

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting
September 17, 2008, 6:30 P.M.
600 Red Hawk Road

Attending: President Dale Shively, Vice President Dixie Camp, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, Treasurer Winifred Simon, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Secretary Susan Nenny, Training Committee Vice Chair Larry Calvert

Members attending: Susan Zimmerman

Not Attending: Past President Tom Watson, Newsletter Chair Richard Barnett, Historian Laurel Robertson, Volunteer Projects Chair Walt Krudup, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans, Host Committee Chair Margaret Baker

Dale Shively called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Approval of agenda

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Beth Ramey moved and Dixie Camp seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Officer Reports

Secretary's report – Dale noted that minutes are missing on the web site from January 20, April 23 and July Board meetings. With the year drawing to a close, several tasks need to be completed:

- Finalize training committee job descriptions and follow process to formally add these and any other approved changes to operating handbook to bring it into compliance. Changes can be approved by the Board with 2/3 voting and with prior notification of membership.
- Winifred Simon noted that changes from the state handbook must also be incorporated in the chapter book. Dale and Susan Nenny will work on these tasks outside of the board meeting.
- Updating chapter e-mail list. Susan will work with Beth Ramey and Winifred to contact those members with incorrect e-mail addresses before posting a message on the web site.

Treasurer's report – Winifred reported that the current chapter balance is \$2,950.50. The Training Class account balance is \$6,294.27.

VP report – Dixie Camp reported that Mike Quinn, the speaker for the August chapter meeting did not show up. Dale will draft a letter from the Board expressing concern. The chapter has had a meeting every month this year, offering ample opportunities to earn 12 hours of Advanced Training.

The September 25 meeting is at Westcave Preserve; 15 reservations of 30 slots are filled. Susan will send out a last notice tomorrow: notes: sandwiches available at 6:00.

Membership Committee – Beth Ramey asked if we can get reminders out about hours to be submitted to Beth Ramey. Winifred suggested ordering pins now with an estimated number.

The group reviewed the upcoming calendar:

Graduation Oct 24, Friday

MN State meeting Oct 24, Friday

Chapter Gala November 21 or Dec 5, Fridays tentatively

ACTION ITEM: Susan will e-mail Herb / Walt re photo storage site and send it to Beth Ramey

ACTION ITEM: Dixie will contact the Community Center about gala dates.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will send message: volunteer and AT hours are due to Beth by October 31 in order to be recognized at the annual Gala.

Leila is keeping accounting of training class volunteer and advanced training hours and will share with Beth Ramey for entry into the larger historical data base at a later date.

Advanced Training – Betty has approved 8 advanced training events since last meeting and did not deny any. She reduced the credit time of one event which was a vendor presentation.

Volunteer Projects – No report

Training Committee – Larry Calvert reported that half of the site visits were scheduled for September and October plus two field trips and the last class. He estimates that 24-25 will graduate of 30 class members. Training Committee Chair for 2009 Mimi Boelter has identified candidates for all training committee positions.

TPWD sponsors – No report

President

Dale reported on awards presentations available for next year.

Discussion Items

- Conservation brochures – Susan Zimmerman presented her volunteer project idea: She will work with Kay Beth Williams to identify Hays County land owners who may be eligible for conservation easements. Land size is important, as well as contiguous smaller acreages that may work together as an easement. The public is insufficiently aware of the value and option of conservation easements. The Nature Conservancy also has an in-depth document. Susan's main objective is to introduce land owners to the concept of conservation easement with a letter from the Hays County MN. The group discussed strategies for this project.

Susan moved that the chapter support a volunteer project to promote land stewardship and conservation easement concepts to landowners in Hays County; the mail campaign

will be supported by an initial budget of \$150 from the chapter. Dixie seconded. The motion passed. Dale asked Beth to work with Walt on assigning a number to the project. Susan Nenny will send the drafted letter from Susan Zimmerman to the board.

Dixie will arrange a program on conservation easements for the Oct. 30th chapter meeting

- Chapter shirts will be ordered by Jean McMeans.
- Texas EXPO – Oct 4-5. Dale reported that the state exhibit is in Kerrville. Dixie says it can be shipped free to Bryan Davis. Dixie will contact Michelle to order the Kerrville exhibit. Enough volunteers have signed up to cover the chapter obligations at EXPO.
- State MN meeting – Dale is attending the state meeting in Hunt. The chapter voted earlier this year to award the partial scholarship (\$75 this year) from the State MN program to the current Hays County MN Program president/ or his designee each year that it is available. This helps defray some of the registration costs.
- Board 2009 – Dale noted the need to recruit people for open board positions, noting that there will be significant turnover on the board. The past president is supposed to head the Nominating Committee; in his absence, the current president will fill the role.

Chapter officers of President, Vice President, Secretary, treasurer are elected by the chapter. Other committee chairs are appointed by the newly elected board.

ACTION ITEM: Susan will send an announcement call for volunteers for officers.

- 2009 Training Committee concerns – Larry reported that concerns only center on finding enough people to fill the committee positions. They are in good position to accomplish that task
- Awards Committee – Selections should be made by the end of October. Dale has the certificate templates.
- Other – Susan Nenny will facilitate a “Know Your Grasses” outreach booth at Brookshire Brothers Saturday October 11; 8:30-12 noon. Beth Ramey volunteered to assist.

Dale suggested that Susan contact Jane and Cara to see if they will chair the Gala. Susan and others will help.

Next meeting: October 8, Wednesday 6:30 Winifred’s house.

Susan moved and Betty seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 8:40.