

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
February 17, 2010**

Present: Laura Baker, Koy Coffey, Cathy Downs, Steve Dodge, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Sandy Pena, Tom Schall, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Gracie Waggener, Norma Bruns, Betty Gardner, Mary Frances Watson

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

1. **Acceptance of Minutes for January Meeting:** The Board reviewed the January Minutes. Sandy Pena moved to approve the Minutes, and Tom Schall seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for January. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Susan Longacre seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cathy also presented a new budget sheet that was discussed. The Board thanked Cathy for all of her work on the books and budget.

3. **New Class Committee:** Tom Schall reported for the Committee. They are closely following the schedule and recommendations from the 2009 Classes. The changes they will be making include reducing the number of class days to eleven, by moving some topics to Advanced Training, and adding a field trip to the Bamberger Ranch. Students must attend three of the four field trips.

Speaker Gifts this year will be a copy of the "Hill Country Land Owners Guide" by Jim Stanley. Jim will graciously donate part of the cost back to the Chapter.

The class members will be given a class summary to fill out, rather than a comment sheet for each speaker, which required much time and paper.

The Commencement Lunch will be a "Pot Luck", rather than a catered meal, which will save the Chapter money.

It was also suggested that the Mentors work more closely with the class on Volunteer Projects, which will save class time.

The Budget for the 2010 Classes was presented and discussed. Cathy Downs moved to approve the Budget, and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Class Schedule was presented and discussed. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Class Schedule, John Huecksteadt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Tom Schall presented a Letter of Resignation to the Board, as he will no longer be able to serve as the New Class Director, due to health concerns. At this time, the Chapter is looking to fill this position.

Officers and Directors Reports:

Laura Baker reported on the Audit Committee, and submitted an Audit Review to be signed by the Board, which then went to the Treasurer.

Steve Dodge reported that this year there is a good mix of Advance Training topics and opportunities, with several new topics added.

Koy Coffey has been receiving inquiries about the classes, and will now have dates for the 2010 classes to publish. She also reported to the Board about Grant opportunities the Chapter would qualify for. Cathy Downs agreed to follow up on pursuing those funds.

The attendance at the January meeting was 121 Member attendees, and 23 guests.

Priscilla Stanley presented and discussed **proposed** changes to the wording of the Chapter Operating Handbook. The changes will be sent to the Chapter members. Cathy Downs moved to support making the changes and Jim Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **The proposed change is to add guidance from the TMN State Program Office in the "TMN Program Chapter Management Guidelines" to our "Chapter Operating Handbook" to make this information easier to find. We have been following these policies already, so there will be no change to our actual practices.**

The Junior Master Naturalist Program was discussed by the Board. At this time, since this program is not an Extension Project, and will not be funded by the State, the decision of the Chapter endorsing this project was tabled until the Board has more information from Michelle Haggerty and Stephanie Perry.

Susan Longacre is pursuing articles for the Chapter Newsletter, and reminded all Board Members to have their articles written and sent to Kristie Denbow by February 25.

Sandy Pena's Speaker List includes:

Mark Klym for February on Hummingbirds

Kim Bacon on bees for March

Ryan Bass, Coordinator for the City of Boerne, to discuss the UCCWP

Lisa Benton in May on National Phenology and Climate Change

June is the Chapter Picnic

Sandy is still working on the schedule for the remainder of the year.

501(c)(3) : John Huecksteadt is continuing to work on the paperwork that is required. This project remains a work in progress.

Bandera Green Show: The Board agrees that the Chapter would participate with a display at the up coming Bandera Green Show. Priscilla Stanley will email members with the request to man the booth.

Town Creek Project: The Board discussed the Grant Letter written by Jim Gardner to the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, for funding of the Town Creek Project. Since the Chapter still does not have a 501(c)(3) status, the money would have to go to the City of Kerrville to hold for the Chapter, and the Chapter would be considered "labor only" on the project.

With all business discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener

Secretary