

**Texas Master Naturalist – Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
November 13, 2013**

Present: Vern Crawford, Tom Hynes, Floyd Trefny, Priscilla Stanley, Becky Etzler, Daneshu Clarke, Paula Smith

Absent: Michelle Haggerty, J.D. Clarke, Valeska Danielak, Stephen Bishop, Carolyn Bean

Also present: Lenore Langsdorf, Jim Stanley, Donna Oliver-Leep

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order.

October Meeting Minutes: Priscilla requested that the description of the Wings festival participation include the statement that “the possibility of sharing profits also includes the possibility of sharing any losses, if such losses occur”. In the section regarding Bill Lindemann’s request, the board agreed to add the sentence “The Board discussed the matter further and it was suggested that the budget provide a \$1000 donation to Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center in April 2014.”. With these additions, Floyd moved that the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Daneshu, and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report. It was decided to defer this report to the December board meeting.

Newsletter: Lenore Langsdorf, newsletter editor, asked for board guidance regarding a press release received from Riverside Nature Center, which possibly could have been read as an endorsement of a law firm. The consensus expressed by the board was that Lenore should exercise her own discretion and the board would back such exercise.

Treasurer’s Report: Floyd presented the report, noting there had been a lot of activity due to class merchandise, expenses, and 15 checks outstanding. The TMN holding account also had a lot of activity due to the state meeting. Floyd suggested that there is a “Square” card reader that can be put on an iPhone and the new treasurer might want to explore using it for the purpose of taking immediate debits for purchases and contributions from debit or credit cards. Tom moved to approve the report, Daneshu seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Letter to Timothy Ploch from Texas Parks and Wildlife Counsel: Vern read a letter sent by the counsel for Texas Parks and Wildlife to Timothy Ploch, regarding a complaint made on behalf of a Master Naturalist trainee. The letter will be filed with chapter documents.

Budget: Floyd reviewed proposed changes to the draft budget made by Paula, Tom, and Becky. The board reviewed the changes, including the donation to the Fredericksburg NPSOT. After discussion, income and expenses in the budget were adjusted to achieve a slight excess of income over expenses. Regarding increased fundraising, Jim Stanley cautioned that fundraising may be difficult. Board members agreed that it was unnecessary to spend money for gifts for outgoing board members. There was also discussion about eliminating certification refunds in the future. A grant received by the chapter has been earmarked for specific use and records will be kept accordingly.

2013 Class: Becky reported that 55 % of the class completed coursework within the class schedule. One of the class members offered his property for purposes of a field trip or chapter event.

Holiday Party: Tom indicated the party would be on December 7 at Camp CAMP. More information will be provided.

2014 Meetings: Tom reported that he had secured the Lecture Hall at UGRA for 2014 member meetings.

2014 Officers: Priscilla provided the list of proposed officers and directors for 2014.

Vern Crawford, president	Becky Etzler, membership director
Kathy Ward, vice president	AT Director - pending
Sarah Hilburn, secretary	Priscilla Stanley, past president
Diane McMahon, treasurer	Donna Oliver-Leep, representative from former Western Edward Plateau
Stephen Bishop, volunteer projects director	
Liz Ross, new class director	
Lisa Flanagan, 2013 class representative	Michelle Haggerty, chapter adviser
Bob Wiedenfeld, communications director	Roy Walston, chapter adviser

**Respectfully submitted,
Paula Smith, acting secretary**