

TMN – COT

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Conference Room – AgriLife Building

Attendees: Ed Johnson, Jerry Eppner, Mary Helen Israel, Neal McLain, John Battle, Jerry Krampota, Carolyn Schlein, Ed Barrios.

Carolyn Schlein called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
(Dave Brandes , President, is with Laura for her surgery.)

Safety or Naturalist Culture Moment

Jerry Eppner related observing two killdeer on parking lot at Sea Center Texas and the finding of their nest with two eggs in it.

Ed Barrios told of the previous week's class at INEOS in which an Assassin Bug was observed molting and then the legs slowly changing from light to darker color.

Jerry Krampota had observed a possible flock of approximately 50 Wood Storks.

Carolyn Schlein told of finding an unusual looking dead bird on turtle patrol.

Review Action Register

Dave Brandes has contacted ConocoPhillips May 3rd; they responded with interest in the TMN suggestion Dave had communicated and were to let Dave know for further action, but Dave has not heard back from them after that.

Background Check Update

BISD sent a note to Paula Craig about the requirement every three years of a Background Check for Volunteers. The discussion also included similar USFWS requirements and what, if any, other organizations, may have such requirements. Ed Barrios will check with Dave Brandes to see who is going to follow up on this matter with BISD Human Resources

Students Served Report, 2009-2010 School Year

Dave Brandes issued a report on the number of students served at DEEP at Brazoria NWR and included a session at San Bernard NWR. Copies were distributed at the meeting.

Environmental Education Committee

John Battle reported on the progress of the Environmental Education Committee. An action plan is in progress which will include a Project Planning Workshop for goals such as standardizing modules, developing a marketing plan, roles and responsibilities for TMN clients, module maintenance, docent training and setting up an ongoing committee. The core team will meet again in early July.

New State Reporting Requirement

Jerry Eppner related that state TMN coordinator, Michelle Haggerty, wants the chapters to report volunteer activity on a quarterly basis. This is related to the state funding. Jerry received approval to submit a rolling quarterly report or “year-to-date” report of the hours he has on record each quarter. Michelle accepted the chapter’s system, in fact, was congratulatory and described it as being ahead of most other chapters.

Membership Update: Jerry noted that Ann McLain has asked to be removed from the chapter; Steve Stoops has resigned; Rik Martinez has transferred to Lost Pines chapter near Bastrop because his family is moving there shortly.

Coastal Expo/Fishing Fiesta

Justina Dent and Ruby Lewis are leading this activity; no further preparation is needed.

New Action Items

Neal McLain advised the Board that the TMN State office has notified all TMN chapters that the TAMU Agriculture Program plans to migrate all AgriLife websites to wordpress.com, a web hosting company that offers hosting accounts similar to grovesite.com but at a considerably lower cost (free). McLain advised the Board that this change will force us to change our web address, and that this might be an opportunity to obtain our own domain name. After reviewing several suggested domain names, the Board selected <http://tmn-cot.org>. Ed Barrios made a motion to adopt that as the new name, Ed Johnson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Ed Barrios will contact Dave Brandes about the any action needed regarding the BISD background check requirements.

The motion was made and passed to accept the previous Board Meeting Minutes.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.