much discussion it was agreed that the board has the responsibility to financially manage the budget and that expenditures need to be approved by the board if those expenses were not already listed on the budget.
- What should we do about uncleared checks? – Diane McMahon
There are 12 uncleared checks. Dated: Aug. to Jan. Amounting to \$967.93
Brenda will contact Alayne Fronimos, Patty Leslie, Dave Barker, Kent Rylander, TPWD/Chad Norris, TPWD/Jessica Alderson
Lisa Flanagan will contact Melissa Clark, Bobby Gierisch, Diane Gierisch
To void the check documentation is needed from each person involved.
- New class budget – Diana Armbrust
No report
- Sponsor Hill Country Alliance Conservation Easement Workshop – rescheduled for May 13 in Kerrville/\$100 sponsor fee – Brenda Fest
Brenda Fest made a motion to provide Hill Country Alliance \$100 for the workshop
Kathy Ward seconded the motion
Motion Carried.

Resource Development

- Committee report on expediting award announcement at monthly meeting-Committee did not meet.
Lisa Flannigan: Members receiving awards will be requested to approach the front of the auditorium to be available for recognition. Request will be made to hold applause until everyone has received their award.
- Makeup Classes – Diana Armbrust and Lisa Flanagan
Tabled
- Bandera Natural History Museum Landscaping – Brenda Fest
March 23, 2016: Approval received from the Bandera Natural History Museum to allow Hill Country Chapter to begin project.
They have asked Hill Country Chapter to make proposals for each area on the museum grounds and develop plans and how much money will be needed to complete the project. The information will be used to apply for funding grants.
Bandera Community Foundation is raising the necessary funds.
The Bandera Natural History Museum is located at 267 Old San Antonio Hwy, Bandera, TX 78003
Ysmael Espinoza and Ernesto Cariño agreed to visit the grounds and make recommendations about the plants to place in the various areas.
Meeting to survey the grounds is March 29, 2016 at 5:30pm.
Many Hill Country Chapter volunteers will be needed.

Meeting Decisions:

- Approved the February 22, 2016 minutes-Board Meeting
- Approved the treasurer's reports
- Change in Board meeting location for May and change in the date for July
- Award announcements at monthly meeting
- Uncleared Checks: Involved individuals will be contacted
- Recommendation to nominate Mike Kruger to be an Honorary Member
- Motion to provide \$100 to Hill Country Alliance for Conservation Easement Workshop

Announcements

Monthly Meeting: Monday April 25, 2016

Board Meeting: Monday April 25, 2016 1:30PM at Riverside Nature Center

Adjourn: 1600