

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
February 20, 2013**

Present: Carolyn Bean, Vern Crawford, Tom Hynes, Floyd Trefny, Stephen Bishop, Becky Etzler, Paula Smith, Priscilla Stanley, Valeska Danielak

Absent: J.D. Clarke, Daneshu Clarke, Michelle Haggerty

Also present: Jim Stanley

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for January 2013 Meeting: Paula Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Becky Etzler. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for January 2013 shows a balance of \$13,066.84. And the Holding account has a balance of \$10,628.96.

Sales taxes were paid for the fourth quarter of 2012 in the amount \$195.69. And Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) expenses were also paid in the amount of \$526.50.

Training curriculum journals were purchased from Michelle Haggerty and she asked that the payment be deposited into the Holding account. Floyd is in possession of the invoice and will transfer the payment to the holding account.

Tom Hynes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Paula Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Floyd also stated that the January actual to budget shows that income for January is \$200 less than budgeted and expenses are \$650 less than budgeted.

Earth Day: Priscilla Stanley stated that the Chapter is not a partner in the Riverside Nature Center Earth Day event that is happening on April 19 and 20. Our Chapter will however have volunteers at the Native Plant Sale, the HCMN Display/Table, the Butterfly Tent and more. Priscilla said she intends to recruit volunteers from the Chapter to help with the event.

2013 Class Update: Becky Etzler gave a presentation outlining the committee's work completed to date for the 2013 HCMN Class. Becky said the planning is ahead of the "Suggested Timeline". All speakers are confirmed with one exception. Lonnie Childs will not be available for the *Early Texas Naturalists* class and the committee is attempting to secure a replacement speaker, Dianne Cortez.

The field trips are planned. Additional reference materials along with the tote bags are on order. The class photographer will be Sally Garrett. Gracie Waggener will be responsible for the merchandise booth. The class will be 61.25 hours of instructional time including field trips.

The Board is to provide food for the Welcome Reception on August 19. A sign up for food will be circulated to the Board members. Michelle Haggerty will be asked to speak.

Becky reported a conversation with Mr. King from the Texas Lions Camp who wants to continue the relationship with HCMN, but wants assurance that in the future any issue with the facility will be communicated to him directly by the New Class Director. Becky will address this issue during the first class and recommends that this be addressed in all future classes at the Texas Lions Camp facility.

Chapter Picnic scheduled for May 2013: Priscilla and Jim Stanley discussed preliminary plans for the Chapter's annual picnic. Joshua Springs Park and Preserve (JSP) is being considered as the location for the picnic and the Stanley's will visit the park soon to finalize the decision. Saturday, May 18 was suggested as a good date but is Armed Forces Day. Tom stated that he had announced May 11 in a prior email, but Mother's Day is May 12. After discussion, the Board agreed that the picnic should be held on May 18. JSP offers an option to rent a small pavilion for \$30 per day for Kendall County residents. A larger pavilion rents for \$200 per day for Kendall County residents and may be considered.

Attendees will be asked to bring their own folding chairs and food. Soft drinks will be provided by the Chapter. JSP has toilets (not port-a-potties) and sufficient parking.

Revisions to Chapter Operating Handbook: Board members have been using email to suggest revisions to the current Chapter Operating Handbook. Floyd Trefny offered a compilation of the suggested changes for the Board to discuss. Floyd noted that most changes he received via email were for clarification in the wording of the document.

A few of the comments received were considered at odds and were marked as "Discussion Item".

Discussion Items:

1. Timing of the Board's approval of the new Directors recommended by the new President
2. New Class Director responsibilities vs. Membership Director responsibilities
3. Mentor responsibilities
4. Whether a Member should ever be removed from the roster for being inactive, valid reasons why a Member should be removed and how the removal might occur
5. Member Categories from the Bylaws
6. Volunteer project outside the four county area and who has authority to approve them
7. Approval for Advanced Training hours outside Chapter boundaries

One Article was added to the handbook, similar to Member Categories from the Chapter Bylaws, Article IV. Three member categories with definitions are provided using language from the Chapter Bylaws but annotated to a more detail:

Texas Master Naturalist in Training
Texas Master Naturalist Member
Certified Texas Master Naturalist

The Chapter Operating Handbook states that once the Board agrees on changes to be made, the general membership must be notified in written form of the proposed changes or amendments ten days before the Board meeting and be given an opportunity at the Board meeting to voice any concerns about the changes or amendments. Written form may be via conventional mail, e-mail, or other equivalent means.

Officer and Director Reports:

Vern Crawford: Kristie Denbow is still looking for volunteers on May 4 at Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area to help with the HCMN information table. Vern and Lenore Langsdorf will do some time at the table, but others are needed.

Tom Hynes: Christy Muse of the Hill Country Alliance has offered us a display space at the fall Rain Water Revival in Boerne in exchange for some of our volunteers helping with the event. The April speaker for the Chapter meeting will be Dr. Dale Rollins, Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist.

Valeska Danielak: Reported three re-certifications, one Silver Milestone certification, three special recertifications, and three initial certifications. She also noted that she has changed her email address and will publish the new one.

Stephen Bishop: There were three requests for new Volunteer Project codes. One was for the Nature Garden in Bandera, one for the National Phenology Program and the third was for Nestbox distribution, monitoring, education with the Texas Bluebird Society.

Meeting Decisions:

- Floyd will black line the working copy of the Chapter Operating Handbook and leave DISCUSSION ITEM in areas that are still being discussed. This will be made available to the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 1:30 PM at RNC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Bean
Secretary