

## **Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, COT-TMN, July 6, 2011 AgriLife Extension Building, Angleton, TX**

**Attendees:** Ed Barrios, Corrie Bowen, Dave Brandes, Laura Brandes, Barbara Burkhardt, Justina Dent, Jerry Eppner, Mary Heller, Mary Helen Israel, Sandy Henderson, Ruby Lewis, Neal McLain, Connie Stolte

Meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burkhardt at 3:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and action items discussed. Barbara had a note on one action item unfinished. Dave suggested that minutes be sent to everyone, not just the Executive Board.

Treasurer Sandy Henderson reported \$5,247.75 in the bank, two checks outstanding - \$100 to Barbara and \$100.46 for Intern items to Laura.

**Programs** - Mary Holler reported on upcoming programs: "Tanners" & Jr. MN program will be presented by Sara & Dick from Galveston Chapter; along with Rainbo & Mary reporting on Sea Turtles at the July meeting. The Lookingbills are scheduled for August, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is September; programs for October and November are needed.

**ConocoPhillips** – Mary reported that Project Wild and Aquatic Wild were reviewed with ConocoPhillips personnel. They will meet again on July 14 to go over the program. Sweeny, West Columbia, Van Vleck and perhaps Bay City are the targeted schools, and the program will possibly include two grade levels.

**Membership** - Jerry Eppner report 4,390 hours turned in to date. Total of 98,909 – short ~1500 hours to make 100,000 by 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We need to encourage everyone to turn in hours as soon as possible. Reported on new member Andy Smith who transferred from Mid-coast chapter to Cradle of Texas.

**Camp Mohawk** – Ed Barrios reported 31 people were signed up but only 29 showed up to Camp Mohawk. Two kids from Boys and Girls Club didn't show up. There were 14 TMN volunteers there almost every day. It was a good camp; it was very hot! Richard Hurd, County Parks Director, came by and discussed a one day camp, also having family day again. Perhaps two summer camps per year. Checking in and out was monitored well.

### **Outreach:**

**Summer Library Program** – Ruby reported that June's mini-coastal expo was held at 9 libraries. There were 22 different COT volunteers, 4,450 kids, 214 adults. Four volunteers came to nearly every library: Carol Wenny, Mary Helen Israel, Ed Barrios and Justina Dent. She will be in Manvel with the reptiles program so won't be at the general meeting next week. Barbara was asked to read a note to the members at the general meeting. Reptiles have started and there were 61 kids and 14 adults in Freeport yesterday. Ruby is working with the refuge to get supplies for Wild in the City for next year; asked opinion from volunteers about spreading programs over 2 months to avoid having 2-3 programs per week. Monthly story time in Danbury with critters will be started again.

**Coastal Expo Booth** – Booth set up on Friday from 1-4 pm for Special Needs and Senior Citizens but nobody came. For next year they are discussing having Day Care groups on that day. Saturday was very busy in the morning, but attendance dwindled as the day went on.

Ruby also said 'yes' to participating in Brazos Bend's Heritage Day on November 5.

**Intern Update** - Laura reported that through the ALLP program we got 2 referrals and 1 plus a husband paid but never attended. She contacts everyone she gets names from. Four interns are currently enrolled but are not taking classes. Laura has updated the COT training class brochures that she has. Schedule is set for the fall but she needs a couple of new instructors; she has 3 articles written for the Facts but has trouble getting them to accept our pictures. Still need a minimum of 10 for classes to go. Laura thanked folks who kept up with attendance sheets, etc., while she was having difficulty with her back. Jerry Eppner moved that if we don't have 10 interns by September 1 there will be no class. Seconded by Sandy Henderson. Motion passed. Jerry expressed concern that we might be "brow-beating" people to get them in the program.

Ed Johnson has expressed interest in the intern training job.

**Use/storage of laptop/projector:** Should we leave it with the Training Chair or have it at a more available place for other users? Dave gave history on policy for leaving it with the Training Chair. Position defended by Dave & Laura and it was suggested to leave it like it is for now.

**Report from 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** – Minutes from the first meeting were reviewed. Michelle has confirmed but we haven't heard from Sonny. Tom Collins is coming for sure. Reviewed agenda; reviewed expenses from sheet. Sandy asked why we need to have fancy catered dinner; discussion followed. As a result of this, time for celebration was changed to lunch. It will be at the Angleton Rec Center; suggested lowering ticket price to \$10. Sandy moved that TMN budget up to \$500 for expenses; seconded by Dave, motion passed. T-shirts will be ordered and sold to individuals who want them.

**Survey Results** – Most people weren't sure when they certified; most ask friends to join; majority of people said they would prefer the outside speakers for AT meetings.

**Candace Novak's Resignation** – Candace is remodeling her house and planning a wedding for a child so felt unable to continue with her office. Tom Morris volunteered to fill her spot. Laura moved we accept Tom's offer, seconded by Sandy and motion passed.

**Anything Else:**

Connie Stolte reported on budget woes in TPWD. 200 employees will be laid off. Coastal Fisheries already has some vacant positions so they are not losing personnel and are actually able to hire to fill those positions. If eligible for retirement, employee can work until day of eligibility or December 31. Coastal Fisheries eliminating travel budget; local outreach still to be done but none at any distance. State Parks are taking the biggest hit.

Mary Holler reports she and Kathy Speights are working on scrap books for the chapter and need pictures from programs. The owner of the Brazos Belle (paddleboat) would like a MN to go on cruises and talk about rivers, etc. Discussion on this followed.

Barbara discussed agenda for general meeting. In Ed's absence Dave will give a wrap-up for Camp Mohawk; Barbara will report for all to set date aside for 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, location, t-shirts and nominal fee for tickets; Mary Holler will review ConocoPhillips program.

We welcomed John Minkert, trainee, as a visitor to the meeting.

Motion made by Dave and seconded by Sandy to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Helen Israel,  
Subbing for Marty.