

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter  
Board Meeting at Riverside Nature Center  
January 21, 2015

Present: Kathy Ward, Paul Person, Sarah Hilburn, Diane McMahon, Judy Gausnell, Vern Crawford, Bob Wiedenfeld, Brenda Fest, Pat McCormick, and Lisa Flanagan.

Quorum met: 91% present

Absent: Liz Ross

Also present: Priscilla Stanley

President Kathy Ward called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and General Liability: Priscilla Stanley shared some general terms and information. Priscilla got an estimated quote from State Farm Insurance for D & O Liability Insurance for about \$200. Pat McCormick received a general quote from USSA Travelers Insurance for about \$800. Travelers does not have general liability insurance. Judy Gausnell shared a D & O Liability Policy from Cincinnati Insurance. The premium is \$750 for one year, \$1,000,000 limit for awards per year but no limit on attorney fees. Judy, Pat, and Priscilla will try to have formal quotes for the next Board meeting. It was also mentioned that it would be best to get D & O Liability Insurance and general liability insurance from the same company.

Pat McCormick made a motion to propose to buy Directors & Officers Liability Insurance. Diane McMahon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Background Checks: Lisa Flanagan reported that Michele Haggerty said that the state's reporting program is not available yet, we are in the last tier whenever the state's system is up and running. We can get background checks from Texas A & M AgriLife Extension for \$10.00 and the checks are good for three years. The AgriLife Extension does not provide a card to each member showing the date that they were screened. Vern Crawford emphasized that the state requires chapters to get background checks now but their reporting system is not in place.

Diane McMahon made a motion to secure background checks for certified members. Sarah Hilburn seconded the motion. Motion denied.

Bob Wiedenfeld made a motion to require all members to secure a background check. Proof of previous background checks will be in accordance to Texas Park and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Seconded by Paul Person. Motion carried.

Pat McCormick discussed the issue of proof. Lisa Flanagan will contact TPWD and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to see how they manage their background checks. Discussion also followed concerning the Chapter charging dues in the future to help cover the costs of getting background checks and to offset other Chapter costs. Kathy Ward will inform the general membership at the January 26, 2015 Chapter meeting that Texas Master Naturalist requires all members to get a background check so our Chapter will require background checks in the future. The Chapter is working out the details and looking at charging dues to help cover the costs.

Board Representation from Each County: Discussion followed on whether we should have a representative from each county attend the Board meetings. It was decided that Kathy Ward will encourage all members to attend our Board meetings since they are open meetings instead of having just one person from each county.

2014 State Report and Board Retreat Minutes: Vern Crawford ask for any questions, none were asked.

2015 Class Update: Brenda Fest reported that the New Class Committee reviewed the speaker evaluations and made some changes to the schedule. Class dates and venues were set except for the Gillespie County Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Center in Fredericksburg. Committee duty assignments were confirmed. The 2014 class comments were also reviewed and discussed.

Approval of December 8, 2014 Minutes: Lisa Flanagan made a motion to accept the minutes. Paul Person seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Ratification of the 2015 Directors by Email Vote: Vern Crawford made a motion to ratify the 2015 directors by the email vote. Seconded by Lisa Flanagan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports: Paul Person made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Vern Crawford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice President's Report on Programs: Paul Person will introduce the speakers for the January 26, 2015 Chapter meeting and take them to dinner. Paul has speakers booked until July. The picnic will be on May 16, 2015 at the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park which will include a tour of some of the historic sites at the park. The Christmas Party will be on December 12, 2015. The annual Texas Master Naturalist meeting will be in Tyler, Texas.

Officers' and Directors' Reports:

Lisa Flanagan: Nineteen people have requested applications for the 2015 New Class.

Kathy Ward: Nothing else to report

Diane McMahon: Nothing else to report

Brenda Fest: Nothing else to report

Bob Wiedenfeld: Nothing else to report

Paul Person: Nothing else to report

Sarah Hilburn: Nothing else to report

Pat McCormick: No new volunteer projects this month

Judy Gausnell: The Class of 2014 will meet on February 12, 2015 from 10:00 - 12:00.

Vern Crawford: Nothing else to report.

Committee to Align the State Bylaws to the Chapter Operating Handbook: Vern Crawford shared that the revised State Bylaws are not available online. Our Chapter will wait to form this committee after the State Bylaws are released.

Meeting Decisions:

\*Made a motion to buy Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

\*The insurance committee will get three formal quotes for D&O Liability Insurance and they will continue to gather research on the general liability insurance.

\*Made a motion to require all members to get a background check

\*Kathy Ward will encourage all members to attend the Board meetings

\*Approved the December 10, 2014 minutes

\*Approved the ratification of the 2015 Directors by email vote

\*Accepted the Treasurer's reports

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44PM.

The next Chapter meeting will be January 26, 2015.

The next Board meeting will be February 18, 2015 at 1:30 at the Riverside Nature Center.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Hilburn  
Secretary