

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
March 13, 2023 at 7:05 pm.

Call to order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a request made to the PET committee of HLMGA in order to be able to present said request to the membership the following day, on March 14, 2023 at the General Business meeting.

Attendance: Terri Winter/President, Linda Stoneking/Vice President, Patti Young/Member at Large, Kerry Nyquist/Member at Large, Terri Clark/Co-Secretary, and Lyn Mefford/PET Committee Chair

The request was made by Greg Cockrill to grant project approval for member participation in the Fish Hatchery located in Burnet County. There is an established pollinator garden located at the hatchery and Greg thought the garden could benefit from some MG participation and that volunteer credit could be given for that participation.

As Lyn Mefford explained, The PET committee is recommending that "activity status" could be granted for HLMGA members to participate in the established pollinator garden at this time to see how much interest there is from the current membership and associate class. If sufficient interest exists, a formal application for project status could then be submitted during the regular cycle of PET consideration (fall 2023). At that time there would be participation data and perhaps additional people interested in leadership roles for this as a project. If the board and membership agrees to the activity status, the PET committee suggests that there be a formal designation of a lead (perhaps Greg); a designated pollinator "expert" who could provide the direction for maintaining, sustaining, and enhancing the garden; a schedule of days, times and tasks for MG's to show up to work in the garden. The committee observed that our most successful projects have this type of structure: The Garden, Kings Garden, BMS Greenhouse, Lawn & Garden Show, etc. Without this structure in place the committee is concerned that volunteers will show up at random times with little direction and effectiveness.

The board discussed that if board votes to approve the Fish Hatchery's pollinator garden as an approved activity, that volunteer hours would not be counted until after membership votes and approves. There is also no financial backing from HLMGA for this activity.

Motion was made, seconded and passed by the board to have the Fish Hatchery's pollinator garden added as an approved activity for HLMGA and will be presented to the membership for vote at the General Business meeting on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Submitted by Terri Clark, Co-Secretary