

Llano River Watershed Alliance
Board of Directors Meeting November 30, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Kimble County Historical Museum Meeting Room

Attendees: Linda Fawcett, Scott Richardson, Melissa Burnard, Martha Richardson, Andrew Burnard, Glen Coleman, Nol Dear, Art Mudge, Richard Taylor

Absent: Pedro Aboytes

Visitors: Mark Cole

1. **Approval of Consent Agenda**, Martha made the motion, Glen 2nd it, unanimous
2. Linda welcomed visitor and had him sign in
3. **Volunteer Action Item:** Call of volunteer hours related to the mission of the Alliance, since October 12, 2023
Sign-in sheet passed around for Board members to record hours.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Linda went over the withdrawal of the Waterstone Dam permit by Greg Garland, included TPWD's actions in the order to remove the James River Dam, and the withdrawal of the permit for the N. Fork of the Guadalupe River dam.

- Discussion followed of what we learned about how to fight future dams or similar transgressions: LRWA's contributions were to get the word out through the listserv, publish the permit application in the area newspapers, networking with other groups using all media outlets, promoted the understanding of TCEQ's roll and its connection to the Texas Governor's office.
- There was no new information regarding the Leon Creek or Elm Creek situations.

b. Linda reported on the Liberty Hill Second Contested Case Hearing and the ramifications for phosphorous limits in sewage effluent release. She suggested LRWA should send a letter to the hearing judge in support of Liberty Hill's position. Linda went over how the allowed phosphorous limits set by TCEQ don't work and that those limits need to be lower.

Linda also reported about this time, that Cliff Kaplan, with HCA, had contacted her about holding an outreach activity in Mason to celebrate with the other involved parties, organizations, etc., the accomplishments and victories of the collaboration of those involved in the recent victories regarding both the S. Llano River dam and the James River dam. It was agreed that someone from the board would go back to Cliff and ask what HCA would be willing to do to put this together.

c. Scott, Linda – SARP Grant report.

Linda reported that the grant extension had been approved and is in effect until Sept. 30, 2024

- Scott reported on the Water and Land Stewardship workshop saying that there were 58 preregistered and 60+ attended. He said that all the speakers did a great job and kept the audience engaged and interested. He reported that approximately \$604 was taken in for registration. The following expenses had been invoiced by the time of the board meeting: Meals on Wheels pastries \$100, Facebook sponsored ad \$50, Steve Nelle \$895, Peter George \$159.19, bottled water \$6.98, totaling \$1211.17. Invoices not yet received are Andrew Helton for equipment/setup \$100, Junction Eagle ad \$157.50, and Honey Bean Coffee, \$??. It was noted that the SARP grant should cover all expenses, so LRWA made a little over \$600 from the workshop.
- Scott gave an update on the SLSP streambank/riparian restoration demonstration site. Recent heavy rains brought flood waters within a couple of feet from the site and also moved some of the mulch around. 20 grasses, including Eastern Gamagrass, Yellow Indian grass, and Switchgrass have been planted. He plans to hold a work day in the Spring of 2024 based on conditions. Scott said even though he was leaving the board, he would continue as a LRWA member and coordinator of the site indefinitely. He also said he plans to contact "Interpretive Insights", an interpretive sign company, based in Houston about developing interpretive signage for the site. He said he realizes this must be done before Sept.30, 2024 when the last grant extension ends.
- Linda mentioned the recent SARP visit by her, Scott, and Martha on 10/28/23 to Carl & Tria Fink's property on the main Llano near Castle and in Mason County.

d. Linda, Melissa, Glen – Arundo Grant Report

Linda reported the contract has been renewed for next year and she has submitted her annual report to TPWD and the grant for next year would be \$8,000

Melissa reported on invoices and LRWA payment to outreach workers and TPWD's reimbursement. Melissa and submitted her last quarterly invoice.

Glen had no report on his proposal to investigate dams in the LRWA watershed, but would have a proposal for the January 2024 board meeting.

e. Linda reported on the WCC Group Grant, by saying that they had not had a meeting since the last board meeting, so she had nothing to report.

f. Linda said she and Nol would be representing LRWA at WinterFisch on Saturday, Dec. 2

g. Andrew reported on changes to the webpage by saying that he had updated or added the most recent newsletter and had turned off both the Waterstone dam and Mural pages. He said that at the recent City Council meeting that the City Council was working with HCA to apply for grants for water infrastructure, but that in order to apply for the grants the city would have to have authorize a rate study or how much to be charging for water going into the future. Andrew added that the city had authorized for the study to be done.

h. Linda said the November 30 newsletter had been released and that she was needing content for the Jan. 31 edition.

i. Plans for the Christmas party, at Glen's place on Thursday, Dec. 7, and after discussing who would bring what Melissa said she would send out an email for everyone to reply with what they would contribute. It was noted that it would be a BYOB. Glen encouraged all to bring guests.

j. Martha did a review of board members' attendance reports for 2023 with a report of absences included. Martha prepared a spreadsheet which included attendance records and volunteer service hours for the entire board. She passed a copy to each board member, in attendance, and asked them to check them for accuracy. She stated that after tonight's meeting she would prepare a finalized report and send it to the board via email.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Re-distribution of duties within Board positions were discussed, starting with Andrew saying he would cover the list-serve, as well as the webpage. Linda asked for someone to take over the lead of doing the membership and membership drive by being responsible for the databases, etc. No one stepped up, but it was discussed that the board should look into outsourcing process and checking with Marissa, with HCA on how their's is handled.

b. Since Scott and Martha are stepping down as V.P. and Secretary, Linda asked who would be willing to take those positions. Glen stepped up and said he would be Secretary, so Scott made the motion to nominate Glen as secretary, Art seconded it, and it was unanimous. No one stepped up or was nominated for V.P., so that office remains vacant.

c. The compensation for Board duties or the creation of new staff position with compensation was discussed and recognized, but no action was taken except the need to research the Bylaws.

d. Possible action item. By the next board meeting begin an annual budget summary for preceding year and projection for coming year. Melissa volunteered to create a sample budget to be presented at the January meeting.

e. Martha proposed an annual donation to the Kimble County Historical Museum as compensation for the use of the meeting room. Andrew made a motion for LRWA to donate \$200.00 donation for this past year. Martha seconded it, unanimous.

6. Next meeting was set for Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the KC museum

7. Scott made the motion to adjourn, Melissa seconded it, and it was unanimous.