



Memorandum of Understanding

Consolidation of Western Edwards Plateau Chapter into the Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

Background

The Western Edwards Plateau Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists was originally formed in 2006. The chapter grew to 43 active members with volunteers in Kimble, Menard, Edwards and Real counties. There were other members from San Saba and Mason Counties too. However, since 2008, the chapter has become inactive.

The following is a plan to determine if the four counties that comprised the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter should be merged into the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and provide renewed volunteer opportunities in that area. Volunteer Projects and Advanced Training opportunities for the four new counties would be managed by the Hill Country Chapter and all other functions would remain the same except additional volunteers would be added to the roster and included in all chapter functions. On June 9, 2013, at 4:30 pm, at the Long Mountain Community Center in Mason County with 11 WEPTMN chapter members present plus 14 members voting by proxy a motion was made to dissolve or deactivate the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter of TMN. The motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made and passed to accept the proposed annexation and consolidation of Kimble, Mason, Menard, and San Saba counties by the Hill Country chapter of TMN. However, the original WEP chapter was created to also include Real and Edwards counties.

Hill Country Chapter Actions

The Hill Country Chapter of the TMN made a presentation to its membership on June 24, 2013 following its regularly scheduled meeting to seek input from any concerned chapter members. Furthermore the chapter board discussed the proposal in detail and agreed to adopt this Memorandum of Understanding to document the basis for which the chapter agrees to increase the number of counties it represents to include all six counties having been associated with the WEP chapter. The following represents the Hill Country Chapter's conditions of acceptance.

1. Six additional counties will be annexed to the Hill Country Chapter resulting in a chapter covering Bandera, Kerr, Gillespie, Kendall, Kimble, Mason, San Saba, Menard, Edwards and Real counties
2. Any of the new counties may by a vote of the TMN members in those counties on the intention to form a new chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist provided that as a minimum the original counties making up the Hill Country Chapter remain intact and the State TMN procedures to develop a new chapter are followed.
3. New Volunteer Projects would be created for members in the new counties that meet the requirements in the Hill Country Chapter Operating Handbook. All Volunteer Projects must have a coordinator to manage the activities of each project.
4. New Advanced Training classes may be requested for those members in the new counties and if approved be scheduled on the Hill Country Chapter calendar web site.

5. Funds of \$2,162.07 from the old WEP chapter treasury will be transferred to the HCCTMN account. These funds would be earmarked for training scholarships for anyone in Kimble, Mason, Menard, and San Saba counties to reimburse class tuition costs following the completion of certification of any new members from those counties. New Class applicants would be required to first register and pay the new class tuition and only be reimbursed after completion of member certification. Any funds remaining after September 1, 2018 may be used by the HCTMN at will and any pending reimbursements will expire.
6. Members in the new counties will report their volunteer activity time and Advanced Training according to the existing process in the HCCTMN as outlined in the Chapter Operating Handbook.
7. The prior membership of the WEP may elect an ex-officio member to the Hill Country Chapter Board of Directors to represent the new counties for the first year of consolidated operation.
8. The new members from the WEP will be added to the chapter membership roster and included in all chapter activity notices.
9. Members from the WEP are responsible to transfer to the HCC Data Manager for record purposes, an accumulation of their prior volunteer and advanced training activity hours.
10. All members from the prior WEP chapter will be bound by the operating practices and procedures of the Hill Country Chapter of the Master Naturalist program as documented in its Bylaws and Chapter Operating Handbook.