



April 23, 2022

### General Meeting Minutes

The General Meeting of Tierra Grande Texas Master Naturalist was called to order at 3:18 PM by Denis Foley, President. The meeting followed Cecelia Riley's advanced training on Trans Pecos bird activity and populations. 20 members were present and 7 guests attended as well. Richard Sokol informed the members on the Casa Piedras advanced training by Jeff Bennett with Rio Grande Joint Venture. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, along Alameda Creek, seven (7) dams were constructed by volunteers. The site was surveyed for flash flooding and rocks were gathered to create 6 of the dams. Another dam consisted of brush gathered at the site. 20 people participated in the work day at Susan Kirr and Rusty Martin's property. Lisa Fielder, Guy Fielder and Ellen Weinacht provided the food for the volunteers. The site will be monitored and Richard Sokol proposed TGTMN work at other sites to provide similar dams to slow down the flash flooding in hopes more water might be absorbed into the ground. This is a long-term commitment that will take perhaps two - three generations to see results. Denis Foley added this type of service project in conjunction with advanced training is ideal for our chapter's mission.

Denis called Teresa Swann, Secretary to read minutes of February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting into the record. Motion to approve minutes was made by Kathleen Griffith and seconded by Guy Fielder.

David Sims provided the treasurers report. Chapter had income from dues received. The chapter currently has \$9,316.63. Additionally, Apache Corp. had provided a grant which was distributed fully to the Trans Pecos Bird Conservation. The grant account was closed and the chapter has only one operating account now. David stated the chapter will establish a grant review process for future grant management activities.

Denis proposed donating \$100 for the use of the meeting room at the Marfa Public Library. David Sims motioned to approve and Guy Fielder seconded the motion.

Cindy Sims, outgoing President, introduced the new officers:

Denis Foley, President  
John Kennedy, Vice President  
Ben Struthers, Treasurer  
Teresa Swann, Secretary

Cindy said that she and David will be back periodically to the area. Possibly attend one of the training weekends this fall and the Christmas Bird Count.

Denis also informed members that should they be interested in becoming an officer to reach out to Lisa Fielder as she heads the nominating committee.

John Kennedy, Vice President and head of the training committee announced a meeting will be held at Denis and Roz's home on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Anyone interested in helping please get in touch with John or plan to attend the meeting. Approximately 20 folks have previously submitted applications. There was discussion on increasing the class size however some venues have limited space to accommodate everyone. Further discussion on increasing the class size will continue at the training committee meeting on Monday.

Denis discussed the importance of Bill Wren's work on the Dark Sky Initiative. The Trans Pecos is currently the largest dark sky area on the planet. Denis encouraged all to continue to increase our knowledge and educate our communities in order to encourage others to change lighting or restrict lighting on new construction. Kathleen Griffith reminded everyone of the Dark Sky Festival at McDonald Observatory on April 29, 2022. Guy Fielder added that much of the activities at the festival would serve as advanced training. Additionally, Guy indicated some rooms at the Astronomers Lodge might be available.

Denis stated Keep Big Bend Wild has organized to produce legislation which will arrest further development in Big Bend National Park. Current development will remain and be maintained for future generations. However, this legislation would prevent additional development within the park boundaries. Albert Bork cautioned members on our chapter engaging in anything of a political nature. Denis offered that our members should access the Keep Big Bend Wild website and increase our knowledge so that we may advocate for protection of these areas. Albert Bork called for a motion to support KBBW and the Guy Fielder seconded the motion. All present agreed to move forward with our support.

Guy Fielder led brief discussion on recording our time and asked if anyone was interested in assisting him in review and reporting volunteer/AT hours. He is hoping by our next meeting a member will volunteer to assist in this endeavor. Additionally, anyone missing time from Class of 2021 must get those hours in with the new class this fall. Guy then handed out our pins for 2020 and 2021.

Rozolen Stanford reported the newsletter deadline is still the 25<sup>th</sup> of month. She thanked everyone that contributes to the newsletter and asked members to please report their activities to [tierragrandetmn@gmail.com](mailto:tierragrandetmn@gmail.com) in order to be included.

Denis stated the next trash pick up day is Sunday, 5/15/22. Michael Weiss then motioned to end the meeting and Susan Kirr seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM