

Hays County Master Naturalists

Board Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2013

Camp Jacob, Wimberley

In attendance:

Ben Adair, Membership
Helen Bowie, Host Committee
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent
Lee Ann Linam, TPWD Representative
Lin Weber, Training
Leah Laszewski, Outreach
Larry Calvert, Past President
Art Arizpe, President
Karen Archer, VP
Tom Hausler, Volunteer Service Projects
Dixie Camp, State Representative
Tracy Mock, Secretary
Herb Smith, Webmaster

Not Present:

Beth Ramey, Treasurer
Kim Ort, Advanced Training
Charles Maxcy, Historian
Lisa Kay, Newsletter

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm

The March board meeting minutes were reviewed. Lin made a motion to approve the minutes, Karen seconded. The motion for approval of the minutes passed.

Action items from the March board meeting were reviewed & discussed.

Announcements – Per Dixie, there has been some interest expressed in the project presented by Delbert Bassett regarding documentation of historically significant trees in our area.

Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed MUD encompassing the 5,000 (formerly O’Quinn) ranch which includes the area known as Little Arkansas. Conversation about whether or not we should move the Chapter meeting since it conflicts with a recently scheduled community meeting regarding the impact of this proposed MUD. It was decided that it would be best to move the chapter meeting as long as the speaker and the location can accommodate our change. **ACTION: Karen will make the phone calls & let us know.**

Board Calendar - A new format of the Board calendar for the website was previewed by Beth Ramey at the March meeting. It is in Excel with various ways to filter information. A discussion followed of how to “share” the document. Rather than put a static document on the website, perhaps Google document sharing since it is a dynamic document. **ACTION: Ben & Art - Determine a way to share dynamic Excel document.**

V.P Report – Per Karen - The April Chapter Meeting is scheduled for April 25th at White Wings. The speaker is Cynthia Cassidy who will talk about Night Skies. The May Chapter Meeting will be on May 19th – two tours of The Cave Without A Name. An announcement will go out soon. The June Chapter Meeting is currently being planned, possibly about snakes. Karen is going to get in touch with Tim with Austin Reptile Services (who normally charge \$150), or possibly David Wormer. Location to be determined, maybe the SM Extension Office.

Secretary – Tracy **ACTION #1 Please review the email group for “Board Members” because Richard & Lee Ann are not getting some of the emails. (Done)** **ACTION #2: Please let Charles know there is a box of historical files & information to pick up that Richard uncovered when cleaning out a storage room. (Done)**

Treasurer – Beth (not present), but she reported to Art that the tax return has been submitted.

AgriLife Agent – Richard and Beth worked together for the Audit, which was fine. There will be well water testing done next week.

TP&WD Representative – Lee Ann reports there will be amphibian monitoring starting soon at Jacob’s Well and it counts for Advanced Training.

Training Committee – Lin reports the 1st site visit went very well. Also asked if MN is supposed to pay AgriLife a program fee as a partial cost recovery. Richard says he thinks that requirement went away. **ACTION #1: Richard will confirm whether we need to reimburse AgriLife.** **ACTION #2: Lin to send Ben trainee demographic report.**

Advanced Training – Kim (not present) reported to Art there was a total of 53 hours of advanced training opportunities in the month of April.

Membership – Ben reports so far that 73 volunteers performed a total of 2,240 hours with 264.65 hours of travel have been reported so far this year. 65 members have reported a total of 298.5 advanced training hours. The reports are ready. **ACTION #1: Ben will send the reports to Art, Beth & Michelle, and an Active Members list to Richard Parrish.** **ACTION #2: Ben & Herb will take discussion & testing offline regarding website reporting enhancements** (Note: Look at Becky’s notes from before with suggestions for what to improve on website).

Webmaster – Herb reviewed website analytics report which was interesting. We will probably stay with the current hosting set-up. We talked about updating the website. **ACTION: Will there be a site survey and/or focus group regarding website enhancement?**

Outreach – Leah ordered 500 new business cards to hand out. The new rain simulator is great. We need more back up presenters for different talks. The speaker list is available to print from the website. There are currently 10 topics. Leah is also scheduled to give a presentation to a group of realtors on April 24th at the Hays Co. Justice Center. AgriLife is hosting the event.

Volunteer Services – Tom reports there is a new project regarding the San Marcos watershed protection plan.

Calendar – Tom reports that the online calendars are basically self-sufficient as they are being updated by various committee chairs.

Herb made a motion the meeting adjourn and Tom seconded. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm