# LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

**BOARD MEETING**

**AUGUST 27, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Nielson, Evelyn Nielson, Kim Wright, Mike Hammack, Brian Trock, Marilyn McFarland, Jeanie Springer, Joel Dunnington, Debbie Kyrouac, Jim Doyle, Joyce Doyle, Troy Luepke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Darlene Varga

**GUESTS:** Joe Finneran (incoming Education co-chair), Elizabeth Bowerman (President of Comal County Conservation Alliance)

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jeanie Springer had taken the minutes at the July BOD meeting and sent them out for corrections. Corrections were made. Mike Hammack moved that the minutes be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson sent the Comal County Conservation Alliance Partnership Agreement to State. State does not want our chapter to sign for a partnership with the Conservation Alliance. Joel Dunnington sent an email about the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act session to be presented at the State meeting in October. Mary Pearl Meuth encouraged a chapter representative to attend this session. Richard Heilbrun from Texas Parks and Wildlife will speak about the act and how to support it. Rich Nielson asked Elizabeth Bowerman to attend our BOD meeting and discuss how VMS would approach volunteer hours for this organization. The mission of CCCA is to work for land, water, and wildlife conservation in Comal County. The organization wants the counties to have more voice at the State level. There are 4 working committees---government affairs (which would not count for volunteer hours), Public Outreach (hours for this must fit under an Opportunity category as described), resource development (to obtain funding to do what they do---maybe volunteer hours for marketing/communications, advertising). This would fall under TG---technical guidance. If there is a speaker at a meeting of the Alliance, a LMN member may receive advanced training if the talk is informative. Committee work at the end of a meeting would receive volunteer hours (such as planning a Public Outreach event). If it is not a Lindheimer Master Naturalist event, Troy Luepke said it cannot count for volunteer hours. If you are a representative of the Alliance, it also cannot count as volunteer hours. We need to get Mary Pearl Meuth’s advice on this issue. Rich Nielson will talk with her about it. Elizabeth Bowerman will send Rich Nielson questions to ask Mary Pearl. We also need Mary Pearl’s clarification as to whether we are required to wear a Master Naturalist nametag or other identifying item when volunteering for an approved activity by one of our partnering organizations. Advertising for the Comal County Alliance meetings on Facebook is okay.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson reported that the end bank balance for July was$7614.28 and theregister balance was $7628.60.See report. The Amazon Smile site gained $14.32 in donations. Kim Wright moved that the treasurer’s report be accepted; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that he had added a speaker for January 2019. The speaker will be Danielle Cordaini and she will speak on “Bats”. Jim said that an announcement has gone to Sara Riggs for the Community Recognition Award.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington has sent the final copy of our Chapter Operating Handbook to State. He said that the Nominating Committee is trying to find members to fill the 2019 slate of officers and chairmen. Marilyn McFarland said that she will continue as Communications Chair. Cheryl Trock will take over as Membership Chair.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland reported that everything is going smoothly. See report. She is getting an account for the Word Press class for our webmaster. The website needs to be used more for static items and Facebook needs to be for more active items. Marilyn said that we had more “Likes” on our site. There will be an article in tomorrow’s Herald Zeitung.
5. **Education-**--Mike Hammack gave a report on the current class. The field trip to the Bracken Bat Cave was great and had the best participation so far. The upcoming September class is on Mammology. The Traveling Trunk Orientation is scheduled for September 12, 2018. Some of the trunks need work to improve them. The New Braunfels Science Fair is coming up.

Graduation for the current class is at the October Chapter meeting, which will be held at Tye Preston or the Cemex Event Center. Pins and certificates will be awarded. There will be a meal; however, the Education Committee does not support the idea of the class having to provide their own graduation meal. The Education Committee prefers to do it like a regular chapter meeting, with different people signing up to bring food. Another option is to cater the meal, using the previously approved $330 in the budget for the graduation party. Debbie Kyrouac and Mike agreed to handle the meal prep plans and catering. A notice will go out on Facebook and Out and About.

Joe Finneran reported that he has 26 applications for the next class. Among the applicants are 3 geologists and 3 from the medical profession. A total of 75 people have expressed interest in the class. Debbie Kyrouac said that if they receive 30 applications, they will then create a short waiting list in case there are No-Shows at the Orientation. In the draft 2019 curriculum, there are 8 field trips planned and additional opportunities for Advanced Training with the Trunk Training and Earth Day. See the draft 2019 curriculum. The Education Committee requested the BOD to look over the draft curriculum and offer proposed changes or comments.

1. **Membership---**Brian Trock reported that the Background Checks with State have stalled. Rich Nielson will bring this up at the State meeting. Brian wants to clean up some students’ records who may not get their hours for certification. See report.
2. **Projects---**Jeanie Springerreported that her committee approved one application. See report.
3. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga was absent. See her report.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke had no comments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Rich Nielson spoke with Nancy Pappas at Headwaters at the Comal about Earth Day. They will not charge an entrance fee. There is a gala? on Thursday, October 25, which is the day before the State meeting. It is expensive, but they want to raise money for the foundation.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Birdblind, Butterfly Garden, and Wildscape (BBW)---Rich Nielson met with Rich Bradley, Linda Valdez, and Troy Luepke. They want to give $500 for construction of the site at Agrlife. This would help cover cost of piping, fountains, etc. for the blinds, gardens, etc. Evelyn Nielson said she thinks the Master Gardeners should pay for this since they have lots of money.

Joel Dunnington said that Darlene Varga wants Troy Luepke to give the dates for the County Fair. They are September 26-30. There will be a table for the Trunks and we can hang our LMN banner above our booth. There will be a Stream trailer to teach kids about soil erosion.

We need to order 5 boxes of books for the new class (30). We have 5 already.

Brian Trock said that Rich Nielson suggested that the chapter pay for the food at the chapter meetings. Brian doesn’t like this idea.

Jim Doyle thought that the Cemex Nature Center might be a good candidate for the Community Recognition Award. Joel Dunnington doesn’t like the idea of recognizing a company for what they should be doing anyway. Marilyn McFarland asked why we don’t recognize one of the projects we work on. Jim Doyle asked if we needed a chapter vote on this award. We do not need a vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists