

TMN – COT
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
AgriLIFE® Extension Office, Angleton, Texas

Attendees: Ed Barrios, Barbara Burkhardt, Marty Cornell, Justina Dent, Jerry Eppner, Mary Helen Israel, Phil Huxford, Jerry Krampota, Mary Holler, Neal McLain, Tom Morris, Connie Stolte

Start Time: 3:00

Minutes: Secretary Marty Cornell offered the minutes from the August board meeting as revised by e-mail additions and corrections. Ed Barrios moved to accept these revised minutes; the motion was seconded by Jerry Eppner and passed unanimously without discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandy Henderson reported a balance of \$6,609.20. The only financial activity since the last meeting was a deposit of \$1,359.00 for 10th anniversary T-shirts and luncheon tickets.

Programs: Program Chair Mary Holler stated that Judi James has agreed to provide a program at the planetarium in the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences for the COT October general meeting. Tom Morris suggested that Judi focus on the fall sky. Thomas Adams of the USPWS will speak on edible wild plants at our November meeting. Tom Morris will begin the "Tenners" program at that meeting. The December COT meeting will focus on officer elections and be followed by our traditional Hog Wild Christmas party. In the new year, a possible general meeting topic will be Plankton Counting by Dave Brandes.

ConocoPhillips: Per Phil Huxford, Jerry Manning of CP will be taking over their environmental education program. CP is frustrated because the Sweeny school district does not want to do any field trips until the first of the year. CP intends to reach out to other school districts such as the Columbia-Brazoria and, Van Vleck, districts.

Membership: Chair Jerry Eppner reported that 101,656 volunteer hours have been turned in since the founding of our chapter; this year 48 people submitted to date. Ed Barrios and Tom Morris have each reached the 2,500 hour mark.

Ed Barrios noted that the process of inviting present and past members to next week's luncheon has shown a need to formalize fixes to member contact information. The ensuing discussion resolved that known changes need to be communicated both to Jerry Eppner and to Neal McLain. It was also suggested that the contact information sheet be circulated at each general meeting, asking members present to update their data..

Outreach Ed Barrios reported for Ruby Lewis, who was not present at this board meeting. Ruby has delivered our partnership form to the Brazoria County Library management. This agreement will cover both the Science Nights at the library and the COT-run summer programs. There will be four libraries participating in the Science Nights: Angleton, Brazoria, Freeport, and either Alvin or Pearland.

Nominating committee: President Barbara Burkhardt announced that the nominating committee for next year's officers will consist of Dave Brandes, Ed Barrios, and Joan Simonsen.

10th anniversary committee: Ed Barrios noted that 72 people had paid for luncheon tickets to our 10th anniversary celebration. In addition, five guests have accepted the invitation to attend. Marty Cornell showed parts of a 1,000 photo slide show covering the ten years of COT activity.

Intern makeup class: Barbara Burkhardt noted that we have four interns that are in the process of certifying and that we might offer special training to help them complete their requirements. It was suggested that these interns could go to the web for the training classes of TMN chapters adjoining Brazoria County and perhaps attend their needed sessions. Barbara will take an inventory of the training needs of our interns and report this information at the next board meeting.

VPALs: Neal McLain reported that he has received two signed Volunteer Project and Activity Lists, one of these from Sea Center Texas with no changes. Jennifer Sanchez from the USFWS had suggested changes. VPAL proposals were sent to all of our active partners. No proposals were sent to the two local wildlife management areas because we have no activity with them.

Policy and Procedures changes: David Brandes, charged to propose changes to Addendum #1 and #9 of our Policies and Procedures, presented his suggested changes. After discussion, Marty Cornell moved to accept the suggested modification of Addendum #1 with the sentence "An example of a forbidden activity would be fund raising." removed. Ed Barrios seconded the motion. The discussion concerned compliance with state requirements that forbid counting fundraising as volunteer time. Noted was that "one-time" events carried on by our partners, e.g. the Migration Celebration Kickoff fundraiser, might legitimately be valid volunteer activity. This motion passed with one objection

Ed Barrios moved and Jerry Eppner seconded a motion to eliminate the existing Addendum #9; the motion passed with no discussion and no opposition. **Barbara Burkhardt will present these proposed changes for approval to the chapter at the October general meeting.**

Other stuff:

Tom Morris has selected, as a retirement gift for Sonny Arnold, a shadow box display of Lightening Whelks in various stages of development, from egg sacs to adult shells. He has also selected a new book, *Encyclopedia of Texas Shells*, to accompany this shadow box.

Tom then presented an example of a Tenners list; the wading birds of Brazoria County. Tom noted that he has 30 such lists so far, in various stages of preparation. One additional suggestion was to include the ten species of humming birds that have been banded in Brazoria County.

The meeting ended at 4:26 pm.

Marty Cornell

Secretary,
Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter
