

**PINES AND PRAIRIES
BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2021**

1. The Zoom meeting was convened at 6:05 p.m. by President Adam Black. All board members were present. Note: Meg Inglis hosted the Zoom meeting.

2. Fifteen persons were present, including the Board, State VP-Chapter Liaison Michael Eason, and State Coordinator, Landscape Certification Project Meg Inglis. Other attendees:

Carol Z
Carol J
Kathie Herrick
Jane Jensen
Carolyn Langlinais
Mike McGee
Carson Stokes
Eric Wahlberg

3. Attendees, present at the beginning of the meeting, introduced themselves.

4. Carson Stokes and Mike McGee, Heartwood Texas Master Naturalists, co-chairmen of Heartwood's Homegrown National Park project gave a brief overview. This program will first focus on South Montgomery County, with potential rollout to other areas of the County. Carson will send project white paper for Pines and Prairies Board review, and asked the Chapter to critique the advisor's training program. No action was taken at this meeting.

5. Meg Inglis briefly reviewed potential collaboration with the Post Oak Chapter in presenting the Landscape certification courses with focus on the post oak savanna ecoregion. Each of the four levels—introduction to native plants, landscaping with native plants, installation and maintenance, and stewardship—introduces 50 plants, 45 native and 5 invasive that should not be used in landscaping; has a plant walk; and a certification test. No action was taken at this meeting.

5. Gail McConnell briefly reviewed the Carl Barton demonstration garden project of 3,000 to 7,500 square feet, to be located at the trailhead of the nature walk, and proposed it as an outreach project. No action was taken at this meeting.

6. Kim Cox briefly reviewed restoration of detention pond banks as a proposed outreach project. No action was taken at this meeting.

7. Martin Simonton explained that as a native plant landscaper, the availability of natives for use in landscaping is an issue. He proposed that the Chapter engage in field trips for seed collection, hold workshops, and propagate the seeds. The Chapter could hold plant sales as a fund-raiser and to promote little used species.
8. Adam Black offered to contact Tom Phillips at the Sam Houston National Forest; Martin Tietz of Native Wildscapes, Tyler; and Dawn Stover at Stephen F. Austin University to set up seed collecting opportunities.
9. Michael Eason emphasized the need for seed collecting to provide native plants and improve the diversity of home landscapes. Michael has experience restoring home landscapes and surveying and evaluating what's missing.
10. Martin and Adam will work on a schedule of seed-collecting field trips.
11. Gail will circulate a list of projects to the Membership for sign-up and planning; projects to be presented to the Board for approval.
12. Abbie Ince-Hendrickson offered to chair the Newsletter Committee as she is familiar with that job via her work as Editor of the Heartwood TMN Chapter newsletter.
13. Michael Eason reviewed:
 - a. Chapter meeting options—most chapters meet 9 times a years, resting in summer and December some chapters focus on field trips, seed collections, volunteer days;
 - b. Fund-raising to support the costs of plant material, tools, and donations to plant public spaces;
 - c. Zoom meetings can be set up via the State society, and that Board meeting can be recorded;
 - d. State policy on COVID: no inperson indoor meetings;
 - e. State society can provide brochures about the Native Plant Society of Texas.
 - f. All Chapter members are encouraged to attend the State Board meeting on January 23, 10:00 a.m., a vote to approve our Chapter will be held.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. Items set for approval on the agenda will be taken up at the next Board meeting and after the Chapter is formally approved.

Accepted by the Board on February 4, 2021

Signed electronically: Secretary: Gail McConnell