

**Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
May 15, 2013**

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

Absent: Michelle Haggerty, Valeska Danielak, Daneshu Clarke, J.D. Clarke, Becky Etzler

Also present: N/A

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

Discussion regarding HCMN master email list: The board has been having an on-going discussion about the most expedient manner of developing and maintaining a master email list containing the entire membership. Several board positions regularly or occasionally need to email information to the membership. In the past each position has worked from its own distribution list. A list created by our webmaster from the most current information posted on the website had 28 bounce backs per Priscilla Stanley. The website has been suggested as the most logical location for a master email list.

Floyd Trefny and Vern Crawford will work with our webmaster, Kristie Denbow, to finalize how the mass communications should be handled.

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

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for April 2013 shows a balance of \$10,844.90. One large item posted during the month was for gate signs costing \$920.00. Also curriculum expenses for the 2013 New Class hit the account. Two outstanding checks remain on the account. The holding account for the TMN State Program has a balance of \$10,628.96.

The first five tuition payments for the 2013 New Class have been received and deposited. Two were received on-line and three were received by mailed checks. A long outstanding check to Lost Pines Chapter issued against the holding account for \$100 has been cashed.

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

Floyd Trefny reviewed the budget to date and noted that we paid sales taxes last month. YTD budget is on target. Floyd noted that most of the money from the 2013 New Class tuition should come in during the months of July and August.

Earth Day and Chapter Picnic updates: Priscilla Stanley stated that the final financial numbers for the Earth Day Native Plant Sale at Riverside Nature Center were not in and the plants that didn't sell during the event were sold in the days after the sale.

Thirty nine attendees have confirmed for the chapter picnic. Reservations are confirmed at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve. There will be two laminates on display showing what has been done in the Kendall County parks. Steve Lowe, manager of the Kendall County parks and a member of our chapter, will be in attendance.

2013 Class update – Vern Crawford reported for Becky Etzler that most of the information about the 2013 New Class had already been presented. Paula Smith said that she would place a notice in a local newspaper advertising the new class. Priscilla Stanley stated that both Becky and Valeska Danielak should work together on what the ad will say and Paula agreed to contact them. Flyers for the 2013 New Class will be placed at RNC. When 5 or 6 applications have been received and preliminarily reviewed, they will be distributed to the board.

Expansion of HCMN Area to include Kimble County or more – A Master Naturalist not associated with an active TMN chapter has asked to have stream testing approved as volunteer hours in the Hill Country Chapter when performed in Kimble County. The chapter that normally covers Kimble County is no longer active. Michelle Haggerty has been contacted regarding this request and stated that it should be okay if the chapter to which Kimble County originally belonged, Western Edwards Plateau Chapter (WEPC), does not have an issue with the inclusion. Michelle also asked whether the chapter would be interested in including the 4 counties from the inactive WEPC into our chapter. This would expand the chapter from a four county chapter to an 8 county chapter. Menard, Kimble, Edwards, and Real are the four new counties involved.

Floyd Trefny made a motion to include the stream testing from Kimble County in the chapter qualified volunteer projects list. Tom Hynes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Note that one reason the board approved the motion is that Kimble County is no longer associated with an active chapter. Scott Richardson was suggested as a go-to person to discuss the state of the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter to begin the process.

Paula Smith stated she would be opposed to including only Kimble County and not the other three counties.

Vern Crawford, Stephen Bishop, and Floyd Trefny will form a committee to investigate incorporating the new counties. Their goal is to present a plan to the board prior to the June board meeting.

Officer and Director Reports:

Tom Hynes: June speaker is state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon and the chapter is looking for a host for the night. The date is June 24. Carolyn Bean will check calendar and let Tom know.

Stephen Bishop: Last month Stephen mentioned that Tara Randle was approached to be project coordinator for Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, she has accepted and will be presenting projects to Texas Parks and Wildlife prior to the park opening.

Priscilla Stanley: Stated that she had spent the month working on the picnic.

Paula Smith: Nothing new to report.

Floyd Trefny: Nothing new to report.

Carolyn Bean: Nothing new to report.

Daneshu Clarke: Reported via email that there have been 133 Advanced Training codes year-to-date.

Meeting Decisions:

- Vern Crawford, Stephen Bishop, and Floyd Trefny will form a committee to investigate incorporation of the new counties
- Approved Stream Testing in Kimble County as a volunteer project

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 1:30 PM at RNC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Bean
Secretary