

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Riverside Nature Center
January 20, 2016

Present: Brenda Fest, Kathy Ward, Diane McMahon, Rheda Boardman, Floyd Trefny, Bridget Langdale,
Lisa Flanagan, Claire Mitchell, Diane Armbrust, Liz Ross, Vern Crawford

Absent: Michele Haggerty, Lisa Barrett

Quorum met: 85% present

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 1340.

Strategic Initiatives

- VMS Rollout-Brenda Fest, Liz Ross, Lisa Flanagan

Brenda reported VMS at this time has a positive progression.

VMS meetings have been held in Boerne and Fredericksburg. VMS meetings are scheduled in Kerrville Jan.21, 10a-12p and Bandera Jan 22, 10a-12p.

There is a difficulty in logging in. Sandy learned that the member's email address needs to be used not mailing address.

There was some initial difficulty in logging in during training because some members did not know to use their user ID, and their email addresses had not been uploaded to VMS. VMS administrators were able to assist.

Problems with using comment box were discussed.

M. Haggerty uses report service hours and descriptions to justify grants.

State is not interested in AT, but it is of interest to the chapter.

- Discuss challenges, etc. from planning retreat
Goals will be removed from list following goal accomplishment.

- Mentor Survey Response

Results of new class mentor survey:

8 surveys returned. 6 Positive, 1 Negative, and 1 Neutral

First meeting with mentor: Great for the most part and very necessary for introduction to chapter.

Mentor visit during class: 2 thought it was necessary, 1 no

Other highlights:

1. Ongoing communication i.e. email very helpful
2. Bring mentor on a field trip (board disagrees-field trips cannot handle extra people, especially Bamberger.)
3. Have a cheese and wine social event with new guy name tags and printed bios at reception. (no)
4. Distribute class material first day (board disagrees)
5. Most had a good experience at the reception.
6. Class committee members should serve as mentors
7. Most think the mentor experience/program is wonderful as is.

Additional board comments:

1. Need to evaluate program every year
2. Lisa did a very good job of matching mentors and mentees
3. Recommendation were made to do the survey the last day of the class
4. Survey should contain the same questions each year
5. This was the first year of the survey – need to establish a pattern
6. New class committee needs to establish the survey

End of the year survey to membership suggested by Michelle Haggerty-Kathy Ward

Discussion included:

1. Floyd suggested adding a third question: Topics and/or names of speakers for future presentations.
2. Survey should include comments on improving our chapter.
3. How members respond to survey. Can it be anonymous? Via email or via paper copy at meeting.
4. Recommend not spending a lot of time on survey
5. Is it feasible to use Survey Monkey?

Kathy will develop a survey and research the use of surveymonkey.com.

Resource Development

- End of Year State Report-Kathy Ward

Kathy discussed definition of resource development: Reaching out to other people and doing what is important such as VMS, class update, and end of the year statement. She gave a leadership presentation and used Michelle Haggerty's PowerPoint. The PowerPoint presented statistical information on the number of members that are enrolled, total service hours and what the dollar amount service hours totaled, and amount of advanced hours reported. (almost 1 million dollars) We will be able to see if the introduction of VMS makes a difference in future statistics.

The 2015 End of Year report will be available on the web site soon.

2015 Class: 35 new members with 100% active participation in advanced training and service hours. Advanced Training hours: 501. Service hours: 1,294

Vern credited Brenda with the new class success. Brenda stated VMS was very beneficial.

- 2016 Class Update- Diana Armbrust

The Class Committee met on January 13, 2016 at Riverside Nature Center (refer to class committee minutes).

On Jan. 20, 2016 emails were sent to formally invite all selected class speakers. Presently there is not a speaker for the soil/prairie restoration presentation.

The Committee is seeking a soil/prairie restoration speaker and is asking for suggestions.

Class of 2016 will have more emphasis on soil/carbon cycle/ water retention/ and prairie restoration. In order to add a speaker for this lecture a topic had to be removed. The committee decision was to remove the Ethnobotany lecture. It was suggested to offer ethnobotany as an AT.

Reception Aug 22, 2015 First Class Aug. 24, 2016

Class will be held at the Lions Club. There was a discussion on pros and cons of class location. Final comments were that the Lions Club was cost favorable, comfortable setting, possible to add a few more people to class, class set up can be left in place for all meetings and food table is convenient.

Operational

- Approval of December 9, 2015 Minutes

Kathy Ward made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Vern Crawford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Approve Treasurer's Reports- Diane McMahon

Kathy Ward approved the December Treasurer's report Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Christmas Party: 93 paid, 1 guest no pay and 1 paid no show. Cost allotted by the chapter was \$200. Actual expense was not over the allotted \$200.

In order to have a state sales tax exempt event (annual plant sale) the event date must be documented in the minutes prior to the event.

We are the fiduciary hold account for Michelle Haggerty.

Diane announced that she will be leaving for Alaska on Feb. 2, 2016 and returning on Mar. 8, 2016.

Brenda will have checks for the checking account.

Vern will have checks for the holding account.

Diane plans on having the January financial activity report completed before she leaves on vacation.

- Vice-President's Report on Programs-Floyd Trefny

Changes to schedule:

February 22- "Texas Bluebirds"- Pauline Tom-Texas Bluebird Society

March 28-"Chronic Wasting Disease"- Mitch Lockwood and Bob Dittmar

April 25-"Monarchs" Cathy Downs

Possible future topics: Tawny Crazy Ants, Native Bees, and ABK Update

We will be adding another speaker this year for our May meeting, since we will not be having a picnic.

Request to have speaker bio available 30 days prior to meeting.

- Directors Reports

1. Membership-Lisa Flanagan

7 potential class members have shown interest in 2016 class. When interest is shown they are emailed information.

A second email is sent when application can be accepted.

Will be sending request for members to staff a chapter table at "Wings Over The Hills" event.

\$50 expense for the table at "Wings Over the Hills" event will come out of administration budget.

Generic brochures will be ordered from the state. There is no cost for the brochures but there is about \$1 per packet charge for delivery. Recruitment brochures will be available for approval at the February board meeting.

2. Advanced Training- Liz Ross

Liz is concerned her email address is confusing and asked if she needs to change the address. It was recommended by the board not to change the email address.

3. Volunteer Projects-Claire Mitchell

Claire has sent an introduction to Kristie Denbow. She and Liz will be meeting.

4. Communications-Bridget Langdale

Bridget reported that she will be coordinating with Lenore about proofs for newsletter.

Newspapers have been notified that she will communicate with them.

She has met with her local county extension agent in regards to what the chapter can do for him.

She would like to have articles in more newspapers and on radio stations. NPR and Oncore radio stations were recommended.

5. New Class-Diana Armbrust

No additional comments

- Ideas/Comments that did not fit?
Tabled until next meeting, because of lack of time
- COH revision and membership approval during monthly meeting Jan 25. Taking minutes is required
- RNC dues increase from \$150 to \$300 as requested by Becky Etzler
An amendment to the annual budget is necessary. It is the responsibility of the board to exercise financial control of the budget. The chapter's last year balanced budget was \$12,375.
To cover the cost Vern Crawford made an online donation of \$350 to the chapter. Due to Amazon's fee the donation will be less than \$350
Brenda motioned to amend the budget to cover the \$300 request made by Riverside Nature Center. Lisa second.
The board did not vote. Tabled until next board meeting due to lack of time.
- Consider changing board meeting to Mondays before chapter meetings
Tabled until next meeting, because of lack of time
- Review decisions
Tabled until next meeting, because of lack of time

Announcements

- Monthly Meeting: Monday January 25, 2016
- Board Meeting, Wednesday February 17 at Riverside Nature Center

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50PM

Change Board Meeting Date:

Notice January 22, 2016

Hill Country Chapter Board,

Since we did not get to this item on the agenda during the last board meeting, I wanted to do this by email vote. According to the TMN Bylaws we are required to notify the chapter members 10 days in advance of our board meetings. So we must notify our members by February 12 if we want to have our meeting on Monday, February 22.

Please reply to all on this email if you would like to change our February meeting from Wednesday, February 14 to Monday, February 22. We'll keep the time and place the same.

Thanks,

Brenda

Brenda Fest <brendafest@a...p.com>

To Floyd Trefny Rheda Boardman Diane McMahon Lisa Flanagan Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter and 7 more...

Jan 22 at 1:23 PM

Board,

I've heard yes from Lisa F, Kathy, Diana, Diane, Rheda, Bridget, Claire, and myself. I have not yet heard from Floyd, Liz, Lisa B, and Vern. So at this point we have a majority vote to move the meeting to February 22 at RNC at 1:30. I called RNC and reserved the room. If we are all ok with the February meeting then we can do the same for the rest of the year's meetings.

Thanks,

Brenda