

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Minutes
March 12th, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm

In attendance:

Art Arizpe, President
Larry Calvert, Past President
Karen Archer, VP
Tracy Mock, Secretary
Beth Ramey, Treasurer
Tom Watson, Historian
Dick McBride, Training Committee Chair
Helen Bowie, Outreach Committee
Dixie Camp, Volunteer Coordinator & State Representative
Beverly Gordon, Calendar Committee
Roxana Donegan, Host Committee
Mary Dow Ross, Host Committee
Leah Laszewski, Records & Membership Committees

Not Present:

Susan Kimmel-Lines, Advanced Training
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent
Gordon Linam, TPWD Representative
Herb Smith, Webmaster
Hope Shimik, Newsletter

Open Position(s):

None

1. President – **Art Arizpe**
 - a. Approve previous minutes – there are two corrections to make (date & “outreach” instead of “host”). A motion to approve the February minutes, as amended, was made by Karen, seconded by Larry, and approved by all present.
 - b. Announcements – New webmaster will be Jane Dunham and she has already been put in touch with Herb to work through the transition. Trainee Misty Tavaréz will also be available to help with web maintenance. Also, Hope has set up a HCMN facebook presence via a page.
 - c. Board Calendar – Reviewed & updated on all current items.
 - d. Urban Deer
 - e. State Bylaws Updates – Significant changes were presented by Larry and Beth. These changes must be presented to the entire membership for vote of approval. **ACTION ITEM:** By the June Board Meeting - Art will prepare a first draft of our chapter bylaws.

Our hope is the revised bylaws are ready for the social in August so that the membership can vote on the changes. Those changes will have to be reported to the membership prior to the vote, so that would need to happen in July.

2. Vice President – **Karen Archer** – Record turnout for February chapter meeting (51 present). March meeting will be on hydrology and will be in the same location as the February meeting. Fees for facilities (specifically the Lutheran church we are using in March) is new, and Karen will need to revise her budget. Fish hatchery field trip is being planned before the weather gets too hot. Karen will also be in touch with Ben Schwartz about a cave tour. **ACTION ITEM:** Larry has a contact for Karen who is a speaker on geology. **ACTION ITEM:** Dixie also has a new contact for Karen to see about getting a fieldtrip to Dead Man’s Hole on Hamilton Pool Road, and she has another contact who is an attorney who can talk about water scarcity. **ACTION ITEM:** Karen will send a summary of the March chapter meeting to the Secretary for distribution to the membership.
3. Secretary – **Tracy Mock** – Nothing to report.
4. Treasurer – **Beth Ramey** – Dues collected from 135 members so far this year, which is a really good result compared to past years. Roxana didn’t get treasurers report – check email.
5. AgriLife Agent – **Richard Parrish** (absent)
6. TP&WD Representative – **Gordon Linam** (absent)
7. Past President – **Larry Calvert**
 - a. Willett Project – Next step is to select & approve a steering committee, select a marketing firm, and plan a kickoff event. Leah has a list of suggested names of reliable folks who would be good for this project. Candy Spitzer and Mary Bateman volunteered to co-chair this steering committee. We all feel these committee co-chairs will need to be present at Board Meetings in order to coordinate & work closely with Outreach. Beth made a motion to accept Candy Spitzer & Mary Bateman as co-chairs, seconded by Roxana. Motion approved by all present.
8. State Representative – **Dixie Camp** - Nothing to report.
9. Training Committee – **Dick McBride** – Classes are going well. New camera appropriated at the last meeting worked great.
10. Advanced Training Committee – **Susan Kimmel-Lines** (absent)
11. Membership Committee – **Leah Laszewski** – Not much to report. Two new members by way of transferring from other chapters. They are

already active. **ACTION ITEM**: Leah will send an announcement to Secretary for distribution to remind members to please report their hours so they get reported on the first quarterly report.

12. Web Master – **Herb Smith** (absent)

13. Newsletter Committee and Editor – **Hope Shimek** (absent)

14. Outreach Committee – **Helen Bowie** – Met with Leah regarding the Outreach duties. Biggest event coming up soon is the Butterfly Festival at the EmilyAnn Theater. Jane Dunham has agreed to help with publicity.

15. Host Committee – **Roxana Donegan & Mary Dow Ross** – For chapter meetings, an estimate of \$3 per person was adequate. As our membership grows, we probably need to review membership dues so that we can continue to provide this nice membership service, but also be able to cover our expenses. **ACTION ITEM**: Karen will include information about the meal and request for donated desserts in her chapter meeting summary that will be distributed to the membership. Please also include Roxana as contact for chapter meeting food items.

16. Historian – **Tom Watson**

- a. President's Volunteer Service Award – As explained by Tom, there are three levels of service awards (based on number of hours volunteered in a given calendar year). The Chapter will "certify" the number of hours, and chooses which gift to give. The awards package gifts total about \$7 each. We would probably have about 10 to 15 recipients in any given calendar year. We would probably not want to give these out at the gala. Whose area of responsibility would this fall under? Membership. A motion was made by Larry to begin participation this year, and add a budget item of \$100 to accommodate the expenditures for gifts. Seconded by Tom, and approved.
- b. Collecting a wide variety of materials as historian, primarily working on photos right now. Missing slide show from 2007 and Gala Program from 2009. Art brings up an important point, we need to change the culture of our entire organization to send things to the Historian all the time so we aren't trying to dig up old things. Beth suggests Project Leads need to document & take pictures for submission to the Historian. Tom will eventually put photos on Flickr.

17. Volunteer Services – **Dixie Camp** – Rainwater Revival is Nov. 7th, 10-4 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. We will need about 45 volunteers. We may end up being co-sponsors of the event. Dark Skies Program will start at end of April, which we are a co-sponsor of that event. Another issue of Trainees acting as Project Leaders is probably a bad idea. In the past, projects get created, and then fall apart after the trainee finishes class.

Roxana made a motion to make a policy that class trainees need to work within established volunteer projects rather than creating new projects in their first year. Leah seconded, motion passed. Dick will make sure this message gets communicated to the class early on, and this new rule needs to be included in the edits being done to the operating manual.

18. Calendar – **Beverly Gordon** – Will be out of town March 25th to April 15th so someone will need to update calendar while she is gone.

19. Adjourn – Larry made a motion to adjourn, Dixie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.