

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Minutes
May 14th, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

In attendance:

Art Arizpe, President

Karen Archer, VP

Larry Calvert, Past President

Tracy Mock, Secretary

Beth Ramey, Treasurer

Dick McBride, Training Committee Chair

Helen Bowie, Outreach Committee

Susan Kimmel-Lines, Advanced Training

Leah Laszewski, Records & Membership Committees

Beverly Gordon, Calendar Committee

Dixie Camp, Volunteer Coordinator & State Representative

Gordon Linam, TPWD Representative

Roxana Donegan, Host Committee

Mary Dow Ross, Host Committee

Candy Spitzer, Willett Grant Committee

Not Present:

Tom Watson, Historian

Herb Smith, Webmaster

Hope Shimik, Newsletter

Richard Parrish, Extension Agent

1. President – Art Arizpe

- a. Approve previous minutes - No changes. Beth made a motion to approve, Dixie seconded. April meeting minutes accepted.
- b. Announcements – Tom Watson recently had surgery, and is doing well. Art read aloud Emily Ann Theater letter – thanking the chapter for all the help with the Butterfly Festival.
- c. Board Calendar – Reviewed. Nothing in May, but on June 1st we have some reminders regarding the summer social on August 8th.
- d. Propose increase in dues – Currently have 137 dues paying members. Discussion followed regarding raising the annual dues from \$15 to ? A motion was made by Roxana to present to the membership a dues increase to \$20. Seconded by Leah. **ACTION ITEM**: Art will craft an email to send official notification to the membership so that it can be voted on at the August social.

- e. Update Chapter Bylaws – We must adopt certain changes, but there are others that are optional, such as setting term length as 2 years instead of 1 year term. Larry made a motion that we stay with 1 year terms, Dixie seconded. Motion passed.
2. Vice President – **Karen Archer** – Minette Marr is scheduled for the May Chapter meeting at the Lutheran Church in Wimberley. Waiting to hear back from Ben Schwartz for possible June chapter meeting. We had 47 attend the Fish Hatchery field trip. Other field trip ideas are being discussed. Deadman’s Hole would be a wonderful field trip, but participation would have to be capped at a total of 20. July there is normally not a chapter meeting, but considering a Night Skies in Wimberley event. August is also already planned. Possible visit to Bracken Cave in September.
3. Secretary – **Tracy Mock** – Richard Barnett asked to be removed as project leader, but would like to stay on our mailing list.
4. Treasurer – **Beth Ramey**
 - a. Asset List – Reviewed. Add new camera – **ACTION ITEMS:** Dick needs to send the S/N to Beth. Leah needs to send the details of the newest rainfall simulator to Beth (currently located at Ronnie Eason’s house). The one at the Nature Center or perhaps the one at Ray’s will go to Karen’s house.
 - b. Project/Event Idea – Regarding the one feral hog trap that Hays County owns, it is in high demand. We can either buy more traps, or hold a hog roundup competition. **ACTION ITEM:** Beth will do some more homework and present findings at a future meeting.
 - c. Reviewed financials, no questions. Available bank balance is \$9,074.13
5. AgriLife Agent – **Richard Parrish** (absent)
6. TP&WD Representative – **Gordon Linam** – Good response to the upcoming Urban Deer Program coming up on May 29th.
7. Past President – **Larry Calvert** – Nothing to report.
8. State Representative – **Dixie Camp** – Nothing to report.
9. Training Committee – **Dick McBride** – 36 students. Class is going well.
10. Advanced Training Committee – **Susan Kimmel-Lines** – Year to date 106 classes for a total of 322.5 offered so far. May had the highest number of AT opportunities with 22 classes for a total of 70.5 hours. June already has 7 classes and 26 hours on the calendar.

11. Membership Committee – **Leah Laszewski** – We need to send documentation to State. Lots of AT & volunteer hours being reported. Things are going well.
12. Outreach Committee – **Helen Bowie** – Butterfly Festival was a great success as was recently mentioned in the May newsletter. New project (part of outreach) is Blue Hole Tours one Saturday per month. Del Hood & Deb Bradshaw are rounding up guides to be trained as docents. Urban Deer workshop coming up as well as two projects at the Wimberley Library. Requests an update to the HCMN brochure to hand out at events with information about our chapter & with our website.
13. Host Committee – **Roxana Donegan & Mary Dow Ross** – Would like to know if the May meeting is in house or field trip so they can start planning the meal. Nothing else to report.
14. Willett Project Committee – **Candy Spitzer** – Several committee meetings have been held. Hope to select a marketing team by the end of June. Four marketing teams are being evaluated. On a related note, Art spoke with Herb recently who will be handing off the website to Jane Dunham soon.
15. Historian – **Tom Watson** (absent)
16. Volunteer Services – **Dixie Camp** – Project submission question – River Mountain Ranch development in Wimberley. The homeowners association (which is a non-profit) owns a piece of riparian land that has been torn up by hogs. The plan is to do trail work, educational events. Accessible to 600 people that live in this neighborhood. 8 volunteers currently reporting hours. The question of benefiting private property needs to be approved by Michelle. The form to request a new volunteer project needs to be used for all requests. This one still needs to be filled out so that it can be forwarded to Michelle.
17. Calendar – **Beverly Gordon** – Reviewed volunteer project calendars for May and June.
18. Newsletter Committee and Editor – **Hope Shimek** (absent)
19. Web Master – **Herb Smith** (absent)
20. Adjourn – Art made a motion to adjourn, Dixie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.