

**Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
March 20, 2013**

Present: Carolyn Bean, Tom Hynes, Floyd Trefny, Stephen Bishop, Becky Etzler, Paula Smith, Priscilla Stanley, Valeska Danielak, J.D. Clarke, Daneshu Clarke, Michelle Haggerty

Absent: Vern Crawford

Also present: N/A

In President Vern Crawford's absence, Vice President Tom Hynes called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for February 2013 Meeting: Paula Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Floyd Trefny. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for February 2013 shows a balance of \$13,384.08. And the Holding account has a balance of \$10,728.96.

Floyd noted that this time last year the balance was \$10,451.

Stephen Bishop made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Michelle Haggerty seconded. Motion carried.

Floyd reviewed the budget to date and noted that we are net \$350 below budget.

Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale at Riverside Nature Center – Priscilla Stanley said that there are many volunteers from our chapter and noted that if members wear their badges during the event it may help to raise awareness of our chapter.

Chapter Picnic and Presentations – Priscilla Stanley reported that she and Jim Stanley had scouted Joshua Springs Park and Preserve at 716 FM 289 in Comfort, TX as a potential site for the 2013 Chapter Picnic to be held on May 18. The Stanleys believe that the park is a good venue for the event. They suggest that the smaller East Pavilion be reserved for the picnic. The pavilion is 24 ft. x 36 ft. and cost \$60 per day for non county residents. Priscilla stated that the pavilion is close to the restrooms, it is near the water and there are a number of trails close by.

Priscilla asked the group if there is an estimate for the number of beverages the Chapter will need to provide. Tom Hynes said that at the 2011 picnic there were approximately 35 to 40 attendees and Priscilla believes the number to be a good guideline for determining the requirements for this year's event. Additionally, Priscilla asked if someone from the board might have an ice chest(s) that could be used. Floyd said he has a very large ice chest that would be suitable and he will donate it for the day.

Tom asked if flyers will be going out and the question came up about RSVPs to get a more accurate headcount.

Tom asked if Priscilla would consider making an announcement about the picnic at the Chapter Meeting Monday night, March 25, and she agreed that it would be a good idea.

2013 Class Update – Becky Etzler noted one change to the class 2013 schedule. Bill Wren will not present as noted on the schedule, but Cindy Cassidy (member of Hayes County Chapter) from Dripping Springs will do the presentation. Becky also noted that the planned honorariums for speakers will not change due to the replacement speaker.

Daneshu Clarke made a motion to approve the New Class Schedule and Paula Smith seconded. Motion carried. Daneshu stated that when publishing the schedule, it should be noted that it is 'subject to modification'.

Review Revisions to Chapter Operating Handbook for presentation to Membership: Floyd Trefny led a discussion on inactive members because it was an unresolved issue from last month. The Board agreed that the membership roster should remain as is with all members listed unless the member requests that his/her name be removed.

For state reporting, active members will be determined by the data base based on the volunteer hours reported by each member in that calendar year. Michelle Haggerty noted that one of the important purposes of the state reporting is to know how many volunteers need to be covered for insurance purposes. Michelle also stated that she would like to see

the Active Membership section be used as a means to communicate to members and the public what is considered active and what is considered inactive.

Floyd compiled the new input received since the last board meeting and the group reviewed the topics including:

- Vice Presidential duties
- Late October should be the target for securing the venue for monthly Chapter meetings based on approved dates
- Language changes to the New Class Director duties
- Additions to the New Class Director duties stating when the Director should provide help to other Directors without owning the tasks
- Director of Membership changes in verbiage

There was some discussion about the difference between the roster and the data base. The member list on-line may need to include clarification that the list is not necessarily active members, just trained individuals.

Paula Smith moved to incorporate OPTION A-2 and it was seconded by Daneshu Clarke. The motion passed. The new doc is Draft 5.

OPTION A-2 Language: *“All Members are considered active unless they have requested Inactive Status through the Membership Director, moved away, or have been unreachable for 2 years and have not reported activities to the chapter for 2 years. Data on these categories are needed to prepare the Chapter Annual Report each January.”*

Floyd stated that the document presented to the Membership will be redlined (without the ability to see comment ownership) for ease of review and approval.

Officer and Director Reports:

Tom Hynes: Reminded us that we need to think about participating in Rainwater Revival in Boerne during the first week of November. Tom also stated that our April speaker for the Chapter Meeting will be Dale Rollins.

Valeska Danielak: Reported 9 re-certifications, 3 milestone certification, and 2 initial certifications for this month.

Stephen Bishop: Reported that there is now an on-line application for new projects. Information gathered from the website will be forwarded to Stephen.

Daneshu Clarke: Stated that there were 93 ATs for the month and that the Chapter web page now has the ability to allow requests for Advanced Training approval to be made on-line with the request information forwarded to Daneshu.

Becky Etzler: Provided a document with discussion topics. Document is attached. The board had a lively discuss about whether make-up for a missed class during the New Class Training must be on the same topic as the class that was missed. There was a proposal to have a trainee do 2 hours of AT to make up for 1 hour of missed training. Michelle stated that all topics included in the state syllabus must be studied and going off topic would not complete the state required curriculum. The conclusion was that all missed classes must be made up on topic.

Priscilla Stanley: Informed the board that the Land Management Assistance Program (LMAP) has been using Riverside Nature Center (RNC) as their call center and the RNC phone number has been published as the contact phone number for LMAP. Due to recent changes to the RNC system, it no longer accommodates the LMAP needs. Jim and Priscilla Stanley are now taking the calls at their home. All rack fliers for the LMAP need to be replaced with the new contact phone information. Priscilla asked that board members in each county assist with replacing the fliers in their areas.

Meeting Decisions:

- Floyd Trefny will consolidate all board agreed upon changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook into one document with owner notations removed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 1:30 PM at RNC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Bean
Secretary