**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**JUNE 26, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joel Dunnington, Art Williams, Jeanie Springer, Sara Riggs, Jim Teeling, Darlene Varga, Kim Wright, Cheryl Trock, Rich Nielson, Debbie Kyrouac

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marie Miller, Troy Luepke, advisor

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Darlene Varga moved that the May minutes be approved; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed; the minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

1. **Community Recognition Award---**Joel Dunnington reported that the committee approved and named Fischer Parkas the recipient of the Community Recognition Award.
2. **Chapter Operating Handbook changes-**--State has asked us to remove all references to the acronym “TAMALE”, which stands for Texas A and M Agrilife Extension. Joel Dunnington asked the BOD if we were okay with removing “TAMALE” from our handbook. Kim Wright moved that it be removed; Sara Riggs seconded. Motion passed. The handbook will be revised to reflect this change.
3. **TMN Changes to State Chapter Operating Handbook and Pending By-Laws---**Joel Dunnington said that he is working again on changes to our handbook. Darlene Varga had a question about Article 4, which states that criminal background checks are required for all members who work on approved projects. Her concern was how do members remain active if they are not earning hours? Darlene thinks this needs to be clarified. Also, she was concerned about the issue of members serving on other organizations’ boards of directors. Please refer to highlighted areas on following document. Joel asked for any feedback to be sent to him so that he can finalize any changes.
4. **Letter to Prospective Students-**--Sara Riggs reported that she has completed the letter to be sent to contacts who have expressed an interest in enrolling in the fall class.
5. **Outside Board Membership and VMS-**--Joel Dunnington told Cheryl Trock that he had trouble finding the Opportunity on the VMS site. Cheryl thinks that the “Better” category is the best option. Cheryl said that we need to decide when an activity approval will go into effect. Jeanie Springer’s committee (projects) would decide what is an approved project and when it is approved. Joel Dunnington thinks a list needs to be compiled so that Cheryl Trock will know what is an approvable activity on another organization’s board. Joel will compose the list and send it to Michelle Haggarty for feedback. Prior to 2016, there was a total of 5 hours allowed for serving at a partner board meeting. In 2016 it was learned that this policy was discontinued. Recent guidance from the State indicated that VH serving on partner boards can be submitted as TG with no limit set by the State.
6. **Silent Auctions at State Meeting-**--Darlene Varga said that members brought items to donate for the auction. Other chapters did the same. It was individuals who donated these items, not necessarily the chapters. We should let members know about the opportunity to donate to the auction. In the past, the Canyon Gorge has donated tour tickets. Bracken Bat Cave could possibly donate tickets. We should ask our partners for donations.
7. **July Board Meeting-**--Joel Dunnington announced that he would not be attending the July meeting and asked if anyone would like to conduct the meeting in his absence. Since there was nothing pressing, Darlene Varga moved that we not have a July BOD meeting; Art Williams seconded. Motion passed. There will be no BOD meeting in July. Any issues that would come up would be handled by email.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer’s Report---**Rich Nielson gave his report to Kim Wright for the records. Rich said that the chapter’s debit card had been compromised and had been used for internet purchases. Rich spoke with our bank and got it straightened out. The bank will issue us a new card. Rich gave Joel Dunnington a RDFI case to protect the card from being scanned by hidden scanners that people use to steal your card information.
2. **Vice President-**--Art Williams has speakers arranged for the entire year. Jensie Madden will speak at July’s Chapter meeting; Climate Change will be the topic for August; Oak Wilt in September; and Joel Dunnington is slated for October. Art said that he is working on videos that will highlight interviews with past and present members. He is looking for someone with a good speaking voice for the voice-overs. Art wants music in the background and will need help downloading music from the internet. These videos could be shown at the orientation.
3. **Past President-**--Jim Teeling had no report.
4. **Communications-**--Marie Miller was absent; no report.
5. **Education-**--Debbie Kyrouac reported that because of conflicts, she has had to switch 2 classes. In July, the topic will be “Rangeland Management” to be held at St. Andrew’s in Startzville. August 1 class will be “Entomology”. Craig Hensley may do a Butterfly Survey and Training class one Wednesday in August at TPML.
6. **Membership-**--Cheryl Trock submitted her monthly report. Three members went to “Inactive” status. One current class member dropped until next year. Sara Riggs suggested that the Alamo Chapter may be a better option for this student. The student has missed 2 classes. Cheryl asked if she should place this person on the “Inactive” list. Cheryl said that she has been entering the students’ training hours on the VMS. She said that the background checks are backed up. The monthly newsletter for VMS has alerted chapters to Impact Data changes. There will no longer be a “Grand Total” field. The State meeting will have a VMS workshop. Cheryl alerted us to certain watchwords that should not be used, such as Christmas Party, which is actually a Chapter Meeting. She also said that some members thought that they had 90 days to report their activity instead of 45 days. She and Brian Trock have edited these members’ entries so that VMS will accept them.
7. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer gave Kim Wright a spreadsheet for her records that shows all the projects approved for the last month.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga said that Art Williams sent her notice that the 4-H wanted a trunk. She said there was still no word from the Headwaters of Comal and the Schertz Parks and Recreation. Debbie Kyrouac and Darlene surveyed the Bird Trunk and decided that they need about $350 to get it up to speed. Darlene moved that $350 be allocated to refurbish the Bird Trunk; Jim Teeling seconded. Motion passed. Rich Nielson said that Marie Miller had used funds from the Communications Committee budget, and Outreach was under Communications at that time, but there is still room in the budget for the improvements to the Bird Trunk.

**COMMENTS:**

Darlene Varga thinks that we need to place a coded lock on the classroom building. Any changes to anything at Agrilife have to be approved by Judge Sherman Krause. Sara Riggs and Debbie Kyrouac think that a little inconvenience is worth being able to use the facility.

Art Williams wants to approach Troy Luepke, our advisor, about the classroom key situation. 4-H has caused a problem by irresponsible use of the keys. Art thinks we should be more assertive in gaining access to the facility and that someone needs to address this with Troy. Joel Dunnington said that he will speak with Troy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kim Wright moved that the meeting be adjourned; Art Williams seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists