

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
April 23, 2014**

Present: Vern Crawford, Sarah Hilburn, Kathy Ward, Diane McMahon, Priscilla Stanley, Becky Etzler, Liz Ross, Bob Wiedenfeld, Rod Boertje, Stephen Bishop, Donna Oliver-Leep, and Lisa Flanagan.

Absent: Michelle Haggerty

Also present: Lenore Langsdorf

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

Lenore Langsdorf wanted to ask the Board's opinion on whether we should continue listing all the AT opportunities in the newsletter. It is very time intensive for her to type this list in the newsletter each month. Becky Etzler stated that some of our membership may not have computer access so we might print an AT list and have it available at our meetings. Diane McMahon stated that we could include a link to the calendar. Bob Wiedenfeld stated that we could list the AT then include the link to the calendar. Lenore asked us to send her any more thoughts on this topic.

Approval of March 19, 2014 Minutes: Kathy Ward made a motion to approve the March 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Becky Etzler. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: There was no activity for the holding account and the balance is \$18,159.07.

The regular account had six checks cleared for a total of \$500.99 leaving a balance of \$16,633.16.

Diane McMahon shared that Floyd Trefny suggested that we wait until 2015 to add a "Membership" line to our 2014 budget. Diane McMahon wanted a motion on record that stated that we will **not** add a "Membership" line to our 2014 budget.

Lisa Flanagan made a motion **not** to add a "Membership" line to our budget until 2015. Liz Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Youth Protective Screening: Vern Crawford reported that Michelle Haggerty said that the state is still working on a uniform system on this screening process. There should not be a cost to our members.

COH Review Ad Hoc Committee: Floyd Trefny has agreed to work with Tom Hynes. They will start this review at the end of April 2014.

2014 Class Update: Liz Ross reported that they made a couple of minor corrections to the schedule. Becky Etzler stated that the AT codes needed to be omitted from the schedule since we do not have the 2014 codes. Liz Ross will double check the hours. The schedule should be on the web next week. The New Class Committee will meet in June and assembled the notebooks and the resource bags.

Online Payment Systems: Becky Etzler reported that Amazon will probably be our online payment system. It will cost the same as PayPal and Amazon is easier to manage. Amazon has gotten good reviews and Amazon will deposit the money directly into our bank account. One problem is that we cannot use our post office as our address because of fraud. Vern Crawford asked Michelle Haggerty if we could use her office as our address, Michelle Haggerty stated that our Chapter could use her office address. We will have to verify this with our bank.

Becky Etzler made a motion to replace PayPal with Amazon as our online payment system. Stephen Bishop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolution on Floyd Continuing as PayPal Agent: Vern Crawford proposed a motion to resolve to authorize Floyd Trefny, outgoing Hill Country chapter Treasurer, Texas Master Naturalists, to continue acting in the limited capacity of financial agent for the Chapter regarding PayPal funds collected through our online donations and class tuitions. This authority shall be effective for the calendar year 2014, or until all Chapter funds collected by and available from PayPal, less their processing and transaction fees, have been transferred to our Chapter's Kerr County Federal Credit Union account. Bob Wiedenfeld moved to accept the resolution as stated above. Diane McMahon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Class Applications Received: Becky Etzler wanted to be sure that the Board received all the applications that she had emailed. Becky will be sending the applications in groups as she receives them. We will review all the applications in July.

Recruitment Activities: Bob Wiedenfeld took some brochures to the Cibolo Nature Center's "Almost Native Plant Sale" and to Old Tunnel State Park. He also brought some brochures for the Board to hand out at various locations. Bob will also create a press release about the Chapter's application process for the local papers.

Riverside Nature Center Plant Sale Update: Priscilla Stanley reported that she has been working at Riverside Nature Center. The plants have been ordered and some of the plants came in today. More than half of the volunteers that have signed up are from the Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter. The committee made the decision not to sell trees during this drought.

Chapter Picnic Update: Kathy Ward reported that their will be transportation available for those that do not want to walk from the parking lot to the picnic location. Kathy asked Vern Crawford to mention to have members bring their chair at the April Meeting.

Kathy asked if any one wanted to attend the speaker dinner. Liz Ross and Lisa Flanagan said that they would attend at 5:00PM. Kathy also wanted to know what the Board though about "Crazy Ants" as a speaker topic.

Kathy wanted to know when she needed to start working on the December Party's location. Kathy will start looking for a location to book the party on December 13, 2014. She will check on Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Camp C.A.M.P. and the Hacienda at The Native American Seed Company in Junction. We will discuss this further at the May Board meeting.

Adopt-A-Highway: Lisa Flanagan wanted to know if we wanted her to pursue this project. Becky Etzler wanted to know if we could plant seeds so that this activity aligns more with our mission. Bob Wiedenfeld wanted to know how long that you commit to this project. Lisa Flanagan will continue to gather information and report back to the Board in May.

Officer and Director Reports:

Stephen Bishop: Stephen Bishop has been asked by Sally Garrett to approve maintaining "The Native Healing Garden" as a volunteer project and Sally Garrett will be the projector coordinator. Stephen Bishop will ask Sally Garrett to come and talk to the Board in May. We have 8,182.95 volunteer hours as of March 31, 2014.

Becky Etzler: 15 recertifications this month

Donna Oliver-Leep: Nothing else to report.

Rod Boertje: Rod Boertje reported that our chapter had 93 Advanced Training opportunities.

Kathy Ward: Nothing else to report.

Liz Ross: Nothing else to report.

Lisa Flanagan: Nothing else to report

Bob Wiedenfeld: Nothing else to report.

Diane McMahon: Nothing else to report.

Priscilla Stanley: Nothing else to report.

Sarah Hilburn: Nothing else to report.

Vern Crawford: Nothing else to report.

Meeting Decisions:

*Approved the March 2014 minutes

*Approved the Treasurer's reports

*Accepted a motion not to add a "Membership" line to our 2014 Budget

*Accepted the resolution to authorize Floyd Trefny to continue to act as the Chapter's financial agent for PayPal for 2014

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

The next meeting will be May 21, 2014 at 1:30 PM at Riverside Nature Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Hilburn

Secretary