# LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

**BOARD MEETING**

**JULY 23, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  Darlene Varga, Joel Dunnington, Jeanie Springer, Brian Trock, Marilyn McFarland, Evelyn Nielson, Rich Nielson, Mike Hammack, Jim Doyle, Troy Luepke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kim Wright, Debbie Kyrouac

**GUESTS:** Joe Finneran, Art Williams

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rich Nielson moved that the June minutes be approved; Mike Hammack seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson reported that we are once again offering a financial aid opportunity for the Texas Master Naturalist 2018 Annual Meeting taking place October 26th – 28th, 2018 at the Sheraton Georgetown, TX. This financial aid will be available to one person from our chapter for $75 off of a single registration. Recipient will be selected by the Chapter President. Rich Nielson requested that an e-mail be sent out again to all Lindheimer Master Naturalists (LMN) so all members have an opportunity for the financial aid. He would like to make his selection prior to July 31, 2018, which is the expected opening for the Annual Meeting’s registration. After the recipient has been notified, they will need to use the unique discount code for our chapter with their personal Annual Meeting registration. This must be done during their registration. The deadline for registration and for using the discount code is October 5th at 11:59 PM. Rich Nielson stated that our “Lindheimer TX Star” logo has been approved for our use. Several board members recommended slight color format change for the logo, Rich Nielson stated his approval. Rich Nielson communicated with our Earth Day point of contact at the Tye Preston Library, he informed them that we will not be using the library for Earth Day in 2019. The LMNs will be joining with Comal Headwaters for Earth Day.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson submitted her report. The ending bank balance for June was $7714.28. The end of the month register statement was $7614.28. See report. Rich Nielson moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. Evelyn Nielson stated a $100 donation was made for the Texas Master Naturalist 2018 Annual Meeting
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that Art Williams will present the “The Lindheimer Story” video at the September 2018 chapter meeting. Due to technical difficulties he had to cancel for the March 2018 Chapter meeting.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington stated that the Texas Master Naturalist Conference is October 26 – 28. The full agenda is at- [Annual Meeting Full Agenda (Updated 7-20)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftxmn.org%2Ffiles%2F2018%2F07%2FAnnual-Meeting-Full-Agenda-7-20.pdf&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ca8df4dfa7ddc4ef39cb908d5ef4cb8cf%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636678035161568077&sdata=EY4RJ6IVO58wILIrIEfcg%2BDM81tNS8M9%2BhyCewDdMd0%3D&reserved=0). He said the Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA) is now up and running. Elizabeth Bowerman is the President. Jensie Madden is the Chair of the Government Relations Committee. Joel Dunnington is the Chair of the Outreach Committee. CCCA and the LMN may become partners, more to follow. The website is <https://www.comalconservation.org/>. The reading and reference list Joel Dunnington wrote for LMN is now on the CCCA website under learn more and under recommended reading. The link is: <https://www.comalconservation.org/recommended-reading.html>. There are several other documents under that file which our members might be interested in. These include the League of Women Voters document on Land Use in Comal County; a time line of important historical events and environmental events in Comal County; and a list of acronyms for all of the governmental and non-profit groups that regulate and influence the air, water, and land in Comal County.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland submitted her report. See report. She discussed future plans for the LMN website and related updates. The Newsletter will be posted soon on the LMN website and an e-mail link will be sent to all LMN members.
5. **Education-**--Mike Hammack introduced Joe Finneran who will replace Debbie Kyrouac as co-chair on the Education committee in October 2018. He is already actively involved with the Education Committee. Mike Hammack provided a detailed report (slides were sent to the board of directors) on the current class. The Education Committee met on 17 July to review plans for next year’s class. They addressed and will continue to work on future class topics, field trip locations, and class project plans, and will report the results of their effort to the Board of Directors at a later date. The Education Committee had received recommendations from Craig Hensley (advisor) who believes “nature interpretation” classes should be included in future curriculums; the Education Committee agrees with the recommendation. Mike Hammack stated approximately 59 people have expressed interest in attending the next LMN class; however, there is only room for approximately 30 students.
6. **Membership---**Brian Trock submitted his report. See report. He said the background checks have stalled. Brian Trock said 113 members (out of the 158 active members) submitted 1,630 service hours and 140 advanced training hours.
7. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer submitted her report. See report. She said there was 1 application and she is expecting a couple more. She has updated the Main Project List (dated July 23, 2018) which has been posted on the LMN website.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga is working on updating the Skins and Skulls trunk. Barry Brupbacher brought his new metal trifold stand prior to the start of the board meeting. Darlene Varga stated the use of the stand will help tremendously during her public outreach events.
9. **PAL---**Art Williams stated that My CanyonLake.com, posted an article on the Program to Assist Landowners (PALs) on July 20, 2018. He received calls from two citizens who may be interested in utilizes PALs since the article was posted.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke stated AgriLife is still waiting for information regarding their budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board of Directors reviewed the updated Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) from the state and our chapter specific COH which Joel Dunnington has been updating. It was determined that the majority of the state COHs updates were already in our chapters COH. The rules also state that chapters do not have to incorporate all state recommendations. So a motion was made by Jeanie Springer and seconded by Darlene Varga that we go forward with our updated chapter COH. Our updated COH will be presented at a chapter meeting so a chapter vote can be obtained. Once we have the chapter vote the document will be sent to the state. Joel Dunnington asked about our “record retention” process, more to follow regarding our process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Marilyn McFarland showed the board the draft “marketing brochure”. There was discussion about the brochures’ purpose. The chapter is doing well with recruiting, based on the interest in attending classes. So the brochures purpose is more for obtaining financial support for the chapter. This led to some discussion about chapter dues. Apparently 43 out of the 47 TX master naturalist chapter, charge dues. Rich Nielson suggested a planning session in the future to further discuss chapter dues.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Marilyn McFarland moved that the meeting be adjourned; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeanie Springer, in lieu of Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists