

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Minutes
July 9th, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

In attendance:

Karen Archer, VP
Larry Calvert, Past President
Tracy Mock, Secretary
Beth Ramey, Treasurer
Dick McBride, Training Committee Chair
Dixie Camp, Volunteer Coordinator & State Representative
Helen Bowie, Outreach Committee
Susan Kimmel-Lines, Advanced Training
Leah Laszewski, Records & Membership Committees
Gordon Linam, TPWD Representative
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent
Mary Dow Ross, Host Committee
Roxanna Donegan, Host Committee
Jane Dunham, Webmaster

Not Present:

Art Arizpe, President
Tom Watson, Historian
Herb Smith, Webmaster
Hope Shimik, Newsletter
Beverly Gordon, Calendar Committee
Candy Spitzer, Willett Grant Committee

1. President – **Art Arizpe** (absent)
2. Vice President – **Karen Archer**
 - a. Approve previous minutes – Leah made a motion to approve the May board meeting minutes, Larry seconded. Minutes approved.
 - b. Announcements – The next chapter meeting is the Raptor Program at the Blue Hole Regional Park.
 - c. Board Calendar – Tonight's meeting is mostly to finalize the plans for the summer social.
3. Secretary – **Tracy Mock** – Nothing to report. **ACTION ITEM:** Larry has an email that needs to go out regarding the directory updates.
4. Treasurer – **Beth Ramey** – Year-to-date budget report was emailed to the board members last weekend. Nothing further to report.
5. AgriLife Agent – **Richard Parrish** – There are seven naturalists that need background checks done. A \$70 check will be needed to pay for them.

6. TP&WD Representative – **Gordon Linam** -
 - a. Blanco River recovery and Willett Project – Possible signage for high profile areas to educate why the riparian areas are being left to heal naturally. Also seeking a list of locations to take pictures to document the restoration progress.
7. Past President – **Larry Calvert** – Discussion of C.A.R.D. (Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development) and a current project/article “Healing The Blanco” being written by Chris Middleton – Is there perhaps an opportunity to partner with this organization? It’s generally been decided that it’s better to keep separate. This article/project is informational in nature, and perhaps will carry more weight if the message is coming solely from MN’s.
8. State Representative – **Dixie Camp** – One of the action items from last month involved different areas counting volunteer time as partial credit if done in some other county. Per conversation with Michelle – it’s probably not a good idea to try to track partial credit hours. Reminder – State annual meeting is in October.
9. Training Committee – **Dick McBride** – Classes are going well. Still have 36 students. Per the calendar, it’s the time of year when we need to discuss next year’s committee chair. Dick recommends Susan Neill, and made a motion to approve. Dixie seconded. Motion passed.
10. Advanced Training Committee – **Susan Kimmel-Lines** – Not much to report. AT always slows in the summer time. Plenty of opportunities still on the calendar.
11. Membership Committee – **Leah Laszewski** – Quarterly report sent to Michelle. For the period April 1st through June 30th volunteer hours reported is 2,561. Advanced training hours reported are 352.5 Leah is thinking of resigning this position due to being out of town for an extended amount of time. Judy Burdett is considering taking over, or at least covering for Leah while she is out of town.
12. Outreach Committee – **Helen Bowie** – The summer social plans are moving along. Deer workshop was successful and well attended. Recently participated in a soil conservation camp in Comal County – did a presentation on geology. Soil and seed presentation being developed for the local library. Speakers group not quite as strong, but will be more organized later this summer.
13. Host Committee – **Roxana Donegan & Mary Dow Ross** – Nothing to host for this month’s chapter meeting since this one will be the raptor program at the Blue Hole. Since it’s open to the public, we won’t have refreshments this month.

14. Willett Project Committee – **Merry Bateman & Candy Spitzer** (absent)
15. Historian – **Tom Watson** (absent)
16. Volunteer Services – **Dixie Camp** – Two events are being planned. Both are to be held at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park. First is the Rainwater Revival is scheduled for November 7th. Volunteer Spot online signup will be used again. Kathy Thomas is the event planner. The other event is the Texas Night Sky Festival will be February 13, 2016 from 3 pm to dark. There will be a need for numerous committees such as public relations, marketing, sponsors, vendors, competitions between central Texas elementary schools, sky party, video organizer, planetarium, possibly food trucks brought on sight, volunteer organizers, etc. Dixie also serves on the Dripping Springs Trails Advisory Group. Going before City Council next week to give a presentation. The first trail is to extend from Charro Ranch Park to the YMCA past HEB and past RBFCU to Founders Park and on to Dripping Springs Ranch Park. People have been asking about the possibility of reporting volunteer hours for Blanco River clean up, but that is not an official approved project.
17. Calendar – **Beverly Gordon** (absent)
18. Newsletter Committee and Editor – **Hope Shimek** (absent) – A draft of the July newsletter was emailed to the board today.
19. Web Master – **Jane Dunham** – Transition of web master services from Herb to Jane happened a bit quicker and more chaotic due to the flooding of Herb's house. She is up and running now though. The Member Directory is now available on the website. Larry is ready for an email blast to go out. The password is still the same as last year.
20. Summer Social – August 8th at 10 am. Per Karen -The speaker will be from Bamberger Ranch – A snake presentation will be given. Per Helen - The venue has been changed from John Knox Ranch to the fellowship hall at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Wimberley. There is also a tentative reservation at the Wimberley Community Center. Karen and Helen will visit and make the final decision. The previous reservation with John Knox would have been \$200 for the summer social. Helen made a motion to donate \$200 to John Knox to help with their restoration efforts. Leah seconded. Motion passed. Door prize donations need to be solicited. **ACTION ITEM:** **Helen** will draft an email to be sent out to the membership asking for door prize donations. Leah will conduct the door prize drawings. **ACTION ITEM:** **Dick** will look for the raffle tickets. Board members are asked to arrive early to help set up. **ACTION ITEM:** **Dixie** will contact all the project coordinators to find out who wants to have a display table at the social. We are limiting it to six project tables. Next is a discussion about whether to charge for the meal or not – we've discussed

it at previous meetings, but no decision was made. It is probably a good idea to collect a nominal fee per person to help cover the cost of the meal. \$5 per person is proposed. Dixie recommends caterer Jay Bachman who she used recently for a non-profit meal for 200 attendees in the range of \$5 per person. Larry made a motion to charge members \$5 per meal, and \$10 for non-members (guests and family). Helen seconded. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM:** Helen will check with the caterer from last year to get a price quote for around 80 attendees, and will craft an email asking for RSVP and meal choices. **ACTION ITEM:** Roxana and Mary Dow will contact the other caterer that Dixie recommends.

21. Dick made a motion to adjourn, Larry seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.