

**Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
June 19, 2013**

Present: Carolyn Bean, Vern Crawford, Tom Hynes, Floyd Trefny, Stephen Bishop, Priscilla Stanley, Valeska Danielak, Daneshu Clarke, Becky Etzler, Michelle Haggerty

Absent: J.D. Clarke, Paula Smith

Also present: N/A

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

Acceptance of Minutes for May 2013 Meeting: Floyd Trefny made a motion to approve the May minutes. The motion was seconded by Priscilla Stanley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for June 2013 shows a balance of \$11,528.57. The biggest expense for the month was the Texas Master Naturalist gate signs. There was a cost break at a quantity of 25 so 25 signs were purchased. Deposits totaling \$1,200 were for new class tuition. Floyd stated that the PayPal issues we have experienced seem to have been resolved.

The Holding account for the TMN State Program has a balance of \$11,787.17. The Cinco Tierra Chapter has disbanded and the holding account received the chapter's monies into their account.

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 the incoming tuition and outgoing expenses for the new class are difficult to budget into a specific month, but as of May it looks like we are on budget.

Riverside Nature Center Dues Increase – Floyd Trefny stated that the dues owed to Riverside Nature Center for HCMN Chapter's annual membership have been increased significantly. Last year the membership cost was \$100. Floyd suggested that a representative from the Board meet with someone from RNC to discuss the increase. If this year's cost exceed \$100, the Board must approve the payment in excess of the \$100 budgeted amount.

Carolyn Bean made a motion to allow negotiating the RNC dues up to \$150 and to modify our budget to reflect the higher expense. Stephen Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Membership List Questions – Floyd Trefny spoke for Paula Smith and Kristie Denbow regarding a master email list containing all Members. Floyd had two discussion points:

- Kristie has already provided two files on the website.
 - The first file is the complete Membership roster with address, phone and email information. This file is available in both PDF and Excel format.
 - The second file is the complete Membership with email only and is in Excel format.
- Should there be photos of the Membership posted on the website roster. Kristie Denbow had asked Floyd if we need authorization from individuals. Since Paula Smith was not present, the discussion was tabled until next month.

All Board members producing mass emails to the Membership should periodically update their Membership distribution list from the website.

Contact Phone/Person for Kerrville Daily Times Organizations List – Vern Crawford explained that once a week, in the Kerrville Daily Times newspaper, there is a list of local organizations with an organization contact person. Currently the contact person for the HCMN is the RNC. Vern stated that this should be changed and asked for recommendations from the Board for the new contact. The group agreed that it should be the Membership Director providing only an email address for contact information. It was noted that the current Membership Director uses the email address of hillcountry13@rocketmail.com the use of which should be passed to subsequent directors.

2013 Class Update – Becky Etzler reported that the New Class Committee met on June 5 and the notes from that meeting are attached. Becky also reminded the Board that on Aug 19 there will be a New Class reception and the Board will be providing food.

Expansion of HCMN Area Covered to include Kimble County or more – Vern Crawford, Floyd Trefny and Stephen Bishop have been investigating whether the Western Edwards Plateau Chapter (WEP) of TMN should be annexed by the HCMN Chapter. Floyd presented slides with historical information on the WEP. Michelle Haggerty said she had been in contact with the WEP chapter and on June 9, 2013 the chapter was dissolved. The WEP chapter had been informally including Mason and San Saba counties plus the 4 originally reported.

After reviewing a project list provided by WEP, Stephen noted that there are no project coordinators attached to the chapter's projects. Projects cannot exist for HCMN Chapter without project coordinators.

A proposal to include the new counties will be made at HCMN's June monthly meeting. Vern will send the Membership an email prior to the June meeting advising that there will be a 20 minute discussion after the speaker's presentation to propose the possibility of annexing the new counties. Annexation of the WEP will be voted on by the Board at the July meeting.

There was discussion about how to best include any new Members in the new counties if they are annexed. Webcasting the monthly meetings or recording them and making them available on-line were suggested, but no decision was made.

Officer and Director Reports:

Tom Hynes: Nothing new to report.

Floyd Trefny: Reported that in 2012 we contributed 3,343 volunteer hours to RNC from the HCMN chapter and that this information should be give to the RNC representative during discussions about the Chapter's annual dues.

Stephen Bishop: Will look at each new county to see if there are project coordinators on their projects.

Priscilla Stanley: Nothing new to report.

Carolyn Bean: Nothing new to report.

Daneshu Clarke: Reported that there have been 153 Advanced Training codes year-to-date and reported statistics from Kristie Denbow regarding our website activity.

Valeska Danielak: Stated that there have been 11 electronic New Class applications submitted and 6 mailed applications submitted to date. Valeska also said that we have 17 mentors for the new class. Additionally, we cannot put brochures pertaining to the HCMN organization into any Chamber of Commerce office unless the Chapter is a member.

Vern Crawford: Reported that Michelle Haggerty has requested someone from our Chapter to do a presentation at the state meeting in New Braunfels about a project we are doing.

Meeting Decisions:

- Presentation at the monthly meeting regarding annexation of the WEP counties
- Vern to talk to RNC regarding the dues increase
- Floyd to increase the budgeted amount for the RNC dues to \$150

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Bean
Secretary