

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2011
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

ATTENDING

Jeff Vasgaard
Brad Kimmel
Larry Calvert
Jean McMeans
Lin Weber
Dixie Camp
Becky Northcut
Lee Ann Linam
Richard Parrish

NOT ATTENDING

Beth Ramey
Art Arizpe
Mary Arizpe
Cathy Delwiche

Minutes:

Larry had sent correction via email about the email voting. Becky had made that correction as well as correcting name for Ann Rolling. Larry made motion to accept as modified. Jean seconded.

Treasurer:

Larry: got no comments on budget but wanted to note Outreach expenses for month for refreshments for the Firewise event. When invoiced, that will come back out. Larry will note when that happens.

Larry said we are now at 101 paid. members.

Board action needed: fee for background check \$770.77 at \$10 to reimburse Agrilife. Richard said 34 were students, 43 were members.

Larry asked for clarification about paying for students. Jean explained we had collected the cost in their tuition but had not yet paid for them. Richard said payment had been made from another account, it was a matter of reimbursing the "super account." Jeff asked if anyone had declined, Richard said not that he was aware of. Jean made motion for Larry to pay fees for background checks. Becky seconded

Jean said she needed check for field trip to Canyon Gorge. Has to be check, but it will come back to us, it's a pass through expense. Will need check from Larry before March 20. No need for action item.

Secretary

Becky still has not gotten all past minutes to Herb for website.

Becky asked if it was okay with board to set up a Dropbox web-based storage account. Jeff said might be good place for other items, like a contact list. No one had any objections. Becky will do so and bring password and login info to Board.

Past President:

No items.

TPWD:

Lee Ann: not much new info, state still in midst of budget negotiations. No news from meeting that day yet but House Committee more receptive to giving Parks & Wildlife or to come back with choices where to make the cuts, also to even it out over the two years so cuts don't have to be front loaded.

Extension:

Richard: "We are going to take a hit as well." Extension meeting Monday to talk about cost recovery strategies, not sure what programs it might effect yet, don't know how it might hit Naturalists. House and Senate budgets have slightly different figures. Extension trying to minimize loss of personnel so they can maintain presence. Cost recovery won't make up budget deficit but will help keep up program capacity.

Lee Ann mentioned at Federal level, House had zeroed out money for State Wildlife Grants. Jeff asked that if on that note, did the board want send the recent mailing by Michelle out to the membership, strictly for information to private citizens, as explained in the mail out. Becky will forward Michelle's email of the previous week to the membership.

Richard: Saturday March 5, Issues Identification Forum community at Wimberley VFW, 9-11. No need for HCMN to publicize.

Membership:

Beth not present

Advanced Training:

Mary not present

Newsletter:

Art not present

Training Committee:

Lin: Classes rolling along but had to cancel second class. Carter Keairns was ill.

Next class is March 8th, Ecological Regions. Beth and Art will be there, in Dripping Springs. Discussion about Jeff attending class on March 29 (Archaeology and Birds), also in Dripping Spring. Jeff will attend.

Outreach:

Jean said Outreach meeting previous night was good. Change volunteer hour reporting form to indicate the number of people volunteers impact as they volunteered. Jeff asked if we need to formalize it. Discussion about changing the form, which would likely be possible but issue might be whether Beth's database can extract it. More discussion about alternatives. No decision made.

Jean: Speakers Bureau still work in progress. Other outreach possibilities: HOAs, workshops in library, front of Brookshires.

Jeff: (about the Outreach meeting) All these active members, how do we get more people involved? What about contacting inactive folks? Maybe a BBQ or invite them to a workday.

Also, another idea from Outreach meeting was having a second social event, where Volunteer Project Leaders could give brief presentation on projects needing volunteers. Spring Fling? Jeff wanted to put these on the agenda for next time.

Larry: Reminder: "Dues-Paying" doesn't necessarily mean "active."

As opposed to presentations, could have projects at different tables, people could visit the ones they were interested in, would save time. Snacks and drinks, networking.

Time running out for a spring date. Jeff asked that everyone come to next meeting with specific ideas. Extended discussion, arrived at Sunday afternoon, June 5th target, at Wimberley Community or in San Marcos. To whole membership, with focus on less active, and highlight volunteer projects.

Becky will send reminder to Board.

Other agenda items:

Webpage calendar:

Jeff had sent Charles a thank you note, he will keep going till March put our own stuff. No one else in line to take over. Jeff suggests people put their own items on the web calendar, divide up duties between Board. Need to discuss what goes on the calendar, strictly Master Naturalist, or other community events. It would be a big responsibility. Jeff suggested going to try to enter Board meetings to see how difficult, Jean and Lin do training?

Becky asked what the purpose is? There was a discussion about usability of the calendar. Whether there was a point of doing it. Becky brought up Facebook page again. Larry pointed out not everyone on Facebook. Dixie said can't just be on one medium. Becky suggested Herb send us page hit data on the calendar page.

Jeff will ask Herb.

Brad asked if Jeff had spoken with Tom Hausler about the calendar duties. Jeff had spoken to Tom but felt he was interested in more hands-on activities. He is going to help with fence building.

Master Naturalist logo and usage:

Issue had come in relation to Emily Ann Theater event. After Michelle had approved, Jeff had sent logo as prescribed by the State guidance. He wanted to share what he had learned about logo usage with the board. Okay for chapter to use as they want for events as long as it follows State guidelines, but nothing can be sold. If 3rd part is involved, chapter must seek permission.

Sponsorship of the photo contest:

Art not present but Jeff wanted to bring up the sponsorship. Chapter will donate money that will be used for prizes. Becky asked about whether contest had its own website. Board in agreement it was good opportunity. Request is for 300 to co-sponsor event, sponsor award for one category, outreach opportunities at award event. Larry said he had spoken to Winifred and we could limit our involvement as we felt necessary, or were able.

Motion to donate the \$300. Larry, motion, Jean seconded. Jeff asked Jean to put this on the Outreach agenda.

Problems with email addresses:

Jeff will resend the contact list spreadsheet so we can update our individual addresses and have a current list.

Shield Ranch:

essentially Ranch is looking for labor. It is not on the project list. Jean and Dixie brought up last year request from them. Won't count for volunteer work- it's mostly watching kids. More of Wimberley Outdoor Educator project. Not a volunteer project, general consensus not to participate.

Green Living Showcase in San Marcos on March 26th:

HCMN has been invited to participate. It is a trade show. Richard had info. HCMN will not participate.

Jacob's Well Community Garden:

land leased to them by WVWA. Jeff attended their meeting, had been asked if HCMN want to sponsor a project. Not unless it is Naturalist-related or has to do with habitat restoration.

Jeff brought up question that had arisen from incident at JWNA regarding use of barbwire and whether it was adverse to wildlife? Extended discussion re guidelines about proper construction of barbwire fence.

Brad: Next chapter meeting is 6:30 p.m., March 24 in Wimberley, with Charles Irvine on Whooping Cranes.

Motion to adjourn? Becky motion, Larry second. Meeting adjourned 8:06.