

TMN – COT

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Conference Room – AgriLife Building

Attendees: Ed Johnson, John Battle, Dave Brandes, Gerald Forrest, Mary Helen Israel, Carolyn Schlein, Jerry Eppner, Sandy Henderson, Neal McLean, Jerry Krampota, Corrie Bowen, Stephanie Taylor, Laura Brandes, Connie Stolte, Justina Dent

Dave Brandes called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Sponsor and Administrative Assistance Status

Corrie Bowen, County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources, introduced the new Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Taylor, who is to work under the Horticulture Agent and the Marine Agent. The Marine Agent position, however, is still vacant and Corrie explained that filling that position is still uncertain. Stephanie will be the responsible person for assisting TMN, and should be called upon when help is needed. Paula Craig is another person who may be called upon for assistance.

Corrie stated their desire to continue the relationship with TMN and how especially important are the TMN contacts, volunteer hours and training hours submitted to state.

Corrie explained that Texas governor has just put into action a previously submitted plan intended to save 5% on the state budget. There are 516 extension staff in 254 counties and since personnel represents 92% of the extension budget, loss of personnel positions is likely. The budget cuts are due August 31, 2010. Corrie felt some good news along with the budget restrictions is that a flexible hiring freeze has been recommended .

Action Register

1. Announce Carl Dodson's resignation from TMN-COT
2. Update contacts list for state
3. Get Camp Mohawk Date

Dave will be responsible for and take care of all of these.

Volunteer Fair, Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The booth charge would be twenty dollars and would be in the mall near Penney's. No new members resulted from the booth last year but there was interest in continuing again this year. A motion was made, seconded and passed to participate. The TMN sign-up form needs to be updated and Laura Brandes volunteered to update the form. Justina Dent volunteered to coordinate the volunteer booth.

President's Volunteer Service Award for Jim Renfro and Phil Huxford

The plan was made to award both at the same time at Migration Celebration. The presentation time is to be determined and announced at Migration Celebration.

Distribution List Use

There was discussion regarding improper use of the list and the need to be sure everyone understands to not use the list for any outside purpose. It was decided to not take any further action at this time.

Also, the communications to general members is not always intended for interns and we need to help interns understand that their requirements should come from the Training Director only.

Removing A Chapter Officer

The state by-laws have a removal procedure, but this has not been adopted into our chapter policies. The decision was made to not take any further action on this matter at this time.

Camp Mohawk and Coordinator
May 15, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

David Brandes presented an activity agenda that he had received from Richard Hurd , Director, Brazoria County Parks Department. It was noted that twenty-two people are travelling to Matagorda Island that day, resulting in fewer available volunteers. Potential coordinators were discussed. Supplies such as printed literature and extra shirts are in the COT storage room. It was decided that TMN would take on the project again this year and Dave Brandes would take responsibility for making it happen and lining up the coordination and so forth.

Environmental Education Committee

Laura Brandes presented a very comprehensive list of suggestions to be considered by a proposed new Education Committee. John Battle suggested that once this committee is set up the committee could develop the goals and guidelines to best serve the purposes of the TMN-COT in serving its volunteer education efforts.

It was agreed to pursue something such as an Education Committee. The decision was made that President Dave Brandes will set up a date and time for all members involved in education to meet and discuss how best to go about setting up something of this nature.

Board Roundtable and Committee Reports:

Jr. Master Naturalist Passport - Migration Celebration

This activity has been added to Migration Celebration.

Freeport Fishing Fiesta, June 30 – July 4

Announcement reminder was made.

Training Director:

Laura Brandes reported that eleven interns are active, five of them being new, and some will be awarded certification next general meeting. She plans to teach the state introduction courses prior to the summer and to encourage resumption of other training classes in the fall after the summer hiatus.

Volunteer Time

Gerald Forrest presented a request from Jim Renfro regarding an archaeological dig in East Texas and it was approved.

Newsletter

Mary Helen Israel note the Friday, April 9th deadline for Newsletter submittals.

Vice President's Report:

Programs: Carolyn Schlein noted that the program scheduled for August by Dr. Landry has been called off by Dr. Landry. She will pursue a new program. She has heard from Barron Rector and has asked him about his availability for August, January or February and is waiting to hear back from him.

This month's program is two parts, "Animals In the Environment" by Sheree Etie and "Birds of Prey" by Steve Hoddy and Phil Huxford.

A reminder was made that the May General Meeting and Advanced Training program will be held at the Brazosport Planetarium at The Center for the Arts and Sciences in Clute.

Shrimp Boil: The date is Sunday, April 25th and the price of \$8.00 has been communicated. Money is being collected by Carolyn and must be turned in by the upcoming general meeting.

Membership Chairman:

Jerry Eppner reported over 1,600 volunteer hours for 2010. So far eighteen members have submitted 2010 time sheets.

Connie Stolte, Texas Sea Center Visitor Manager, TPWD:

Connie made a special request regarding the fact that she needs more Sea Center Tour Guides. The Sea Center has an excellent training program. They may serve either in the a.m. or p.m. The morning volunteer time is normally 9-12:00 and the afternoon time is normally 12:30-4:00 and may be scheduled once per week or once every other week.

Sign Up Sheets for the General Meeting:

Dave Brandes will prepare the sign up sheets for Migration Celebration booth, Volunteer Fair Booth, Sea Center Tour Guides.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.