Meeting of the South Llano Watershed Alliance

 July 21, 2011

The meeting of the SLWA was held this date. Those attending were Scott Richardson, Donnie Coleman, Emily Neiman, Rick Wilson, Ruthie Russell, Art Mudge, James Murr,Marvin Ivy, Tom Arsuffi, J.D. Kidwell, and Tyson Broad.

The meeting was called to order by Scott Richardson who asked Rick Wilson to give a Treasurer’s Report. Rick presented a update of the cash balance in First State Bank, deposits made, bills paid and that the payment had been received from TPWD ‘s grant. He had prepared payment checks for work done by Tyson Broad and Zach Thomas, and presented them. May’s Board minutes were presented and approved by the Board.

Scott updates to the Board included his effort to create a Google Group for improved correspondence with and inside the Board, a membership meeting report stating how successful the meeting was as regards attendance and content, and reviewed Watershed Plan membership interest from the list passed around during the meeting. Scott requested the Board consider immediate reimbursement of expenses incurred by Donnie Coleman and Nol Dear, member, for the membership meeting. Marvin Ivy made the motion to approve reimbursement, Art Mudge seconded the motion, and the Board approved it.

Scott then read the Paddling Trails agreement, went over the checklist, requested discussion on next steps to be taken in pushing the program forward, discussed the issues we may face with current TPWD personnel shortages, Kiosk construction, the landing in the City Park and overall progress we should expect in the next month.

Donnie Coleman asks about the fees being charged at the State Park as to whether they could be waived and the effect on usage if they could not. The discussion that followed included a response from Gary Garrett that they could not.

J.D. Kidwell updated the Board that he had met with Ted Martin about 2 or 3 scouts taking on kiosk construction as part of their Eagle Scout qualification. He said it was something they could do. Donnie Coleman suggested a timeline of March 1st be considered for the kiosks and bags to be completed and purchased as our target. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Scott Richardson then presented information he gathered on pricing of trash bags from the San Marcos Lions Club which included printing and production of the bags. James Murr suggested “Keep Junction Beautiful” wording be included on the bags and possible contributions be solicited from that program and other associations like the Lions Club, etc. J.D. Kidwell said the Tourism Board may be a source of funding for the bags and he would look into it.

Tom Arsuffi suggested the Board consider a program in the future to include the National Parks Service River Trails Conservation Project. Tom said he had drafted a proposal to them and they are interested in a interpretive trails program for our area to be conducted on the Tech Campus which could include riparian interests, river bank restoration and river management. The Board thought this program had merit and agreed Tom should pursue it.

To insure the Board is abreast of and in compliance with the SLWA’s By-laws, Scott suggested the board read the By-Laws by the next meeting. The Board agreed and it would be a part of the next meeting to go over a portion of them at each meeting in the future.

Tyson Broad presented the findings of the meeting to be held on July 22d concerning reseeding of portions of the Pipeline Burn Area. The possibilities were to reseed, erosion control or do something or nothing. He suggested there were approximately 100 land owners who had suffered from the burn and that they would seed 2000 square feet as test plots. He said Bill Neiman, SLWA member, offered get donations from his customer base to assist in purchasing seed for the project and that his “Oasis Mix” would be the best seed mix for the project. He estimated the cost between $5-6,000. Tyson said the next meeting would be on September 10th and it would be attended by landowners, Texas Parks & Wildlife, National Forest Service and SLWA personnel. It would be identified as the “Oasis Burn Restoration” project.

The Board agreed there was not further new business and adjourned.