

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Minutes
January 20, 2010

Present: Laura Baker, Koy Coffey, Steve Dodge, Cathy Downs, Reidun Hilleman, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Gracie Waggener

Absent: Sandy Pena, Tom Schall

President John Huecksteadt called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Acceptance of Minutes for December Meeting: The Board reviewed the minutes for the December meeting. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Minutes, and Koy Coffey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for December. This report was prepared by Martha Miesch, out-going Treasurer. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Susan Longacre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. HCMN Gate Signs: The Board discussed the status of the Gate Sign Project. It was decided that the signs would be offered again in the fall, and that the February 1st deadline would not be extended. Gracie Waggener will have the sample sign and order forms at the Chapter Meeting on Monday, January 25.

4. Chapter Financial History: For the benefit of Board Members new to the Board this year, Past President Jim Stanley reported on some of the financial history of the Chapter. This was to better understand how we operate, and why we make some of the decisions we have made. Our financial status is much improved at present from fund raising within the Chapter, and working with Riverside Nature Center. The Board is also establishing a 501(c)(3) to help with tax expenses and donations.

5. Treasurer's Audit: Laura Baker reported that the Audit of the books for 2009 was conducted on January 7, 2010, by Jim Gardner, Gracie Waggener, Laura Baker with Martha Miesch and Cathy Downs. The Chapter books were then passed to Cathy Downs.

Cathy Downs reported that she is re-working the books for 2009, including balancing the checkbook, re-writing the budget sheet and recording documents. Cathy presented a new balance sheet that she plans to use, and explained that she is setting up the files for the new 501(c)(3). The Chapter has received a letter from the IRS, and should expect the confirmation of the 501(c)(3) in 90 days.

The Board discussed all of the work done on the budget, and Koy Coffey moved to accept the budget, and Steve Dodge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. New Class Committee: Reidun Hilleman reported for Tom Schall that the first committee meeting had been held. The Committee divided tasks, and set a goal to have all speakers contacted and confirmed by March 1, 2010. The committee is considering adding a 4th Field Trip to Bamberger Ranch, and moving some class topics to Advanced Training.

7. LMAP: Jim Stanley reported that there are 10 people training to become LMAP Leaders. It is expected to take at least a year to complete the training.

8. Annual State Report: The Chapter's report that is submitted to the State will be circulated by email to all Chapter Members by Koy Coffey, Membership Director.

9. Updates and Reports by Directors and Officers:

Advanced Training: Steve Dodge reported that Cibolo Nature Center will be holding several sessions on Bird Watching and Bird I.D. The Farm and Range Forum in Fredericksburg will be held in February, with a reception for David Langford on the 26th, and sessions on the 27th.

Communications: Susan Longacre reported that notices for the Chapter Meeting for January have gone out to all local newspapers and Radio. She is in the process of visiting all the newspaper offices to get to know the contacts there.

Volunteer Projects: The newest project to be added is the Upper Cibolo Creek Watershed Partnership, (UCCWP) The UCCWP specifically asked for a TMN from Kendall County to serve on their Steering Committee. Bob Keiser agreed to serve and be Project Coordinator for our Chapter.

Membership: Koy Coffey has been working with Julie Clay to get set up as Membership Director. Koy will have the awards ready for the Chapter Meeting. She has had three inquiries for the new classes in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. All Hill Country members and advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener

Secretary