LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

**BOARD MEETING**

**AUGUST 28, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joel Dunnington, Jim Teeling, Kim Wright, Cheryl Trock, Jeanie Springer, Sara Riggs, Debbie Kyrouac, Rich Nielson, Darlene Varga, Art Williams, Marie Miller, Troy Luepke (advisor)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The June minutes were sent out via email for corrections. Corrections were made. Darlene Varga moved that the June BOD minutes be approved; Sara Riggs seconded. Motion passed. Minutes were approved. Kim Wright announced that she will miss the September meeting.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

1. **Community Recognition Award---**Joel Dunnington said that the award plaque will be ordered from Star Awards. Since the award will be given to the New Braunfels Parks Department, we should invite someone from the Parks Department to the September chapter meeting to receive it. Joel will discuss this with Marie Miller, who is on the committee.
2. **Change to LMN Chapter Operating Handbook-**--Joel Dunnington reported that he has done some partial changes at this point. He said that State has an entire section in their handbook that we don’t have which pertains to the BOD being able to vote via email. Joel will send this to the BOD for review.
3. **Outside Board Membership and VMS-**--This topic falls under Technical Guidance (TG) on the VMS. Joel Dunnington thinks that any of our LMN members who serve on another partner organization’s board should be appointed by us to serve on that board. Troy Luepke thinks that that representative should report back to our BOD meetings after attending the other organization’s board meeting. This activity should be allowed as Volunteer Hours for serving on another board. Cheryl Trock said that there should be no limit to the number of hours that can be counted for this activity since State doesn’t have a limit. Joel Dunnington then asked for a motion to be made. Darlene Varga moved that the BOD approve allowing an LMN member to serve on a partner board with no limit to hours earned. Jeanie Springer seconded. The motion was approved. Reporting back to the BOD will be optional. Cheryl Trock said that an email should be sent out informing the membership of this opportunity.
4. **New Braunfels Arbor Day-**--Joel Dunnington reported that New Braunfels Parks asked if our chapter was interested in participating this year. Last year’s Arbor Day got rained out. It was suggested that current students who need hours to complete their certification could get involved in this project. We need more information, such as date of the event and what the Parks Department want us to do. Joel will get in touch with Kelsey Heiden, who is the Parks Marketing Coordinator.
5. **State Meeting Donations-**--Joel Dunnington said that we could get donations from our partners Bracken Cave and the Canyon Lake Gorge for the auction at the State Meeting. We can ask Ron Butts or Sherry Reel for gorge tour tickets. He said that Glenna Dunnington made a mesquite coat rack for the auction. Craig Hensley has donated something for the auction in the past. Hopefully he will donate again this year. Joel said that a lot of the tours scheduled for the State Meeting have been cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer’s Report---**Rich Nielson reported on the Bank statements from June and July. He said there were some expenses for the Bird Trunk. See report.
2. **Vice President-**--Art Williams reported on his progress with the historical videos he has been producing. He had a private showing to some others and the concensus was that they were not good. There were some technical problems. He retaped one interview and found a second one that was better. He will have a second showing when he gets things ironed out. Art said he has speakers for the chapter meetings for January and possibly February. January will be Hummingbirds by Kathleen Scott and February could be a presentation by Cemex on their nature center. **New Landowner Program---**Art Williams said that he is training eight people to be able to advise landowners on the correct things they should do to enhance and protect their property. Troy Luepke, David Will, and Craig Hensley are already on board for this project. Art said the training will take place in October and November, with site visits beginning in December. Cheryl Trock requested a list of the people being trained so that when they report their hours, she will know that they are legitimate. Art said he’s not sure how important plant identification is and that other aspects are just as important. It will be up to the landowner to tell us what kind of guidance they need. We will offer handouts from Agrilife. Marie Miller asked how the landowners would contact us if they want assistance. Art said to post it on the website; he doesn’t want his phone number listed. A special email should be sent out for this project. **Lone Star Logo---**Art showed the BOD a logo that the very first LMN class designed. It is of the Texas Star (Lindheimer Texana). He wants to resurrect it so that it could be used for something special, such as the Community Recognition Award. He will form a committee to look into this idea. Jeanie Springer and Cheryl Trock volunteered to be on the committee.
3. **Past President-**--Jim Teeling said it is time to start looking for candidates for BOD positions. Art Williams and Rich Nielson will help Jim with finding candidates. Joel Dunnington wants a full slate before December. Debbie Kyrouac and Sara Riggs have asked Mike Hammack to take over Sara’s position on Education. Brian Trock will fill Cheryl Trock’s position on Membership.
4. **Education-**--Sara Riggs reported that she has 20 applications for the new class, with one already having paid their tuition. There will be 21 with one student from last year trying to complete their coursework. The maximum for the class will be 30. The deadline for applications is October 15 and for tuition is October 26. Susan James said that we could have a presence at the Saturday Farmers’ Market, where she is set up with trunks. In October the LMN will be at the New Braunfels Science Fest. Cheryl Trock said that when a person goes to our website, it shows up as “interested”. When they pay their tuition, Cheryl can convert them from “interested” status to “active”. Sara Riggs said that she also has paper copies of applications and the prospective students need to fill in an application and pay before they are officially enrolled in the VMS. Joel Dunnington will be speaking at the October graduation.
5. **Membership-**--Cheryl Trock reported that our VMS was audited and we received a good report. See report. Cheryl said she has been entering training hours for the students, but that they need to learn to do this for themselves in order to get used to the system. Joel Dunnington mentioned how important it is for everyone to remember their passwords! Cheryl said that she has been following up with inactive members. She said a transfer member from the Tyler chapter and that chapter didn’t have any records of her. Cheryl will have to ask State if they have her in their system because there is no record she ever graduated. It was suggested this transfer member could attend our classes on scholarship to graduate and possible certify. Cheryl announced that she will miss the September meeting.
6. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer said she did not receive any applications for projects or activities. She did update the Projects list and sent it to Marie Miller to post on the website.
7. **Communications-**--Marie Miller asked if anyone had any ideas for articles for the Newsletter to send them to Carmen Horn. Darlene Varga forwarded a request for pictures from the Butterfly Survey done recently at Guadalupe River State Park to Brian Trock and Sara Riggs. Joel Dunnington asked Marie about the Community Recognition Award plaque. Joel said he would write up something to be engraved on the plaque. Art Williams mentioned that the recipient usually has a tree planted in recognition of their award. Marie said that Marilyn McFarland wants scrapbook/historical entries for the State Meeting competition.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga reported that she received the final permit for the trunks (skins and skulls). She had to remove some items from the Bird Trunk because they were illegal. She may be giving the trunk to Craig Hensley and sub-permitting through him. But she thinks the trunk has enough other things that it will be okay. She does not want to put the Bird Trunk back in the storage because it got wet somehow. Darlene decided that the easiest way to renew the Educational Display permit was to keep it under Pat Gonser’s name. She filled out all the needed paperwork and sent it in. Then Pat Gonser sent her signature in to go with the official paperwork. This was done under a recommendation from a TPWD person who is in charge of the permits. Darlene wants the trunks to be at the Comal County Fair (September 26-October 1) and the New Braunfels Science Fest on October 8. Marie Miller said she received a request from the McKenna Museum for a trunk presentation. Susan James did it last year. Darlene asked how she should report data collected at events, such as number of adults, children, etc. who are impacted by our presentations. All impact data is reported to VMS by the person manning the event. Cheryl Trock said that State extracts that information from our reporting and uses it for the Annual Report. There is no need now for the Chairmen of committees to report this data. **Santa’s Village---**Darlene said that there is no way she can assemble 1500 toilet paper roll binoculars by December. She still needs yarn, stickers, etc. She thought that we need to have other give-away items for the children besides the binoculars. Sara Riggs said she could make some samples of bookmarks to give out. Kim Wright suggested going to the Oriental Trading website and look for inexpensive nature items to purchase for give-aways. The walls of the little house need to be decorated and it was suggested that we use laminated posters from Bracken Cave, the Gorge, and Guadalupe River State Park.

**COMMENTS:**

Troy Luepke said that our BOD would not be given keys to the gate to the Agrilife property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Art Williams said that Jim Stanley with the Kerrville Master Naturalists has written a book that is for sale. It is titled “Hill Country Ecology” and can be purchased through Amazon, Hugo Publishing, and Barnes and Noble.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Art Williams moved the meeting be adjourned; Jim Teeling seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:** The September meeting will be at Agrilife on September 25, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists