

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
June 7, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Beth Ramey
Lin Weber
Art Arizpe
Leah Laszewski
Dixie Camp
Richard Parrish
Herb Smith
Jeff Vasgaard
Eva Gomez
Tom Hausler

Not present:

Becky Northcut
Helen Bowie
Charles Maxcy
Lee Ann Linam

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

Action items associated with the previous month's meeting were reviewed. The following action items are still open:

Becky Northcut agreed to send Chris Middleton an e-mail regarding a blanket permission for Waterlands training and to also send an e-mail to the program director, Amanda Ross, asking her to provide more notice.

Beth Ramey agreed to follow up with the Host Committee to ensure they had submitted all receipts for food provided for various chapter activities.

Lee Ann Linam agreed to write something up in the newsletter on the inventory activities at Bamberger Ranch.

Anne Child moved to approve the May minutes and Leah Laszewski seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Larry Calvert reported that he had contacted both the Alamo and Capital area Master Naturalist groups both of whom use Michelle Haggerty's liability waiver. It was agreed the existing waiver would be used for the upcoming site visit. But after discussions of the shortcomings of the waiver, the board agreed there is a need for a waiver that better protects all parties involved in our various activities. Lin Weber suggested the need to have something ready before the start of the 2013 training class.

Lin Weber agreed to send the board the document her husband Andrew had prepared. Board members will be asked to provide comments and approval of the resultant document will be on the agenda for the July board meeting.

Larry Calvert and Beth Ramey jointly suggested the need for a board calendar and after some discussion it was agreed to begin compiling the items that needed to be included.

The whole board was asked to think about their particular role and provide Larry Calvert via e-mail with dates that should be reflected on the proposed board calendar and Larry agreed to consolidate the information.

Larry Calvert nominated Lin Weber to head next year's training committee. Herb Smith made a motion to accept Larry's nomination and Beth Ramey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne Child reported that there were 36 attendees at the last chapter meeting. She also reported that a grant prepared by M. Lee Brown for a bird blind at Charro Ranch had been accepted. The August 18th social which has been moved to the Wimberley Community Center was also discussed. Leah Laszewski reported that she and Lin Weber are working on a take home quiz for the social with answers provided on the Hays Master Naturalist website.

Eva Gomez agreed to work with Helen Bowie to come up with two or three bid options in the \$12 range that included a vegetarian option. The recommendation will be sent to the rest of the board via e-mail for approval at the July board meeting.

Chris Middleton requested permission to send out the June Chapter Meeting notice on June 19th (two days early) so the task can be completed before her vacation. She also reported that she miss the August and September board meetings. Lin Weber agreed to take the meeting notes for the August meeting and Anne Child will cover the September meeting.

Beth Ramey provided the May budget report. She also reported that she plans to send out an electronic copy of the asset report one last time before declaring it official.

Dixie Camp who is the new state representative for the Hays Master Naturalist chapter discussed plans for the annual state meeting in Navasota and asked for suggestions on what part the Hays Master Naturalist chapter might want to play.

Dixie Camp agreed to prepare a notice to be sent out to the membership asking for input regarding how the Hays County Master Naturalist might want to participate.

Lin Weber reported that six of the 12 classes had been completed and that four trainees will not complete their training this year due to various personal reasons. Lin also discussed the current situation at Aquarena Springs and made a motion that we contribute \$500 to help get them through the summer. Herb Smith seconded the motion and the proposed contribution was unanimously approved.

Lin also distributed the recommendations for projectors, laptops, and projection screens that had been prepared by the "technology team" consisting of Ashley Whittenberg, Bob Curry, and Dick McBride. The team provided two options for each piece of equipment and there was some discussion of the pros and cons of each potential choice.

Lin agreed to provide the feedback from the meeting to the technology team and ask them to come back with a recommendation to be approved by the board at the next meeting.

Once the purchase has been approved, Beth Ramey agreed to order the approved items.

Beth Ramey reported that to date 749.5 advanced training hours and 4,102 volunteer hours have been reported. She also discussed the results of the test of the new state system for reporting hours and some of the feedback provided to Michelle Haggerty. Many of the issues stem from the fact that a generalized system designed to serve everyone at Texas Parks and Wildlife does not appear to adequately align with the needs of the Master Naturalist organization.

Herb Smith reported that he had participated in the Wordpress training on May 10th despite communications difficulties. He later spoke to Diann Mitchell, AgriLife's Web Communications Specialist and felt he had enough information to proceed. He said AgriLife Communications will transfer the existing Hays Master Naturalist site to the new template which works on mobile devices as well as traditional computers. Herb recommended approval for use of the Wordpress template and permission to move forward with transferring our site as soon as AgriLife has the opportunity. He further suggested we needed to continue planning and prioritizing changes we want to make before and after going public with the new template. This

resulted in some discussion of incorporating more public outreach into the new site. Beth Ramey moved that we go ahead with plans to move the website. Tom Hausler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Art Arizpe thanked everyone who contributed to the newsletter and commented that the June newsletter had more content than usual because he is getting lots of help.

Leah Laszewski reported that Merry Bateman has developed individualized flyers for each of the library representatives. She also said that work on the Speaker's Bureau is progressing and that Jackie Mattice had two talks lined up.

Planning for the 4th of July parade was also discussed briefly including plans to hand out book markers with 10 water saving tips on the back.

Charles Maxcy reported through Larry Calvert that plans are still in place to begin interviewing members of the first Master Naturalist class.

There was some discussion of a recent problem involving fund raising for a non-profit reported as volunteer hours. The source of the problem was that the project information on the website did not have a project leader listed.

Art Arizpe agreed to put in his name as contact for all projects without a project leader.

The new calendars were discussed and it was agreed that for volunteer projects each project leader would need to enter their own events and that for advanced training, Becky Northcut would send cc: to both Tom Hausler and Beth Ramey when she sends Chris Middleton an e-mail announcing a new advanced training opportunity.

Larry Calvert will contact Becky Northcut who was absent from the meeting regarding the new procedure.

Richard Parrish reported that all of the current trainees had passed the state screening.

Leah Laszewski moved to adjourn the meeting and Lin Weber seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.