

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting at Riverside Nature Center
February 18, 2015

Present: Kathy Ward, Paul Person, Sarah Hilburn, Judy Gausnell, Bob Wiedenfeld, Brenda Fest, Pat McCormick, Liz Ross, and Lisa Flanagan.

Quorum met: 82% present

Absent: Diane McMahon and Vern Crawford

Also present: Priscilla Stanley

President Kathy Ward called the meeting to order at 1:34PM.

Approval of January 21, 2015 Minutes: Paul Person made a motion to accept the minutes. Pat McCormick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Treasurer's Reports: Sarah Hilburn made a motion to accept the treasurer's reports. Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kerr County Youth Exhibit Facility: Pat McCormick will investigate the meeting room options and price at this facility.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and General Liability: Judy Gausnell reported that she had obtained a quote from the Cincinnati Insurance Company through their agent in Kerrville, the Garrett Insurance Agency Inc., for Director & Officer Liability Insurance (D&O Insurance) as well as for a General Liability Policy that would cover our Chapter volunteers and assets, but not cover medical payments.

The D&O Liability insurance for a small nonprofit organization like our Chapter would cost \$750/year.

A General Liability Policy that would cover our volunteers (aka our members) and Chapter Assets would cost \$665/year plus \$25/year for Terrorism coverage. This makes a total of \$690/year.

Thus for \$1,440/year our Chapter would have insurance to protect our Board members, our other Chapter members, and our financial assets.

No longer making large annual donations to other nature organizations would help to cover this new expense.

In 2014 Forbes rated the Cincinnati Insurance Company as first among large-cap companies on Forbes list of America's 50 Most Trustworthy Financial Companies. A.M. Best rated the Cincinnati Insurance Company as A+ (Superior); the Fitch Rating was A+ (Strong); Moody's Investment Service rating was A1 (Good Financial Security); Standard & Poor's Rating Service rating was A1 (Strong).

Our policy period of coverage will be from 2/1/2015 to 2/1/2016. The quote date was 1/22/2015.

Priscilla Stanley has not heard back from her company. Paul Person will get a quote from Alliance Americas so that we could compare quotes.

Lisa Flanagan made a motion to buy general liability insurance. Brenda Fest seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Background Checks: Lisa Flanagan reported that it would be best to go with Texas AgriLife. Michele Haggerty said we would not have to get background checks on our inactive members. Liz Ross will talk with Kristie Denbow about how to publicized the requirement. We will start with the 2015 New Class. Lisa Flanagan will set up a meeting on a Thursday afternoon with Michele Haggerty.

Board Representation from Each County: None present

Officers and Directors' Reports:

Paul Person: Paul reported that he has speakers lined up for several months. President Kathy Ward asked Paul for a list of speakers for our Chapter meetings to arrange for checks for agency and non-agency speakers. Rufus Stephens, our Texas Park and Wildlife Department (TPWD) District Manager and Chapter Advisor, told Kathy that TPWD now allows checks received for making presentations to be accepted as donations to TPWD and used in the local TPWD area to provide needed reference books for the biologists. Previously, if agency personnel received a check, it had to go to the State TPWD Office in Austin for their use.

Brenda Fest: Brenda distributed the current New Class schedule to Board members for their review and approval. The speakers have been contacted for all the classes. The tuition will be \$185 per person to cover the class training expenses. The class schedule was approved.

Brenda also reported that she has arranged an AT event at Honey Creek State Natural Area on March 21 for Chapter members. Craig Hensley with TPWD will lead a nature walk.

Lisa Flanagan: Nothing else to report

Bob Wiedenfeld: Bob passed out copies of the 2014 New Class recruiting brochure so that New Class Director Brenda Fest and Membership Director Lisa Flanagan can make the required updates.

Liz Ross: Nothing else to report, all is going well.

Pat McCormick: Nothing else to report

Judy Gausnell: Nothing else to report

Kathy Ward: Nothing else to report

Sarah Hilburn: Nothing else to report

Meeting Decisions:

- *Approved the January 21, 2015 minutes
- *Accepted the Treasurer's Reports
- *Approved the New Class Schedule
- *Approved to buy general liability insurance
- *Approved the Membership Application for 2015 New Class

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.

The next Chapter meeting will be March 23, 2015.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Hilburn
Secretary