

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
November 1, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Beth Ramey
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Lin Weber
Art Arizpe
Leah Laszewski
Dixie Camp
Helen Bowie
Charles Maxcy
Vicky Maxcy
Lee Ann Linam
Jeff Vasgaard
Kim Ort
Casey Watson – guest
Stephany Futch - guest

Not present:

Richard Parrish
Herb Smith
Eva Gomez
Tom Hausler

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

The action items from the August minutes were reviewed and the following action items were carried over.

Action Item: Jeff will send a copy of Jackie Mattice's memo regarding the Jacob's Well transition to the board.

Action Item: Art Arizpe agreed to remind project coordinators that they should use bcc: in communicating with people about their projects.

Action Item: Beth Ramey agreed to put a little blurb in the training manual for project coordinators when it is updated in January.

Action Item: Lance Jones agreed to do this year's slide show. Art Arizpe agreed to provide the Naturescapes pictures for the slide show.

Helen Bowie moved to approve the minutes as amended and Lin Weber seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The proposed board calendar was reviewed and amended. It was agreed the calendar would be put in the handbook, but not directly displayed on the website.

It was agreed there would be a board meeting in December involving both the old and the new board members. Among topics to be discussed would be who was doing what for the 2012 annual report.

Ann Childs discussed how she came up with topics for this year's chapter meetings and asked for input on how things went. She promised to sift through what she did and make suggestions for topics for next year.

Christine Middleton discussed a suggestion made by Steve Janda that the Hays Master Naturalist Chapter should have a trip exchange with the MidCoast Chapter.

Action Item : Someone on the next board should make contact with the Mid-Coast Master Naturalist Chapter to explore the possibility of a trip exchange.

Christine Middleton also requested approval for the on-line version of the Texas Watershed Steward Workshop she had attended in October.

Action Item: Kim Ort agreed to look at the on-line version and approve as appropriate.

Beth Ramey discussed the budget and the annual audit results. She said everything was in good shape and well organized. She offered the following suggestions:

- The deposit record form should be revised to show two sections, one for cash and one for checks.
- In noting the source of cash, it would be useful to include the names of the person or persons providing the cash.
- In cases where the details provided by the person submitting a payment request are sketchy, it would be useful for the Treasurer to add notes to further explain the expenditure.

The audit was then accepted.

Action Item – Lee Ann Linam agreed to provide the necessary documentation to show that the 2012 audit had been done.

Jeff Vasgaard discussed the fact that the Master Naturalists are taking over some of the education activities at Jacob's Well. It was suggested that Jackie Mattice be asked to present at one of the first three training classes next year in order to ensure a sufficient number of volunteers. Jeff also again mentioned the possibility of the Master Naturalists taking over the Jacob's Well tours and asked if could possibly be done as part of the Outreach program.

Dixie Camp reported that the state conference had been a great success and said 9 members from our chapter were in attendance and 2 did presentations. She also mentioned that next year's conference will be at T-Bar-M in New Braunfels. She also talked about the Rainwater Revival in Boerne and reported that the nominating committee was "moving along."

Lin Weber reported that this year's classes were completed and assuming all make-up work is completed there will be 29 graduates. In terms of hours, 16 have enough hours to certify and 5 or 6 are "close." She also said the new training committee would include the following new people.

Jean McMeans – Assistant Coordinator
Connie Bolts – Attendance/Registration
Judy Elliot/Don Wallace – Site Visits
Kate Jordon/Blaine Nelson – Food

In addition to herself she said the following people would remain on the committee:

Jean Richmond – Attendance/Registration
Helene Kenard – Secretary
Steve Janda – Speaker Contact
Dick McBride – Videographer
David Womer – Nature Watch

Kim Ort reported that 18 hours of advanced training had been approved in October.

There was some discussion of putting articles written for the newsletter into a form that could be submitted to local papers.

Leah Laszewski said that the library outreach has been "cranking up" and that the speaker's bureau was growing. She plans to call a meeting of the outreach committee in December.

The possibility of "Specialist Training," something some of the chapters in the state are doing, was brought up. It was agreed that this is something the new board needs to consider.

Action Item: The new board should discuss the possibility of Specialist Training, possibly in the area of water.

It was also agreed that there would be a meeting in December involving the old and new boards. One topic for the meeting will be a discussion of 2013 goals for the chapter.

Art Arizpe mentioned that 2 new projects had been approved bringing the total for the year to 4 new projects.

Plans for the upcoming Gala were discussed. Dixie Camp said she is working on the plants, Lin Weber said the decorations are coming along and Larry Calvert reported that Linda Calvert is working on the printed programs. Lance Jones has agreed to put together the slide show. Helen Bowie said that to date, 81 people were registered for the Gala. She also discussed the food. Christine Middleton made a motion to give Helen permission to sign a contract with Carrino's. Leah Laszewski seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. It was also suggested that as part of the welcome, something should be done to honor the two Master Naturalists who died this year, Charles O'Dell and Sandy Lucas.

Action Item: Christine Middleton will contact the spouses of both Charles O'Dell and Sandy Lucas to invite them to the upcoming Gala.

Beth Ramey moved to adjourn the meeting and Lin Weber seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.