

Hays Master Naturalist Board Meeting  
Dec. 10, 2009 7:00 pm  
Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center  
Wimberley, Texas

**Action Items:**

**Larry, Dixie: set up new bank acct at Ozona Bank in Wimberley**

**Larry: contact Al Kirchner re IRS limitations on balance carried over to following year.**

**Larry: send list to Becky for dues reminder calls**

**Beth: reminder to membership re info for annual report**

**Dixie: newsletter column.**

**Tom/Becky: blurb for newsletter?**

**Dixie, Larry, Tom, Becky: new member training 1/17**

**Attending:** President Dixie Camp, Vice President Tom Hausler, Treasurer Larry Calvert, Secretary Becky Northcut, Membership Chair Beth Ramey, Advanced Training Chair Betty Finley, Newsletter Chair Art Arizpe, TPWD Sponsor Lee Ann Linam, Volunteer Project Chair Walt Krudop, Training Committee Chair Jean McMeans and Chapter member Randy Garst.

**Not attending:** Past President Dale Shively, Outreach Committee Chair Susan Nenney,

Dixie called the meeting to order at 7:10. Walt asked that a correction be made to the last page of the November minutes to clarify that it was not the annual meeting where he had heard Andy Sansom speak but at another meeting, at the River Systems Institute. He motioned to accept the minutes as revised and Jean seconded. The minutes as revised and the agenda were approved.

**Officer Reports**

**President**

The two new board members were noted. Dixie discussed the possibility of changing the dates for board meetings due to conflicts. There was a discussion on whether the frequency should be changed. Art asked what the minimum requirement was. According to Walt, the bylaws require meetings to be held at least bimonthly. The consensus was that Thursday was still the best day of the week and it was preferable to hold meetings monthly but no motion was made for a vote to change at this time. The Board will meet on the first Thursdays, and the Chapter meetings will be held monthly on the fourth Thursday.

**Vice-President**

Tom presented information from the program committee. Billy Kniffen from the Extension Service has agreed to present for January or February but not yet confirmed. Other presenters suggested were Marty Wise from the City of Austin, Mark Simmons or Flo Oxley from the Wildflower Center, John Davis, Director of Wildlife Diversity Outreach, and Mark Klim from Parks and Wildlife. Possible meeting locations suggested so far are the Old Railway Tunnel, Bracken Cave, and Friesenhahn Cave

**Past President/Historian**

Absent/no report

### **Treasurer**

Larry reminded the board to send in all membership payments for this year ASAP. He proposed moving the checking account from Compass Bank in San Marcos to Ozona Bank in Wimberley for reasons of convenience. In addition, he would like to combine the Training account and the Chapter account to make it easier and more straightforward to manage and audit the books. Larry and Dixie will arrange to meet and set up the account.

An internal audit was performed before the Annual Meeting and the books passed. Lee Ann Linam, Mary Arispe and Ben Adair performed the audit.

Lee Ann motioned that this year's audit period should be a 12 month standardized period, ending October 31, prior to the Annual Meeting, to avoid problems experienced this year. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Larry distributed the Budget Report for 2009, which had been corrected to include expenses from The Gala. He noted the current balances, saying that the chapter needed to take care not to exceed the cash on hand limit for non-profits. Walt suggested Larry contact Al Kirchner for more information about accounting for a 501.c3. Larry agreed to call. He also requested that this and other action items be included at the beginning of the meeting minutes.

Larry wants to send reminder to membership to pay dues by January 1, 2010. Walt asked if the reminder should be sent to all or just those who have not yet renewed. He suggested compiling a list of recent new graduates and members who have not yet renewed and have board members call them.

Larry will send a list to the secretary for distribution.

### **Secretary**

No report.

### **TPWD Sponsor**

No report

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership**

Beth reported a correction to the awards committee in operating handbook. Walt asked if everyone had sent everything in for the annual report, including those who had done site visits. Beth said she would send a reminder to the membership.

#### **Advanced Training**

No report

#### **Volunteer Projects**

Walt brought up an issue regarding volunteer coordination at Emily Ann Theater. After discussing the matter with the board, it was agreed that Walt and Dixie will visit with the Emily Ann owners to clarify the situation.

### **Training Committee**

Jean said the 2010 class application had been revised to reflect the new tuition of \$190. Applicants who are accepted will receive it with a letter including location of classes, information about the background check.

Previously, the tuition had been \$175. Regarding the 2010 Training Committee budget, Larry said if something had to be used to cover the difference, it could come from the meal expenses, since that figure was usually high because most members preparing meals don't ask for reimbursement.

Walt made a motion to accept the new fee of \$190 and change to the payment structure as outlined in the training committee budget. Larry seconded. The motion passed. Tuition for the training class was approved at \$190 with payment scheduled as stated in the application letter.

Randy Garst was present to discuss the possible need to purchase a new video camera to record classes for absent members. Randy has donated DVDs for recording and the camera is a JVC model that has been donated. Randy said the editing the class footage has been cumbersome due to a proprietary file type used by the JVC software.

The options are to decide if class topics can be published on a secure passworded website, which would probably mean purchasing a new camera plus minimal monthly fees for the site maintenance. Walt and Jean both expressed concerns about putting the recorded material on the internet.

The cost of a new camera would be around \$300. The consensus was to keep the material on DVD and not buy a new camera.

### **Newsletter**

Art said Dixie is up for a column in the next newsletter. There will also be something from/about the new board members. Also the pictures Art took at the Gala are now up on his Flickr page.

### **Outreach**

Absent/no report

Dixie and Larry will meet with Tom and Becky at 7:00 pm on 12/17 at Jacob's Well for new board member training. The next regular board meeting will be January 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Jacob's Well.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm