

HCMN

June 2 Board Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

Art

Develop questionnaire for project leaders

Becky

Will contact people who have asked secretary to be removed from mailing list

Will get chapter handbook and policy to state - July 1 deadline

Email to chapter re hours needed by July 5th for quarterly report

Draft email to chapter about social - get approved by Jeff/board

Send approved email to chapter about social/with RSVP

Beth

July 10 quarterly report

Jean

Will get curriculum to the state - July 1 deadline

Larry

Make list of people who have dropped out the last couple years

Membership directory

Jeff

Contact Michelle re volunteer service presentation about the planting project-July 17 deadline

Inquiry about helping to sponsor state meeting

Brad-

Contact speaker for social (Maggie Baines)

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
June 2, 2011
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

Attendance

Jeff Vasgaard
Becky Northcut
Jean McMeans
Art Arispe
Larry Calvert
Tom Hausler
Dixie Camp
Beth Ramey
Brad Krimmel
Richard Parrish

Not attending

Mary Arispe
Lee Ann Linam
Lin Weber

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

General Remarks, Jeff

Began with update about the recent planting at Blue Hole. 16 MNs were there and it was a very successful event. The landscape renovation of the site is very notable for its design and the native species. Jeff encouraged members to visit.

Capitol Area MNs will visit Jacob's Well Saturday, June 11. Highland Lakes MN chapter will visit June 17, starting at Jacob's Well and then having lunch at Blue Hole.

Project Report

Jeff has received requested report for Beth. More projects than realized, may be more difficult to assess than originally thought. Art summarized: 56 projects listed on webpage. On Beth's report, reflecting through April 1, there were 54 projects reporting, so almost all projects are reporting hours. However, distribution is very skewed. Top five projects account for 50 percent of the reported hours.

Training Committee	1650 hours
HCMN Admin	1182 hours
Jacob's Well	1096 hours

San Marcos Nature Center	786 hours
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance	507 hours

Top sixteen projects are 80 percent of the hours.

Discussion followed about the goal for assessing HCMN project activity. Dixie suggested asking project leaders for periodic reports. Jeff said he felt the goal was to figure out how to get more involvement out of people we had invested time in training, also just to find out more about what our projects were actually doing in the community. Jean noted there was a lack of projects in Dripping Springs and Kyle, with more being done in San Marcos. Jeff said he would like the Board to become better acquainted with all the projects by the end of the year but wasn't sure how we should do that. Dixie suggested starting by reading the description the project leaders had originally given when project was begun, then if we had questions or concerns, contacting the leaders. Becky suggested sending out inquiry asking for updates, and focusing on those whose leaders replied. Reply would be indication of how much the project mattered to those involved. Also, to review small projects and if Board felt they were deserving, fostering those and trying to grow them. Jeff said another concern was members aging and becoming less active. Board should make a point of trying to make sure members were aware of projects they might want to become involved in. Jean reminded members that this was an ongoing topic since the chapter had begun. Larry said many members were available, who if they knew more about a project, might want to work on it. Art suggested focusing on more projects in the newsletter. Jeff said if we did three or four each newsletter throughout the year, we'd get most of the active project. Discussion returned to highlighting projects at the upcoming social and how to choose which projects would be featured. Brad suggesting having map of Hays County with location of projects would be helpful for volunteers, include photos, project number and contact information for how to connect. It was agreed Board should send out request for photos and information to leaders and encourage them to attend Social to represent their projects. Art will develop questionnaire.

Membership analysis chart, Larry

Larry had continued to update the membership chart he had presented last year, and made a presentation of the updated chart to focus on level of member activity during that period. Represented dues paying members for last ten years.

Conclusions drawn from data on the chart:

- Common pattern for members to be active for year or two after taking training then they leave, stop paying dues. We should contact some of those people and try and find out why.
- 12-15 members who have been active since chapter started.
- Roughly half members on chart are no longer active.
- Chart will be a good tool to identify possible board members.

Extended discussion on how best to reach out to those who had paid dues but were no longer active. It was decided first step would be for Larry to make a list, focusing on last two or three years.

Summary of approaching deadlines for reports and other material requested by State office. (Michelle Haggerty's email.)

June 15 -2011 training info –but doesn't apply since we don't have fall training. Jean will contact to make sure

July 1-Handbook-Becky

July 10 –2nd quarter totals.

July 17-Volunteer service presentation State Meeting- Jeff –Blue Hole Planting or Butterfly Project.

Sept 1 – Advisor Nomination. Brad will go to website, get more info

Suggestion has been made to Jeff for chapter to help sponsor state meeting, possibly in light of recent budget cuts. Jeff is going to check with Michelle.

State allows one scholarship for State Meeting. Board should discuss and decide who should receive scholarship in August/September, or when State office starts sending us registration information.

Suggestion from Susan Nenney for HCMN to sponsor something with chapter name on it at Blue Hole.

Brief discussion, no vote taken but board agreed by acclamation against sponsorship of item at Blue Hole.

Summer Social August 27

Jean spoke to management at Ranch and confirmed okay to arrive earlier than originally planned.

Jean had question re chapter paying for all the meal at the social. Not reflected in minutes. Larry had already requested correction in minutes to reflect that he had suggested.

Approval of minutes

Brad moved to approve minutes, as corrected. Beth seconded

Summer Social, continued

Food will be purchased from Miss Mae's. Food, plates, utensils, etc will be ready to be picked up ahead of time. Jean will talk to Miss Mae's come back with menu. Estimating 80-100 people. Ask for RSVP on the mail out for the Social. Becky will draft mail out and RSVP.

RSVPS will be returned to Jean.

Brad will find interesting speaker for the Social, will serve as Chapter. Dixie suggested

Maggie Baines, oceanographer with presentation about the Gulf, one year after the oil spill. Had spoken recently at the Lions Club. Dixie has already checked, it should qualify for advanced training.

General discussion about problems with reporting advanced training. People may interpret hours different than credit given. Beth wants to include definite hours during the mail out ahead of time. Larry suggested Beth sends out report in August to let people know their totals in plenty of time to make up.

Schedule for Social

Meet and greet, coffee

Remarks from Jeff

Recognize project leaders first

Presentation

Lunch

After lunch, talk to project leaders, sign up

Chapter meeting update, Brad

This month's speaker, Bill Carr from Nature Conservancy. Location uncertain at time.

Art mentioned light in Dripping Springs church too bright this time of year.

Meeting will probably be in San Marcos, June and July.

Budget

Larry received no questions about the budget. No issues to discuss.

Membership directory

Larry has been asked if chapter has a membership directory. Linda does one for class each year, wouldn't be that difficult to make a larger one. Can take pictures at chapter meetings. Can print at AgriLife office. One more way to get people interacting with each other. Should take a couple of months, distribute at the Gala. Members can opt out.

Becky suggested providing in digital format for those who want.

Board agreed by voting to proceed with the project, then discussed distribution. Linda will assemble prototype with what she has on hand so members can look at it.

Extension

Richard requests check for background checks - \$40. Discussion about cards coming out. Some members have received cards, other have not. Jeff suggested mail to membership telling them to contact Richard if they haven't received card yet.

Saturday June 11, free Hays County Conservation Expo in Wimberley with free food. Richard says 100 have already RSVPd.

Becky, motion to adjourn. Brad second. Meeting adjourned 8:26 p.m.