

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
September 22, 2010**

Present: Laura Baker, Steve Dodge, Cathy Downs, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Sandy Pena, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Gracie Waggener

Also attending were Phyllis Muska and Dan Behringer

Absent: Koy Coffey

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

1. **Acceptance of Minutes for August Meeting:** The Board reviewed the August Minutes, Cathy Downs moved to approve the minutes, and Steve Dodge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for August. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Treasurer's report, and Sandy Pena seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

As the Chapter is in a good position financially, the Board will discuss at the October Board Meeting the options for gifts and project grants.

3. **Coffee-maker:** The Board discussed reimbursing Cathy Downs for the purchase of the new coffee-maker for the new classes. Jim Stanley moved that the Chapter would reimburse Cathy, and Priscilla Stanley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

In other class business, Jim Stanley brought to the Board the idea of purchasing a PA System that could be used at the classes and chapter meetings when necessary. Susan Longacre will look into the type and cost that will fit the need of the Chapter, and report back to the Board at the October meeting.

4. **Nominating Committee:** Jim Stanley reported that the nominating committee has candidates for the President and Vice-President positions, and is still looking to fill the Secretary position. Phyllis Muska has agreed to another term as President, and Bob McKinley will fill the Vice-President position if approved by the Chapter members.
5. **FOER Partnership:** Melissa Mial from the Friends of Enchanted Rock would like the Chapter to become a partner with their organization. Current partners of the Chapter are Riverside Nature Center and Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center.

State Guidelines require that there be some reciprocity arise from any partnership. The Chapter cannot help with another organization's fund raisers, but can help with nature and education programs. Jim Stanley offered to talk to Melissa to see what she would expect from the Chapter in a partnership.

The Board also discussed the use of the Chapter calendar to post the events and programs of other organizations. It was decided to not allow this, due to problems that this can cause, and have happened in the past.

Officers and Directors Reports:

Volunteer Projects: Priscilla Stanley asked that she be allowed to send an email to the students in the new classes concerning the presentation given by Barbara Stidham of the Riverside Nature Center. She was concerned that the students would be confused about which jobs at Riverside could qualify as volunteer hours, and wanted to clarify some of the confusing points of the presentation. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to the students for Priscilla to contact them.

The classes on September 29 will cover Chapter policies, website usage and volunteering, including volunteering ethics. There will be time for questions from the students.

Priscilla also reported that some students are wanting to volunteer on projects that are not approved projects. The Board does not want to discourage volunteering, but students should find an established project to pursue. As any project has to be approved, and requires a coordinator, the students will be given the processes and procedures of establishing a project.

The Board discussed volunteering outside the Chapter's four-county area, as some opportunities to work on exciting projects do occur. The Board then discussed volunteer project policy #13, which prohibits the creation of new volunteer projects outside of our four-county area. A consensus was reached that any exceptions to this policy should have Board approval.

Advanced Training: Steve Dodge reported to the Board on the many Advanced Training opportunities coming up in the fall. The new website is working well for posting notices, and the calendar is easily updated.

Vice-President: Sandy Pena is working to get an appointment for the Board to tour the new Kroc Center, as this might be an option for a meeting venue for 2011. The speaker that Sandy has coming for October will be Mike Kruger from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Communications: Susan Longacre informed the Board that our Newsletter Editor, Kristie Denbow, would like to enter the Newsletter contest at the TMN State Meeting. The Board agreed that as the Newsletters are excellent, Kristie should enter, and she should pick the one she thinks is best.

Thank you letters will be written and sent to the local newspaper editors who have been helpful and supportive to the Chapter.

As the Chapter and Chapter members regularly receive requests for speakers or nature presentations for other organizations, the Board discussed establishing a "Speaker's Bureau", which would be a list of members who are interested in presenting programs. It was decided that certain criteria would have to be established before the Chapter would send a member out to present. These would include:

The topic.

Format - is the presentation for adults or children.

Speaker's level of knowledge of the topic - Is it their profession or interest.

Has the speaker given the presentation before.

The speaker's communication skills.

A committee would have to be established to review and approve anyone included in the Speaker's Bureau. The committee would also contact speakers that are known to the Chapter, and see if they would be willing to be included in the Speaker's Bureau. This would insure that the Chapter is represented by qualified presenters. The Communications Director would head up the committee and contact potential presenters.

With all Chapter business discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 19, 2010, at 1:30 pm at Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. All Hill Country Chapter members and advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener

Secretary