**Prairie Oaks Future Master Naturalist Chapter**

 **Fourth Organizational Meeting Minutes**

**19 October 2016**

**104 Dick Smith Library, Tarleton Campus**

Attendees:

Seth Hamby (\*LCC Chair), Kenneth Nalley, Barbara Bellows, Rebecca Damron (new LCC Secretary), Marsha Stephens, T. Wayne Schwertner, Josiah Mulvihill, Melissa Hopkins, Mike Miller (LCC Treasurer)

Agenda Items

1. Going over several curriculum plans designed by Marsha Stephens

2. Discussing plans to have a community Nature Fest

3. Planning our first actual Master Naturalist meeting

4. Coordinating possible field trips and addressing the need to meet in each county

5. Discussing social media and a website

6. Drafting an MOA with the University

**Marsha Stephens presented four options for the training curriculum.**

Hamby: we need a facility in each county where we can meet.

Contacts for the training possibilities

* Carol Thompson—aquatic systems
* Marsha Stephens—mammology
* Dr. Schwertner—faculty could do some training sessions (Seth reminded group that Balcones Canyonlands Student chapter recommended that faculty not do the training sessions.)
* Mike Miller—rangeland ecology, Land Stewardship
* Barabara Bellows—soils

Nest Steps: review options, names for trainings

Bellows: we should share info with the Stephenville ISD to engage upper level high school students.

Schwertner question: what is the outreach plan for other departments?

Bellows: Can work with Jennifer Edwards, Christine Horton in Environmental Communication to get it out there.

Next semester we need to focus on recruitment. We are not ready to begin training but we could be ready for summer.

We will do the training as continuing education and for credit.

Would Education be a place for the training? Environmental education might be a good place for it.

**Nature Fest**

Hamby would like to organize a Nature Fest in April

Schwertner: Reminder that the Wildlife Society does “Tarleton Outdoors”. It would be nice to partner with them and broaden the scope of what they do. It is held at the City Park and geared toward youth.

**Planning our first actual Master Naturalist meeting**

Hamby: Who will we get for our first meeting? Possibly Ricky Lennox, Regional Wildlife ecologist for NRCS

Hamby: We are now officially in Phase 2. Michelle has sent our phase 1 to others. We now need to get our training curriculum to them.

Hamby: another option, Michelle ??? at the Ft. Worth Nature Center.

Time for it: the week after Spring Break

MOA—do we need one?

Yes. Schwertner has a model MOU we could use.

**Coordinating Field Trips**

We need to coordinate field trips to various counties, can be used to recruit.

Miller: Works with landowner group in Hamilton county. Summer would be best time to catch them. Might be a resource.

**Social Media Presence**

Website is a priority—Damron will work on it.

We have a FaceBook page, will need to also do Instagram and Snapchat.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2017 at 5:15. Location with be Dick Smith Library or conference room in Autry.

Everyone needs to take a look at the curriculum options

\* Local Coordinating Committee

**Prairie Oaks Future Master Naturalist Chapter**

**Fifth Organizational Meeting Agenda**

**Date: January 4th, 2017**

**Location: Autry Conference Room**

**Time: 5:15**

1. Finalizing curriculum plans: choosing a training schedule, starting to find appropriate teachers, and completing the Phase II paperwork.
2. Planning and advertising first educational and social event for recruitment
3. Organizing a NatureFest recruiting and education event for spring.