

Action Items 7/7/11

Jean

Check Knox Ranch Dining Hall layout re tables for volunteer project displays.

Contact Bob Currie and recommend he submit request for volunteer project approval.

Becky

Send email to members requesting door prize donations.

Jeff

Notify Michelle that we will sponsor the State Meeting at the \$500 level.

Discuss the online hours reporting system with Michelle and explore options.

Larry

Send \$500 check to sponsor State Meeting.

Write email to 16 active MN members who have not paid dues and send to Board for review.

Art

Ask Becky for good email addresses for volunteer project contacts.

Continue trying to make contacts.

Email list of nonresponders to Board, asking each to make a certain number of phone calls.

Lee Ann

Contact Wildflower Center about redesigning the system of online hours reporting.

**Hays County Master Naturalist
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 7, 2011**

ATTENDING

Art Arizpe
Mary Arizpe
Larry Calvert
Dixie Camp
Brad Krimmel
Lee Ann Linam
Jean McMeans
Richard Parrish
Beth Ramey
Jeff Vasgaard
Lin Weber

NOT ATTENDING

Becky Northcut
Dale Shively

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

Minutes

Approved as submitted

Officer Reports

President (Jeff)

Jeff conveyed news of Michelle's baby.

Aug 27 Social – Each Board member will bring an apron and Beth will bring hairnets. Beth will pick up the food. We will request that attendees bring their own eating gear. This event will be open to all who have gone through the MN program and their families, however Jean will communicate to those who RSVP children that the event is geared toward adults. We will charge anyone who has not gone through the MN program \$10 for the meal. Brad invited Carter Smith to be the speaker, but has not gotten reply. We will ask MN members to donate items for door prizes. Becky, with input from Jeff and Lin, will send an email with that request, and Lin will coordinate the door prizes. Leaders of volunteer projects will not make presentations. We will provide each project attending a table for a display. Jean will go to Knox Ranch to check the layout.

State Meeting – TX MN is asking chapters to sponsor at various cash levels up to \$500. After discussion, Larry made and Mary seconded a motion to donate \$500. The Board authorized Larry to send the check. Jeff will notify Michelle of the decision. The Board discussed funding an additional scholarship to the state meeting, as well as reimbursing some costs of attending. That discussion will continue at the next Board meeting. Board members commented on the inability to register for sessions because they fill up so quickly. Jeff announced that the state MN has asked for submissions for speakers at the State Meeting. Jeff has contacted some people who might be interested.

State reports- Beth sent her hours report to the state. The Board discussed the archaic system of reporting hours online and how that might be remedied. Jeff will contact Michelle to find out where TX MN is on a fix, and explore options for HCMN proceeding on our own. He will ask if grant money is available to redesign the system. Lee Ann will contact the Wildflower Center for more info on a redesign.

Vice President (Brad)

Dr. Travis LaDuc, herpetologist, will be the speaker at the July 28 chapter meeting at the Agrilife Office in San Marcos. Brad announced that Brian and Shirley Loflin will speak on cacti at the Natural Gardener in Austin this Saturday.

Treasurer (Larry)

There were no questions about the monthly budget report. Larry began a discussion about 16 active MN members who report hours, but have not paid their dues. He will write an email to those members expressing the Board's appreciation for their involvement and service, and notifying them that their dues have not been paid. He will send the email to the Board for review before sending it to the members. The Board discussed the members who pay dues, but do not report hours. No action was taken.

Secretary (Becky) Absent

Past President (Dixie)

Nothing to report

TPWD Advisor (Lee Ann)

TPWD is notifying staff of personnel cuts due to budget cuts.

Agrilife Advisor (Richard)

Richard reported that background checks and cards are still in the works. He thanked all who volunteered to help with the June 11 program. He is working with Eric Beckers, Texas Forest Service, to organize an all day training on oak wilt and other tree diseases that will take place in October. Following the training, the 15 – 20 participants would be certified as Oak Wilt Specialists. 8 – 10 MN volunteers will be needed for this event.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership/Records (Beth)

Beth reported that members have entered a total of 725 hours of AT and 3398 hours of volunteer work this year.

Advanced Training (Mary)

Mary has approved 5 AT events for a total of 13.75 hours.

Volunteer Service Projects (Art)

The Board discussed the project approval process. Art will make decisions and present a list of approved projects at Board meetings, but will consult the Board as needed. He has sent out 51 emails to heads of projects currently listed, and has received 9 replies. He will ask Becky for alternative email addresses for the ones that bounced, and try again to make contact. At some point after that attempt, Art will send an email to Board members with a list of nonresponders and ask the Board to make phone calls to those people before delisting the projects. Art suggested that the first some number of leaders to reply be invited to have their project's display at the August Social. Jean explained a request by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District that Bob Currie work on an educational video, and the Board discussed whether Bob could receive volunteer credit for this work. The Board decided that he can get credit for the time he spends that supports the mission of MN. Jean will contact Bob and recommend that he submit a request for approval of the project.

Training (Jean and Lin)

We have a very vocal, active class of trainees, but volunteer hours are not at the level that Jean and Lin would like. We have lost four trainees for various reasons. We have had three great site visits, and the remaining two will be in Sept. and Oct.

Newsletter (Art)

The July newsletter is online. The deadline for the photo contest is Monday. There have been 22 entrants, with 115 images submitted. More are expected. Winners will be notified within approximately two weeks of the deadline.

Larry made a motion to adjourn, and Jean seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

The next meeting will be Aug 4, 2011 at 6:30 pm at Camp Jacob.