



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
**AGRI LIFE EXTENSION BLDG.**  
 21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
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**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday October 2, 2013**  
**AgriLIFE® Conference Room, Angleton, Texas**

**Attendees:** Ed Barrios, Barbara Burkhardt, Jerry Eppner, Ed Johnson, Chris Kneupper, Jerry Krampota, Ruby Lewis, John Marshall, Neal McLain, Roy Morgan, Mike Mullins, John O'Connell, Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh, Dick Schaffhausen, Connie Stolte

President Mike Mullins called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**Minutes:**

Jerry Eppner moved and Ed Barrios seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Sept, 2013 board meeting, as amended with email input. This motion **passed** with no dissent.

In the absence of Marty Cornell, the September general meeting minutes were not presented for approval. Action: Marty Cornell will provide the September general minutes for approval by the board.

**Treasurer Report:** John Marshall

<b>September, 2013</b>				
		<b>Current Month</b>		<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>		\$4,801.02		5,098.07
<b>Revenue</b>				
Training Fees Paid in 2013		\$20.00	John Minkert	\$720.00
2013 Dues		\$225.00	Life dues	\$962.97
Miscellaneous Income		\$1.02	Interest	\$182.83
<b>Total Revenue</b>		246.02		\$1,865.80
<b>Expenses</b>				
Training Expenses 2013				\$378.57
Administrative				\$187.23



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Miscellaneous				\$1,150.59
Extraordinary - Board approved				\$200.44
<b>Total Expenses</b>		0.00		\$1,916.83
<b>Net Income Gain, (Loss)</b>		\$246.02		(\$51.03)
<b>Ending Balance</b>		\$5,047.04		\$5,047.04

- Discussion: John prefers getting the intern checks before the background checks are done.
- Discussion on Background checks: The board members discussed modifying the policy for background checks to maximize cost efficiency. They agreed that the initial background check should be done through the Extension Service if the new member does not already have a current background check in place. Subsequent background checks may be done through the Extension, BISD, current CHL (Concealed Handgun License), or other entities acceptable to Extension. This change is in accordance with email clarification received from Michelle Haggerty. Action: Ed Barrios will modify P&P to include this language.

### Membership Report: Jerry Eppner

- 53 timesheets have been turned in, 40 members have certified or recertified, and there are 6896 YTD VT hours. No Lifetime total of VT for TMN-COT was reported.
- 670 YTD AT hours were reported.
- Carol Jones, GCBO, requested exemption for meeting attendance. The board approved the exemption.
- There was ongoing discussion of the plaque for the members that have accumulated 5,000 hours. John O'Connell and staff are creating a Hall of Fame area and will add a display case where the plaque may be hung. Action: Determine plaque design and obtain. Assigned to TBD.
- INEOS coding – charge hours related to INEOS program takedown to COT until new program is in place. When the new AISD program starts, a new code will be developed.
- New codes – there was discussion of what new codes might be needed in 2014, e.g., TNC for The Nature Conservancy (a new partner). Action: Review list of timesheet codes at December board meeting.

### Program Report: Peggy Romfh





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Date	Event	Organization/Location	# COT Volunteers	Volunteer hours	Youth	Adult	Total
	<b>Future Outreach</b>						
<b>10/05</b>	<b>Red Cross Family Day</b>	<b>Brazos Mall</b>					
<b>10/19</b>	<b>Kids Day (Birds of Prey, Butterfly Encounter, Reptiles, Photography )</b>	<b>Mid-coast Refuge Complex loc. Buffalo Bayou, downtown Houston near Eleanor Tinsley Park</b>					
<b>10/21</b>	<b>Birds of Prey</b>	<b>Angleton Library 6:30 pm</b>					
<b>10/27</b>	<b>Spooktacular</b>	<b>Sea Center Texas</b>					
<b>11/23</b>	<b>Festival of Lights</b>	<b>Lake Jackson</b>					
<b>Monthly totals</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Totals</b>			<b>205</b>	<b>1008.75</b>	<b>19809</b>	<b>4866</b>	<b>24675</b>

**Training Report: Ed Johnson**

- As of September, TMN-COT now has six new members in training that will attend the 2014 Intern Training Classes beginning Wednesday, January, 29, 2014.
- Ed Johnson, Training Chairman, has furnished the contact information for those six individuals to Neal McLain and Jerry Eppner to include in all the appropriate forms.
- The 2014 Intern Training Class Schedule is about 80% complete. Ed Johnson has left the first two introductory I & II Training classes for the incoming Training Chairman, Roy Morgan to plan with his team. Roy has agreed to this plan since these two classes involve a lot of personal contact and adaptability. The last two classes on the schedule, April 30 and May 7, will be planned by Roy, as it will take until a later date to firm up plans for presenters and field trips.



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- There are still five individuals who are strong prospects. Ed Johnson has given Roy Morgan the history of all communication with them, along with individuals that have stated that they cannot join at this time.
- Ed Johnson has provided to Roy Morgan a complete file history of his 2013 training class records.

**Media Report:** Neal McLain

- Web – Neal McLain – nothing new to report
- Photo Gallery – Peggy Romfh reported that Thomas Adams has requested to use Photo Gallery photos for a new Iphone/Android app of Texas Mid-coast or mid-coast wildflowers. The board voiced approval of this request.
- Web – Dick Schaffhausen – nothing new to report

**Volunteer Activities Report:** Pete Romfh – nothing new to report

**Advanced Training Report:** Tom Morris – absent; no report

**Policies and Procedures (P&P):** Ed Barrios – no report

**AI SD New Program: Ed Barrios**

There was discussion about the details of the new program provided by the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Planning is in the early stages. The suggestion has been made to alternate Mondays with the Master Gardeners and to mimic the 6 best DEEP programs. An ad hoc Committee was formed to plan the Master Naturalist AI SD program, with Barbara Burkhardt, Ed Barrios (chair), and Ruby Lewis volunteering. Action: Ed will ask for other volunteers at general meeting. One of the tasks will be a facilities review at BEES.

**Other Projects:**

- INEOS equipment – picnic tables, chairs, aquariums have been moved. Birdhouse-support poles, microscopes and supplies have not been moved.
- State meeting – Ed Barrios reported that the photo easels are stored at the Refuge. This may be a problem if access is still denied due to government shutdown.
- Host – Oct. meeting: Jerry Krampota will not be at the Oct. meeting. He asked for help to support Carole Wenny with the hosting tasks.



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- Joint PPCO/COT meeting at Phillips Recreation Center, tour of LEEP – Mike Mullins reported that a joint meeting between the Phillips group and COT is still in planning process. A tentative date of the January meeting has been set.
- Revised dues: Mike Mullins noted that there will be a vote on revised dues at Oct. general meeting.

**Elections Report:** Barbara Burkhardt

Barbara Burkhardt reported that the Nominations Committee has heard from all existing elected officers except Ed Barrios. Marty Cornell has reported that he will not be running for Secretary in 2014. The Nominating Committee will have the slate ready for the November board meeting.

**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> KBR Kids Day at Buffalo Bayou: ~~Dave~~ David Plunkett**

- David Plunkett provided the board with background information about the Urban Initiative program from Fish and Wildlife. Texas Mid-coast received a grant to 'take the Refuge' to the city. The event is scheduled Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and will involve extensive volunteer efforts from the Friends and Master Naturalist groups.
- In the country, there are five initial grants. Each selected Refuge will interact in varying ways with partners and the community to increase awareness of nature and the Refuge programs.
- The Houston area is served by five refuges: Attwater Prairie Chicken, San Bernard, Brazoria, McFaddin, Anahuac, and Trinity River. Planning is in progress to create partnerships and connections with groups such as Houston Wilderness, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the Woods Project, and others.
- Ruby Lewis is coordinating TMN-COT volunteers for the event.
- David Plunkett is coordinating set-up for the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> event. Action: David Plunkett will provide a map of the location of the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> event and of parking. Mike Mullins will provide 5 – 10 minutes time for him at the Oct. general meeting to discuss the event and the urban initiative.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Mullins at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by  
Peggy Romfh



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VP/Program Chair