Minutes from August 5, 2010 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM. Attending were Dixie Camp, Tom Hausler, Larry Calvert, Art Arizpe, Betty Finley, Walt Krudop, Beth Ramey , Jean McMeans and Susan Nenney.

The agenda was approved as written. Since the Secretary, Becky Northcut was absent, there were no minutes to review.

Item One – selecting volunteer(s) to maintain and manage the new Rainfall Simulator for the chapter. Considerations include physical location within Hays County, the ability to maintain the plants used and the ability to transport and store the unit. Several individuals have indicated interest and their qualifications were discussed. Walt Krudop will interview the top candidates and make a recommendation to the board.

Item Two – AgriLife Staffing changes – Some staffing changes being considered for the Hays County AgriLife Extension office will reduce oversight, administration and assistance to Hays County 4-H, Texas Master Naturalist chapter and other local concerns. In order to bring this issue to the attention of Hays County residents, chapter members will be encouraged to participate in the following actions; Address the Commissioners Court during the public forum in upcoming meetings, send e-mails to local politicians and AgriLife management members, submit articles and editorials to local newspapers. Draft articles for newspapers should be forwarded to Susan Nenney. Dixie Camp will research AgriLife hierarchy to determine to whom concerns should be directed. Information and contact details will be communicated to the membership during the next several weeks.

Item Three – MN State Meeting and Silent Auction – The annual state MN meeting is October 22 – 24 at T Bar M in New Braunfels, and the Hays MN Chapter will help coordinate the Silent Auction, from which they will receive some proceeds. Leah Laszewski and Judy Burdett have volunteered to head up the project. Several additional volunteers are needed. Susan Nenney, Jean McMeans, Larry Calvert and Linda Calvert volunteered to assist. Larry moved we use all funds received from the Silent Auction to enhance our Scholarship Fund, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Item Four - Tom Hausler reported on the last three Chapter Meeting education events – Bird Lecture, the Old Tunnel Bat Colony visit and Westcave Preserve tour. All were well attended and well received. He reported that one of our regular meeting sites was requesting a liability certificate from the chapter. He will contact Michelle Haggerty to see if the state provides such coverage to the chapter. All remaining speakers for 2010 are confirmed. Dixie thanked Tom for his exemplary work this year.

Item Five – Treasurers Report – the latest report was reviewed. No actions taken or changes made. Larry reported that we now have 95 paid members – the highest ever in the history of the Chapter. An article acknowledging this will go in the next newsletter. Paid list will go to the Membership Chair so recertification reports can be completed.

Item Six – Membership Report – YTD hours reported; 851.25 Advanced Training and 4766 Volunteer thru July 31st. 25 Trainees have reported hours. Beth Ramey will run reports to see how this year compares to last and, if significant, send data to Art for article.

Item Seven –Advanced Training Report - Betty Finley reported she had approved 5 events for Advanced Training since June.

Item Eight – Volunteer Project Report - Walt Krudop discussed the Rainwater Revival to take place Oct 9, 2010 and noted HCMN had purchased a booth. He mentioned there was need for general setup, operations and teardown assistance and requested the Secretary put out a general notice for volunteers. Susan Nenney will coordinate MN Volunteers for this event. Any member volunteering for this event should wear their MN shirt and name tag, trainees should wear their nametag.

Item Nine – Walt presented the background check letter and form for review and discussion. All edits to Dixie Camp by Monday, Aug. 9th. Dixie will send final version to Walt who will have it reviewed by lawyer. Beth will compile active member list for AgriLife office to use to create mailing labels. The AgriLife office will take care of mailing.

Item Ten – Training Committee Report - Jean McMeans reported there are 32 active trainees in the current class. This is the largest class ever at this point in the program. Jean will continue next year as Training Committee Co-Chair with Lin Weber.

Item Eleven – Graduation and Gala – The event will be held at the San Marcos Activity Center, Nov. 19th. A committee is needed to organize the event. Jean and Susan will submit a list of potential volunteers to Dixie.

Item Twelve – Newsletter – Art provided an update.

Item Thirteen – Outreach Report – Susan Nenney reported the Speakers Bureau has a speaking engagement scheduled in Feb. at the San Marcos Nature Center. Susan is going to prepare a calendar of events for October to be sent out to the membership. There will be a Brookshire Brothers outreach event in Sept.

There was no other business. Susan Nenney moved to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 8:50