

Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter  
Board Meeting  
July 23, 2014

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

**Absent:** Vern Crawford, Stephen Bishop, and Michelle Haggerty

**Also present:** NA

Vice-president Kathy Ward called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**Approval of June 18, 2014 Minutes:** Diane McMahon made a motion to approve the June 18, 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 \$17,669.07.

The regular account had nine checks cleared for a total of \$1216.13, and \$1645.00 was deposited in the account leaving a balance of \$16,875.23.

Lisa Flanagan made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded by Liz Ross. Motion carried.

Diane McMahon wanted a statement in our Board minutes concerning how we expense items that are not in our budget. The Board has discussed this issue at a couple of our meetings but there was not a statement of record in our minutes. The Board agrees to use the budget as a guideline and follow it closely. If an item is not listed in the budget, the Board will either amend the budget or expense the item from the checking account.

There were no questions about the midyear budget report.

**State Meeting Photo & Art Contest Coordinator:** Kathy Ward asked if any Board members wanted to chair or co-chair. Several questions were discussed and the Board decided to have Becky Etzler forward Michele Haggerty's email to our general membership.

**2014 Class Update:** Liz Ross reported that binders and resource bags will be assembled on August 6, 2014. Liz will give the bags to the mentors on August 8, 2014 at the mentor meeting at Cafe on the Ridge.

**Review, Prioritization, and Approval of Class Applicants:** Becky Etzler reviewed Appendix E from our Chapter Operating Handbook. Each applicant will be judged on his or her positive and negative attributes and not on the order in which the application was received. Becky provided a spreadsheet with applicant information. The 49 applications were reviewed according to the guidelines set forth in the Chapter Operation Handbook. Thirty-five trainees and three applicants to be assigned to a waiting list were selected. Acceptance letters will be mailed Tuesday July 29, 2014. The three waiting list applicants will be called on July 29, 2014 and offered a position on the waiting list as openings may occur in the class. Refund checks for applicants not selected will be included in their nonacceptance letters which will be mailed on Tuesday July 29, 2014. Diane McMahon will bring refund checks to the Chapter meeting on Monday July 28, 2014.

**Officers' and Directors' Reports:**

**Stephen Bishop:** Two new volunteer projects in Mason County: MS-01-A Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve, MS-02-A Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Project coordinator for both projects is Tony Plutino. Stephen reported possible leads for new projects in San Saba County. Sandy Leyendecker sent the following email to Stephen: "For the second quarter, the Hill Country Chapter has 17,234.25 volunteer hours and 1337.95 advanced training hours that have been received through June 30, 2014. We have members out of town so their hours will be reflected in the third quarter."

**Becky Etzler:** Reported that in 2013 the Chapter had 31,740 volunteer hours and 2911 advanced training hours.

**Donna Oliver-Leep:** Nothing else to report.

**Kathy Ward:** Asked if any Board members wanted to attend the speaker's dinner on Monday, July 29, 2014. Liz Ross and Lisa Flanagan will attend the dinner.

**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.

**Rod Boertje:** A couple of event organizers wanted another email reminder sent later, but the Board decided to keep it simple with just one email notification.

**Meeting Decisions:**

\*Approved the June 18, 2014 minutes

\*Approved the Treasurer's reports

\*Selected 35 trainees and three applicants to be assigned to the waiting list

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55PM.

The next meeting will be August 20, 2014 at 1:30 at the Riverside Nature Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Hilburn

Secretary