**Texas Master Naturalist – Rolling Plains Chapter**

**Minutes of the February 7, 2017 Meeting @ River Bend Nature Center**

Meeting was called to order by President Terry McKee at 7:06pm with 26 members and one guest, Sandy Underwood in attendance. Terry expressed thanks for Kay Murphy in running our last chapter meeting in her absence.

Kay asked people to please sign the list with ideas for future programs.

**Officer Reports:**

Terry mentioned the secretary report and asked for it to be approved. Warren King motioned for it to be approved and Debra Halter seconded the motion. Secretary’s report was approved.

Larry Snyder read off the treasurer report with $4,260.29 in the account. (See attached report)

**Committee Reports**

Terry said that the Spring Training courses have been finalized and e-mailed out to all the members. The first training class will be on March 7 at MSU Bolin Hall room 213. All members who attend the first meeting can claim 1 hour of volunteer time. Terry mentioned that we have some new presenters this year, including Dr. Marsden-Brown, Rickey Linnex, John Eakin (Dr. Vogtsberger’s nephew). Larry mentioned that we have our 1st applicant present at tonight’s meeting, Sandy Underwood.

**Old Business**

Home and Garden Show – February 25 and 26 – Jane McGough explained about how the room will be set up this year. She said that the Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Kemp Center, and River Bend Nature Center will all be set up in room 5 at the MPEC center. There will be two doors – and entrance and exit. We will have a much larger space this year with three 10 feet spaces for craft and children activities and the kiosk area for adults to learn about TMN. Jane explained about having craft activities, games with sorting animal pictures as domestic or wild, and that we could still use pictures of animals for this. The kiosk area will be about 6 feet tall and 3 feet across with items being attached by Velcro to the display. Laura Gillis, Jane McGough, Leslie Cusick-Fernandes, and Lynn Seman attended a meeting about decorating the door entrance for the room that our group will be set up inside. The door will have the names of the groups which will need two photos from our group. Dian mentioned using a kid fishing picture for the door. Set up for the door decorating will be on Thursday, Feb. 23. Set up for the room will take place on Friday, Feb. 24, at noon. Jane also mentioned that you will need to buy a ticket to come to the show at $6 each. Jane said to be sure and sign up for a time to work on the sheets on the back table – working with kids, or talking to adults for Saturday and Sunday. Jane is the contact person for this event.

Carol Lunsford mentioned that she has enjoyed reading the Times Record News articles by Lynn. (Thanks, Carol!) Terry said thanks to all who write the articles and to Kim for being our editor.

Terry mentioned that we do not have a regular March or April Chapter meeting at River Bend Nature Center due to spring training. All are welcome to come to spring training events.

**Upcoming Events** – discussed by Terry McKee

Feb. 18 – Hackberry Flats Raptor Training – meet at 8:00am at the Atwood’s parking lot. If you are in Burkburnett, Judy and Larry will leave from Burkburnett. Will count as AT

February 17- 20 – Great Backyard Bird Count – (training tonight after business meeting) –

Penny Miller mentioned that she will be leading a group at Lake Wichita chat trail on that Friday, Lake Arrowhead State Park on Saturday, and Lucy Park to Williams Park on that Monday for the GBBC. Contact Penny Miller if you would like to join in with her surveys. There will be an event behind Wild Bird Rescue on February 19 starting at 8:00am also. (lasting about 2 hours) These events will count as VT.

Penitentiary Hollow Wild Walk – Mineral Wells State Park and Trailway – Feb. 11, 25, March 4, 11 – Lynn shared her outing to this hike. They also have bird walks in the mornings and have seen a bald eagle. Contact the park for a reservation. Could count as AT

Soil Training Meeting offered at Region 9 on February 23 and 24. $100 registration – Larry sent out a list of what would count as advanced training if you attend.

Kids Fishing Day will be at Plum Lake on March 4 – They need volunteers to help. 10:00 until noon. After the event, we will have a Plum Lake cleanup starting at noon.

March 9 – Burkburnett ISD Career STEM Fair at Burkburnett High School – Our group will have a booth next to TPWD from Lake Arrowhead to talk about careers to Jr. and Sr. high students. If you want to help, contact Lynn Seman

Terry discussed the Great Texas Birding Classic that some members have participated in before. Deadline for entering is April 1, with the event taking place sometime between April 15 to May 15. Terry asked if members were interested in making a team for the event. Discussion on the event – cost is $50 for a team of 3 to 5 people. The team would spend 24 hours looking for birds. Debra Halter expressed interest in leading a team. Several members may possibly participate as a team. Contact Terry or Larry if interested. Sue King answered questions about the past event.

April 8, Frontier Day will be held at the Farmer’s Market from 11am to 9pm. LASP will have a representative and will need us to help with kids’ bass casting. (more to come later)

A donation of $200 to the group collecting money to apply for an application to get a Texas Master Naturalist license plate was brought to the group by Terry. A motion to approve the donation was made by Maryruth Prose and seconded by Penny Miller. All of the members present approved the donation. No opposed.

Lynn Seman discussed our chapter sponsoring the Texas Master Naturalist Conservation Award at the Texas State Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio on April 1. Michelle Haggerty was notified and approved our chapter to sponsor this. One award will be chosen for Jr. division and one for Sr. division for projects dealing with conservation of natural resources of Texas. A photo of the award plaque was passed around to members to view. The cost would be $30 for each plaque. Lynn discussed possibly awarding a curriculum book with the plaque to the students winning this award. Anyone interested in being a special award judge, contact Lynn Seman for the information.

Larry mentioned the Pollinator PowWow on May 5-7, Nacogdoches, TX. He highly recommends this training. It will count at AT. Make arrangements early because it fills up fast!

Larry also mentioned the Spring Wingding at Dinosaur Valley State Park on May 13 in Glen Rose, TX. He said that this is a great day trip to attend.

Larry mentioned the Quail Symposium set for August. Larry was chosen to be on the panel for this quail training. (Way to go, Larry!) He also mentioned that Jason at Waggoner Ranch has said that we are “approved” again this year for the quail study. We just need to let them know when we go out there and when we leave the property.

Terry said that we have a great group of Master Naturalist and that all deserve a round of applause. Group applause! Also, thanks to Larry for all he does for the quail group and many other things.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm and then turned over to Debra Halter for the evening’s program on the Great Backyard Bird Count. Debra explained how to participate and also brought some great magazines for the members to use as needed.

Program ended at 8:15 and group was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Seman

February 7, 2017