

TMN – COT

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Conference Room – AgriLife Building

Attendees: Ed Johnson, Sandy Henderson, Jerry Eppner, Justina Dent, Mary Helen Israel, John Battle, Neal McLain, Ruby Lewis, Laura Brandes, David Brandes, Carolyn Schlein, Ed Barrios.

Background Check Update

President Dave reported that all new TMN members get a background check form in their new member packet that must be signed and turned in. These are sent to BISS to execute the check. Brazosport ISD renews the background checks every year for those on file. They notify AgriLife only if a red flag shows up on a background check or recheck.

INEOS Coordinator

There is a need to get a coordinator in place. Dave will review some potential candidates and try to identify a qualified and interested individual.

TMN State Annual Meeting

The opportunity for the COT chapter to make a presentation to the other chapters was discussed focusing on what would be an appropriate topic. Various topics were considered, such as the new flexible intern training program and the county library programs.

Laura volunteered to present a session at the state meeting on our chapter's flexible training program.

No project was selected for a chapter project board.

Website

Neal discussed how AgriLife is moving all websites to WordPress. Since the host site is changing, he registered the domain name “tmn-cot.org” which will remain the same in the future as web hosts change. The State TMN Office has scheduled WordPress training on the sixteenth. The companion “tmn-cot.com” site has also been registered. Neal suggested that the Board consider the use of vanity email addresses (e.g. president@tmn-cot.org). The board chose not to purchase the companion email addresses for the organization. The charges for the registrations will need to be added to the budget.

Training Director

Laura reported that there are six interns continuing from 2009, with one about to certify and five roughly half way through.

In the last several weeks sixteen people have contacted TMN and all have been given packets of information.

Orientation Training is scheduled on July 17th at the Brandes home and all interns are invited. Orientation instruction classes have been being scheduled twice a year.

Laura would like to develop an evaluation questionnaire for instructors and interns in order to continue to improve the program.

Advanced Training

Ed Barrios suggested the possibility of inviting Thomas Adams, a USFWS botanist, to present an Advanced Training program. Ed will submit information for consideration to Carolyn Schlein, Vice President.

Support for TNC's efforts to purchase Nash Prairie

Neal and his wife have sent a personal letter to the Texas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in support of TNC's efforts to purchase land commonly known as Nash Prairie. He suggested a letter of support from the chapter.

Dave said that he will send a letter.

Quarterly Board Meetings at Sea Center

Ed Johnson noted that we haven't yet held a board meeting at Sea Center Texas as we had voted to do. Dave will contact Sea Center Texas and arrange a schedule for two meetings there this year if possible.

Vice President

Carolyn Schlein noted that Kathy Adams Clark and Gary Clark are presenting the program "Butterflies of the Upper Texas Coast and How to Attract Them" at this July 14th member meeting.

Environmental Education Committee

John Battle noted the need now for a Project Plan Agreement. Imminent action is to review the already existing DEEP basic content; assign module owners to review and update existing modules; develop a system and process for annual review. Mary Helen passed along to Dave the notebook from ConocoPhillips which contained the outline resources and possible instructors for each grade level for the ConocoPhillips Environmental Education program. Ruby Lewis has the content for the library programs.

The committee will be meeting again after the member meeting on the 14th.

Migration Celebration

Ed barrios reported that the planning for next year is to separate the dinner from the actual Migration Celebration weekend which will allow more emphasis and energy to be applied to each separate activity.

Membership Chairman

Jerry Eppner said that he is getting regular time sheet submissions from some 30 or 40 people but he is not getting very many other members' submissions. So far the chapter total volunteer hours through June are about 4,800 for this year. One may compare this to the 2009 total of 11,000 hours.

Member Meeting Snack Time

Justina suggested using an igloo of water and paper cups at meetings instead of bottled water. It was suggested that prices of an igloo and paper cups be obtained in order to consider using these at member meetings and for classes when appropriate.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.