LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Teeling, Val Lefebvre, Darlene Varga, Rich Bradley, Rich Nielson, Joel Dunnington, Cheryl Trock, Marie Miller, Brian Trock (past Membership chair), Judy Brupbacher, Pat Gonser, Kim Wright, Susan James

GUESTS: Art Williams

ADVISOR: Troy Luepke

CALL TO ORDER: Jim called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

1. **Secretary Report---**Kim had e-mailed the minutes from the December meeting to the BOD. Corrections were made and a final draft was sent out. Joel moved the minutes be approved; Susan seconded. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.
2. **Treasurer’s Report---**Rich Nielson reported that the chapter was audited on January 8, 2016 and we passed the audit. He said that the signatures were changed at the bank to reflect the new officers who will need to sign off on certain expenditures. The bank statement showed that the end balance for December was $9226.73. The register balance was $8963.16 after checks were deducted. Jim read an e-mail from Coco Brennan requesting that the chapter purchase 2 new water testing kits since the Texas Stream Team is replacing existing kits with ones that will not use chemicals. Instead the kits will have meters. This request came after water monitors met with representatives from Texas State and learned the kits were gradually being replaced. Rich Bradley moved that the chapter purchase 2 new kits; Judy seconded. Susan brought up in discussion questions about what the new kits contain and if the probes on the meters go bad, who would be responsible for the cost of replacement. Would the chapter have to pay for replacements or would GBRA? Rich amended his motion to be that the chapter would only purchase the kits if we are not required to replace the probes. Judy seconded. Motion passed. Someone will contact Coco to see who would be responsible the replacement costs.
3. **Vice President’s Report-**--Joel reported that he has speakers for the Chapter meetings lined up through April. See report. He decided to have 3 rows of parallel tables lined up for the meetings at TPML. Glenna Dunnington will be the Hospitality Chair. The Community Naturalist Award will be presented to Bat Conservation International Bracken Cave in May for their work in organizing the purchase of surrounding land. The Gault Archaeological field trip is February 27. Information on the trip will be sent out through Communications.
4. **Past President’s Report-**--Rich B. reported that our annual report was turned in to State on January 13. Jim asked what he needs to report to State. Rich will give Jim that information.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Communications---**Susan reported that the committee had their first meeting. Henry and Joel attended. Susan said that Dottie Green could not fulfill her duties as Historian, so she will need to be replaced. There was discussion about discontinuing the g-mail addresses for officers and chairs. Most prefer to use their personal e-mails; however, Val said she would like to have a g-mail account to receive applications for the training classes. It would also expedite the Education Committee’s response instead of going through Communications. Darlene said that the Education Committee would also be able to answer any questions that potential students might have. Those who do not wish to have a g-mail account will have their addresses removed from the site. Rich N. suggested moving the VMS link to Members Only on the website. Susan asked Cheryl to check with VMS to see how these things will be addressed before we remove a link on our website. Brian said that people will search the State website to find a chapter, then they would be directed to the nearest chapter. Joel asked if he can send an e-mail to all members through his g-mail account. Marie said that the contact list would have to be added to the g-mail accounts. Sara Riggs (Out and About) has an account for the calendar. Val thinks the President should have one, but Jim wants to use his personal account. Susan said the committee talked about putting together a Power Point for Outreach events. See complete report for further information. The next Communications meeting will be February 9 at TPML at 11 AM.
2. **Education-**--Darlene reported that there have been 2 Earth Day meetings and the current class asked about a budget for Earth Day. They would like to put a banner up in town announcing the dates for the event. It would have changeable dates. The budget for ED is $150.
3. **Membership-**--Brian sent out the numbers for December. See report. VMS system is totally different now. There have been questions about a member’s status. Are they active, inactive, lapsed, etc. Cheryl stated the importance of putting a comment in the comment box when reporting an activity. State will reject it if it is not filled out. The “Opportunity” title must match the Opportunity type (ie.---Advanced Training Opportunity, then it must be an Advanced Training type). Darlene asked if VMS (Cheryl and Brian) can check on a student’s submission. They can. Joel asked if the State Comment Box can be marked “Mandatory”. Cheryl will ask Texas Parks and Wildlife if they can change that. Marie suggested that when logging on to VMS, go to “My Placements” to see what opportunities are there.
4. **Outreach-**--Pat said she was not sure what she needed to know. She needs to recruit more people for events such as Folk Fest. Joel has received only about 7 surveys from members so far. Pat wants a roster of members who have special skills, such as knowledge about plants, fossils, etc. She would like some money to make the Traveling Trunks better. There is money in the budget for the trunks. On March 3 at TPML, there will be a brainstorming session to find out ways to make the trunks more user friendly.
5. **Projects-**--Judy reported that Coco and Emmie Ikels joined her committee. The committee would like revisions to be made to the Chapter Operating Handbook concerning webinars. Please see report. Judy said the committee trimmed the number of projects opportunities on VMS from 150 (ie.---they placed Earth Day under Festivals). If a member cannot find a category, they can always place their hours under Chapter Approved. Always look under Placements first (ie.---look for Birds), then see if you can find it under Opportunities.

**COMMENTS AND ADJOURN**:

1. Brian mentioned that members’ historical hours are now on VMS.
2. Volunteer hours will be given for attending a Chapter meeting (for the business portion). So one VH plus one AT for the program plus up to 1 hour travel time will be allowed.
3. Darlene asked at the last BOD meeting about travel time. Some chapters allow travel time of more than 1 hour. Brian said the State’s policy is that the amount of travel time may not exceed the amount of volunteer hours for that volunteer activity. Cheryl moved that our chapter follow the State guidelines; Darlene seconded. Motion passed. This will be effective February 1, 2016. An e-mail will be sent to members so that they will know the new policy concerning travel time.

Rich B. moved that the meeting be adjourned; Judy seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:40 (Art Williams was overlooked as wanting to address the Board).

Art would like for our chapter to offer workshops for the general public. He and Troy Luepke (county agent) discussed the types of workshops. See list of potential topics. There could be a fee charged and speakers arranged through Outreach. Troy said he could get some of the speakers. This would be an opportunity to raise money for the chapter and open up opportunities for later projects that Troy would not have to ask the State for funds. The Chapter would approve the venue, advertise, find properties and speakers. These workshops could be done quarterly. Art asked if there is a demand for this type of event. Troy said yes. Pat asked if we would apprentice under him to learn to conduct these workshops ourselves. Yes. That would free him up to do other things. Rich B. moved that we pursue this idea further; Susan seconded. Motion passed. There was a question about whether the classroom would be available on Saturdays for the workshops. Troy said sometimes and that the dates would have to be cleared through the office, but there are other venues available.

Rich N. moved the meeting be adjourned; Susan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6 PM at Agrilife.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists