

**Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Building
September 23, 2015**

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

Quorum met: 91% present

Absent: Diane McMahan

Also present: NA

President Kathy Ward called the meeting to order at 1:39PM

Strategic Initiatives

New Chapter Management and Operations Protocols/Bylaws: Vern Crawford is prepared to present the Bylaws at the September 28, 2015 Chapter meeting. Vern and Kathy Ward will work on revising the Chapter Operating Handbook and they will present at the October board meeting.

Resource Development

Nomination Committee: Vern Crawford reported that they were making progress on the slate of officers. The slate will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting.

Becky Etzler: Becky Etzler, director of Riverside Nature Center, wanted to present a proposal to the Board. The Riverside Nature Center (RNC) meeting/lecture room is in need of buying 40 chairs. The Archeology Society offered to buy 20 chairs since they have their meetings at RNC. Becky was proposing to our Board and NPSOT to buy 20 more chairs and split the cost since our chapters also use these room for meetings. The Chapter's portion would be about \$375. Paul Person ask if RNC could pay a 1/3 of the cost for 20 chairs. Becky shared that Riverside Nature Center may need to buy a new rack to hold the new chairs. It was suggested for Becky to get the price for the chair rack then RNC, NPSOT and the Chapter would each pay a 1/3 of the cost for 20 chairs and a chair rack. The Board will check with Diane McMahan to see if we had the money in the 2015 budget.

Riverside Nature Center Plant Sales: Sharon Hixson is in charge of the plant sales at Riverside Nature Center. She wanted our Board to look at the pros and cons of having two sales. The Board requested more information on work schedules, responsibilities, and profits from these sales and asked her to come back and present to the Board.

Operational

Approval of August 19, 2015 Minutes: Lisa Flanagan made a motion to accept the minutes. Vern Crawford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Treasurer's Reports: The September treasurer's reports will be voted on at the October Board meeting since Diane McMahan was absent.

Vice-president's Report on Programs:

- September 28-Charlie Flatton, "Water 101"
- October 26-Peggy Seachrist, "Soil and Water"
- November 16-Michelle Haggerty, VMS and Election of Officers
- December 12-Christmas Party
- January-open
- February-Cathy Downs, "Monarchs"

The 2016 Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter meeting schedule was approved.

Director's Reports

2015 Class Members: The class members are enthusiastic and volunteering. A few members have some attendance issues. The class is using the Volunteering Management System and Brenda has generated some reports from this new system.

Membership: Lisa Flanagan had enough volunteers at a table at the "Pollinator Powwow" at Schreiner University in Kerrville. Board members are gathering items for the silent auction at the State Meeting. Lisa Flanagan is collecting pictures for the slide show and will send them to Vern. Lisa shared that Pam McKinney had donated \$1500 to the butterfly garden at Kerrville-Schreiner Park.

AT: One of the members was requesting that he be allowed to get all the AT hours by webinars. The Board decided to stand by our current policy of only allowing 4 of the 8 AT hours to come from webinars.

Communications: Bob Wiedenfeld reported that the October Chapter Meeting Notice has been sent to the newspapers.

Volunteer Projects: Pat McCormick is working on two new projects in Edwards County and she has one new project in Real County, Devil's Sinkhole.

2014 Class Representative: Judy Gausnell reported that six members from the 2014 class started a new volunteer project at Riverside Nature Center. These members will monitor the plant ID signage.

Kathy Ward: Our Chapter can present one \$75 scholarship for a member to attend the State Meeting in October. Board members should notify Kathy if someone requests this scholarship.

Sarah Hilburn: Asked if someone can take minutes at the September 28, 2015 Chapter meeting, Judy Gausnell volunteered.

Meeting Decisions:

*Approved the August 19, 2015 minutes

*Approved the 2016 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Announcements

The next Chapter meeting will be September 28, 2015.

The next Board meeting will be October 21, 2015 at 1:30 at Riverside Nature Center.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Hilburn
Secretary