

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
January 5, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Beth Ramey
Jeff Vasgaard
Lin Weber
Herb Smith
Art Arizpe
Leah Laszewski
Eva Gomez
Richard Parrish
Lee Ann Linam
Tom Hausler
Dick McBride - Guest
Judy McBride - Guest
Leigh Sebera - Guest

Not present:

Becky Northcut
Helen Bowie

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

DVD Library

Dick McBride presented a proposal to make the DVD library of past class lectures housed at the AgriLife center available to other Master Naturalists. It was suggested that an announcement be placed in the newsletter letting people know the materials would be available.

Lin Weber made a motion that Dick's proposal be accepted with the caveat that the information be restricted to the active membership. Anne Child seconded the motion and the proposal was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Ideas for Speakers, Field Trips and Social

Action Item: Anne Child asked that people who had ideas for speakers for Chapter meeting provide input as soon as possible.

There was also discussion of alternate locations for the chapter meetings especially possible locations in other parts of the county such as Kyle.

Anne also raised the possibility of additional field trips and requested input regarding the timing of the social.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the social would again be scheduled for late summer.

Action Item: The timing worked out by the Host Committee with consideration to both facility availability and the training schedule.

Secretary Report

Chris Middleton reported that she has completed the transition of g-mail to reflect her new duties. Two Thank You letters for gala support were also completed. The biggest obstacle was locating stationary which is available in the Master Naturalist file at the AgriLife office in San Marcos. She ordered Master Naturalist note cards available for free from the AgriLife website.

2012 Budget

Preliminary budget numbers were solicited from each member of the executive board and all of the committee chairpersons in attendance.

Jeff Vasgaard motioned that Beth Ramey use the information to compile a 2012 budget proposal to be voted upon at the February Board meeting. Art Arizpe seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Action Item: Beth agreed to e-mail the proposed budget to members prior to the next meeting.

In the course of the budget discussion, it was noted that the Master Naturalist treasurer now has a post office box to ease the transition when the responsibility changes hands. The address is P.O. Box 78, Wimberley, Texas 78676.

2011 Annual Report

Jeff Vasgaard solicited input for the annual report submitted to the state each year by the past president. Much of the discussion centered around how to improve the

reporting of direct outreach contacts. It was suggested that someone get with other chapters to determine how they track outreach contacts.

Jeff cited some interesting statistics from the report including:

8150 volunteer hours
2507 direct outreach
1474 advanced training
311 folks on the roster
113 active (paid membership and/or 1 hour volunteering)

Action Item: Leah Laszewski agreed to bring this up at the next outreach committee meeting.

2012 Training Schedule

Lin Weber reported that to date there are 34 applicants for the 2012 class which will top out at 38 students. Of these four students requested scholarships, with three provided for in the current budget and one covered by an anonymous donor.

Exception to 2011 Volunteer Hours Rules

Beth Ramey brought before the board a request by one of the Master Naturalist for an extension of time for attaining volunteer hours to be credited for 2011.

Jeff Vasgaard made a motion that strict adherence to policy was best in this case and the motion was seconded by Lin Weber. The board approved the motion that the exception request be denied.

Action Item: Beth Ramey will advise her of the board's decision and advise her that she if she meets the requirements for this year she can be recertified.

2012 Jacob's Well Docent Training

Jeff Vasgaard asked that the Master Naturalists provide the same support as last year for the Jacob's Well Docent training. He noted that this year the training will be provide jointly by Friends of Jacob's Well and Friends of Blue Hole. He also asked to have the docent training be approved as advanced training for members.

2011 Audit Results

Lee Ann Linam reported that the Audit Committee met on December 5, 2011 to review the chapter's records. The committee found the expenditures appeared valid and recommended acceptance and the board voted to approve the audit. The Audit Committee also commended Larry Calvert for developing an excellent record-keeping and budgeting system.

Jeff Vasgaard made a motion to accept the Audit Committee recommendation which was seconded by Leah Laszewski. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2nd. Larry Calvert urged everyone to e-mail information on items they plan to discuss to the board members before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.