**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Teeling, Joel Dunnington, Darlene Varga, Val Lefebvre, Rich Nielson, Cheryl Trock, Rich Bradley, Judy Brupbacher, Susan James, Kim Wright

**GUESTS:** Sara Riggs (incoming Education co-chair), Art Williams, Troy Luepke (county agent)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim Wright had sent the minutes out via email for corrections. Corrections were made prior to this meeting. Joel Dunnington moved that the minutes from the October Board meeting be approved; Rich Nielson seconded. Motion approved. Minutes passed.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Rich Nielson reported that there was a lot of activity this last month, with new

manuals and name badges being purchased and tuition being paid by the new students. Rich reported that one check from a student had been returned, but that was cleared up. Judy Brupbacher moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Kim Wright seconded. Motion passed. Rich Nielson wants to order the t-shirts for the new class now instead of waiting until the end of the class year. He asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the shirts from this year’s budget. Rich Bradley so moved; Joel Dunnington seconded. Motion passed. Rich Nielson will put this item in the 2017 budget for the 2018 class. Rich Nielson said he has had requests for 8 of the new manuals. He would like to order 12 since they come in boxes of 6 and feels sure that there will be enough people interested in buying the new book. Joel Dunnington said there were about 30 people at the chapter meeting who expressed an interest in purchasing a new book. Rich Nielson moved we approve the purchase of 12 books to sell to members. Joel Dunnington seconded. The motion passed.

1. **Vice President---**Joel Dunnington reported that the topic for November’s chapter meeting was Winter Sparrows. He said there were about 43 people in attendance. January’s and February’s topics are Butterflies and Spring Warblers, both presented by Craig Hensley. He also reported that Glenna Dunnington, who has been the Hospitality Chair, does not wish to continue to chair this committee due to her commitment to become a teacher for the Master Gardeners. Joel said that Glenna has not been able to find a replacement and asked if anyone knew someone who might be interested in taking over. Susan James suggested Joyce Doyle for Hospitality and Darlene Varga said that Beth Jameson might be interested. Joel reminded us that the Holiday Party is December 15 and people need to RSVP. Cheryl Trock asked how many have replied so far. Joel wasn’t sure about the numbers. The party will be at Tye Preston Library.
2. **Past President-**--Rich Bradley handed out a sheet with the slate of officers for 2017 and official notification of the election to be posted on the website. The election will be on December 15 just prior to the Holiday Party.
3. **Communications-**--Susan James had no report other than Bill Suddith is still a member of her committee.
4. **Education-**--Val Lefebvre and Darlene Varga are retiring as Education co-chairs and Sara Riggs and Debbie Kyrouac will be taking over the job. Darlene said that the new class has 21 students plus possibly 1 student from the last class who needs to make up a class to graduate. Rich Bradley asked if the class topics could be posted month by month so that students who do need to make up a class will automatically know when to attend. Jennifer Hendren and Beth Jameson are taking over Earth Day and will guide the new class as to their responsibilities for that project.
5. **Membership-**--Cheryl Trock reported that she attended the first class for the 2017 class. She helped get the new students signed on to the VMS. She said there were a couple of hiccups and instructed the new students to go to the local chairman if they have a problem instead of to the State Help Desk. She will clarify the ”Categories” at the next class.

Cheryl reported that one member has not submitted hours yet for 2016 and discovered that this person did not know how to submit her hours to the VMS. This member has been volunteering for the past 11 months. Cheryl also said that there are 10-15 members who she has had to call “inactive” because they have not submitted any hours or responded to her queries about their status. Cheryl will give a list of these members to Joel Dunnington next year.

Cheryl has entered the historical hours for each member through 2007. She hopes to have every year completed by the end of this year.

Cheryl asked if she needed to wait 45 days after the first of the year to give a final report on members’ hours. Judy Brupbacher and Rich Bradley both stated that the cut-off date for 2016 is December 31 and if any hours are reported for 2016 after that date, then those numbers will be amended. So members will be reminded to get their hours in as soon as possible for 2016 by December 31.

1. **Projects---**Judy Brupbacher reported that she has been getting applications for project approvals from the new students for projects that are already on the approved list. Sara Riggs said she has gotten some also. Jeanie Springer will become the new Projects chair for 2017 and has been working closely with Judy since October. Cheryl Trock asked if the Butterfly Way Station located in River Chase was an approved project. Judy said that it is an approved project. Susan James asked Judy if participation in an Earth Day other than ours would be an approved activity. Judy said that it would.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke, county agent, said that Agrilife will be undergoing a Civil Rights review soon. All correspondence and sign-in sheets for meetings declare that we are a non-discriminating organization and we need to insure that that remains the case with everything we do. The Lindheimer Master Naturalists website is in compliance because it states that we do not discriminate because of race, gender identity, color, nationality, age, or veteran status. Troy said that we need to try to match public participation with the county demographics.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Tye Preston Library Donation---**Art Williams spoke with Roxanna Dean at the library. The signpost that they want us to contribute to will cost $3000. It is up to the BOD how much we want to donate. Susan James asked if there is going to be recognition of the donors on the signpost. Art was not sure. Our donation would go toward the part of the sign that points to the Butterfly Garden. Susan said she did not think that this represents us as Master Naturalists. The money would be better spent on something else that would be a good representation of what we are about. Art said that the library does not necessarily not want books, just not indiscriminate giving. Val Lefebvre, Susan Bogle, and Art Williams think books on our specific topics would be a great way to represent who we are. The giving of the books should be coupled with an Outreach program, introducing the books to the library community through a Lunch and Learn program. Jim Teeling asked Art and Val if they thought a Lunch and Learn every few months would help get the books noticed. For example, Doug Dalglish could give a talk on Native Grasses to go along with a book on that topic. Joel Dunnington said that the nature/science section of the library is not that good. Darlene Varga will be working with Susan Bogle at the library and will ask her if she would like something for the Habiscape.

Darlene Varga had removed her previous motion via email to make a donation to TPML at this time. There were many ideas presented at this meeting, but no consensus was reached, so it was decided that we would not donate any money to TPML at this time. Susan James said we have $500 to promote our mission. She challenged us to come up with something that will represent our chapter and mission.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rich Nielson will be meeting with Jim Teeling and Joel Dunnington to prepare the 2017 budget. The proposed budget will then be sent out to the BOD for approval.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kim Wright moved that the meeting be adjourned; Rich Bradley seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists