

## **October 2015-**

Revised Minutes incorporate corrections and additions submitted.

### FOB Board Meeting Minutes 10/21/15

Attendees- Dub Lyon, Pat Wilkinson, Gary Caylor, Lynette Holtz, Joan Mukherjee, Bill Carr; FWS- David Maple Guests: Jim Nosler, Fred Zagst, Jane Brunclik,, Ruth Lyon

September Board Minutes approved with one change (change Johnstown to Jonestown)

Pat presented partial financial report, after discussion it was agreed that full report would be approved on-line.

Refuge Report: David reported that there has been a lot of activity since the last Board Meeting. National Public Lands Day included trail maintenance and visits to Peaceful Springs and the Simons Tract which included identification of a number of caves on the property.

Refuge Week attracted over 100 visitors including lots of young kids, Cindy and Dominique have given 3 local schools and a library Monarch caterpillars to raise and the children are very enthusiastic about this and have given the caterpillars names. When caterpillars become butterflies they will be tagged before release.

The fire crew has been busy with controlled burn around the HQ and training of local volunteer crews. The burned area west of the Songbird parking field will be recovered and form extension of the Pollinator Garden.

Met with local landowners at Hill Country Conservancy meeting in Oatmeal, found some interested in Conservation Easements.

Native Plant Society visited the Refuge and Cedar Stump Ranch this week and the visit led by Chuck Sexton and Joan Mukherjee went well.

A group of spelunkers are doing survey of caves on the Refuge and will later explore and map some of them.

Texas Master Naturalist's next meeting will be at the Refuge.

The dates for the Big Game Hunts will be weekends of November 13 and 20 and December 4 and 11.

Refuge will have to close on December 11 when current budget lapses unless Congress enacts new funding.

Refuge staff is currently marking boundary of Warbler Vista to address adjoining landowners concerns.

The proposal from Jim Nosler to provide Friends with Grant Writing Services and the accompanying fees was discussed. The aim being to build up funds for Peaceful Springs. Jim identified the Meadows Foundation as possible low hanging fruit for this year. A motion to table the proposal was raised and seconded. Motion was voted down after discussion. After more discussion another motion was raised and seconded to continue activity and identify in budget with upper limit of \$2000. Motion was amended to state focus will be on grants and monies for Peaceful Springs. Motion passed. If more monies are needed Jim will approach Board with Pat being the focal point for discussions.

Fund Raising Committee: Dub announced that Sharon was resigning as Chair of Committee. New Chair will be Joan who will organize the Committee going forward. A brainstorming meeting will be held (date and time to be announced). Dub announced that a "Foosball Table" that cost \$900 had been donated to Friends for fund raising.

Membership Committee: Proposal to stick with current levels with the addition of a Student level of \$15 was proposed by Lynette. Motion was passed. Jane as our Web Master will make change to web page.

2016 Budget is being put together by Pat and she requires inputs ASAP with cutoff date of November 22. Any outstanding 2015 FY bills need to be submitted by November 15. Dub will send a copy of thereimbursement form to board members.

November's Board Meeting will be after the AGM on November 8.

Friends' Workshops: a series of workshops is planned as result of input from members. The first will be on November 21 – "Learn to be a Leader" and on December 27. There will be a Natural Plant Hike.

Meeting adjourned at 6.50 PM.