

**Action Items 4/7/11
(previously emailed 4/7/11)**

ART

Item in newsletter about June 11 land owner stewardship event

BETH

Quarterly report

JEAN

Speak to Knox Ranch personnel re changes to August event

BRAD

Call Jeff's contact re groundwater topic for chapter meeting

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 2011
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

ATTENDING

Jeff Vasgaard
Brad Kimmel
Jean McMeans
Lin Weber
Becky Northcut
Lee Ann Linam
Richard Parrish
Beth Ramey
Art Arizpe

NOT ATTENDING

Mary Arizpe
Cathy Delwiche
Dixie Camp
Larry Calvert
Dale Shively

Meeting called to order at 6:35. Agenda were approved.

Minutes:

Approved with no corrections.

Officer reports

Vice President

John Neff will speak on native Texas bees in April. May is Matt McCau from City of Austin, Invasive Species Division. June Bill Carr from the Nature Conservancy. July Travis laDuc, Chair of Herpetology, Texas Natural Science Center. August still open. September, Paige Najvar, Houston toad specialist. October still open. Jeff asked Brad what about groundwater as a topic. He said he had a contact who was expert on Hays County groundwater, would send Brad the information.

President

Jeff is not certain what all was involved with upcoming quarterly report due the following week, per state email. Beth says all that is necessary is that she will send service hours to state. Secretary had sent reminder to membership to log any unreported hours by Wednesday.

Jeff has not heard back from Herb re: Calendar.

Jeff asks if board is okay with contact list he'd prepared. No one had any corrections.

As MN president, Jeff was invited to participate in event for Hays County Park Department. Had listening/feedback event to help develop the Master Plan for Hays County Park System. Richard had attended as well.

Treasurer

Larry absent, had sent out budget report via email. No members had questions or feedback re budget.

Secretary

Becky had question on note she had included in minutes pond comment. Was irrelevant. She will take it out. Jean made motion to accept minutes, Brad seconded. Motion passed.

All of old minutes have been archived on website through February. Becky had opened HCMN Dropbox account per previous meeting discussion, but told board she had ended up archiving docs on the Google Docs partition HMN already has as part of their Google account. Art asked if we could use Google calendar to resolve larger website calendar issue. Jeff thought it was good idea. Said he needed to get back to Herb about calendar before any further discussion/decision.

Past President

Dixie absent.

Extension Advisor

Richard said 4H has been involved in water education and now they have watershed model, will have aquifer model soon, both of which can be used by HCMN in future.

Richard has been working with Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Natural Resources Conservation Service in process of planning small acreage landowner stewardship workshop 9-4, June 11 at Wimberley Community Center. Asked if Master Naturalist wanted opportunity to helping to facilitate the event, help with registration and refreshments. Grant funding the program may allow HCMN to charge fee. Decision is not necessary this meeting.

Topics include rainwater harvesting, tree diseases, controlling predators, grasses and forage management, fire.

Jean suggested Richard should contact Alan Rossing for rainwater harvesting.

Event will be catered. Master Naturalist could have exhibit as well, could charge hours to outreach. Jeff suggests action item for Art put in next month's newsletters.

Richard told board news about Billy Kniffen's youngest son in Arizona having bad motorcycle accident. Asked board to keep family in thoughts.

On March 5, Extension hosted a community issues forum for county, asked citizens what they thought big issues are. Landowner education was a big issue and water was by far the biggest issue. Call for education for landowners and developer education too.

TPWD Advisor

Lee Ann had nothing new regarding state budget cuts to Parks and Wildlife. Looks definite that agency will be able to make the decision where the 25% cut state is asking for will come from. This is good news for programs like Master Naturalists.

Standing Committee Reports

Outreach

Jeff had received call from Cathy Delwiche. Her job has changed to full time and she is getting concerned she won't have time to give to outreach committee. Figuring out how much time she can devote. Should hear back from her this week. Board May need to appoint someone to handle upcoming events. Butterfly festival coming up. Jean said Mimi and Melinda had handled that in past. April 30 is Earth Day and Leah done that in past but no longer has time.

Membership/Records

Beth gave updates on hours through March 15:
621 volunteer
187 advance training

Beth will send report to state, due next Friday.

Advanced Training

Mary absent.

Volunteer Projects

Before volunteer news, Art gave update on photo contest. Herb put link to contest on HCMN website. Entries start on May 1. Art passed around draft of post card/handout for the event. Master naturalist-sponsored category is wildlife habitat. Youth category for first time, Art asked Richard if he could do outreach to 4H. Richard said it could also go in the 4H newsletter.

2 new volunteer projects added. First was Hays County Invaders. Volunteers have to go through training by Texas Invasives. Second was Dave Boyd special

project, he and wife did work up in Travis County with Naturalist chapter there. Walt said we could create one time event category.

Caterpillar camp/worm wrangling went well. Twenty master naturalists working on it. They were also involved in the cage distribution segment of the activity as well.

Jeff received had inquiry about possible Naturalist involvement with restoration project on waste management land near Comal county. Per address, determined land was in Comal County, project should go to that chapter.

Discussion re proposed social event

Jean reported back from San Marcos Community Center. \$65 an hour/ w \$25 set up fee. Jeff said it would likely end up being same cost as gala.

There was discussion re scheduling in such a busy time. Brad suggested having it concurrent with chapter meeting, possible date on August 12 at Tom Hausler's place.

Jean had suggestion to hold the event along with the August 27 training class potluck party already planned for 11 a.m. -2 p.m., August 27, at Knox Ranch. Planned for air-conditioned dining hall. Board response is favorable. Jeff said we should budget for barbecue. Next months agenda action item: board member come up with ideas for activities, door prizes, etc. Jean will call director at ranch to check about having larger event.

Training

Class workday previous week at new acreage on JWNA had turned out great. Jean said new section had lots of potential for restoration.

1st site visit coming up April 19 near Hamilton Pool area

Newsletter

Art Arizpe reported that two members of new class (Lucile and Eva) have offered to help with newsletter.

Lin made motion to adjourn, Jean seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: May 5, 2011, 6:30 pm, Camp Jacob