



**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 10am – 12:20pm**  
**AgriLife Extension Building**  
**Angleton, Texas**

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

**Attending Elected Members of the Board:** Mike Mullins (President), Ed Barrios (State Representative), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator), Becky McClendon (Secretary) and Peggy Romfh (Vice-president).

**Absent Elected Members of the Board:** None

**Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Barbara Burkhardt (Past President), Neal McLain (Media Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), John O’Connell (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife® Extension Agent), Ruby Lewis (Outreach Coordinator), Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host Coordinator), Joycelynn Grigson (2014 Training Class Representative), and Breana Kitchen (2014 Training Class Representative).

**Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Mary Holler (LEEP Coordinator), Tom Morris (Advanced Training Coordinator), and Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.).

**Quorum:** 12/13 of the Elected and Committee Coordinator members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

Other TMN-COT member attendees were: Dick Schaffhausen, Dave Brandes, and Linda Sluis.

Guest speakers in attendance were Kendrick Gray, Mary Kate Ward, and Michelle Graham. All three are employed by the Pearland Parks and Recreation Department.

**Minutes:**

**Mike Mullins, President,** presented the following minutes for approval:

Meeting Minutes	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
November Board	Peggy Romfh	Jerry Eppner	Minutes approved by voice vote.
November General	Peggy Romfh	Barbara Burkhardt	Minutes approved by voice vote with spelling correction for guest Barbara Zetka.



**Action Items were reviewed and updated at this time in the meeting.  
Table of Action Items is included at the end of the minutes.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Gerald Forrest, Treasurer,** presented the Treasurer's reports for October.

Date	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
11/1/14 thru 11/30/14	\$6,249.30	\$6,250.60
Revenue Summary		
Interest		\$1.30
	Total Revenue	\$1.30
Expense Summary		\$0

**Membership:**

**Jerry Eppner, Membership Coordinator,** reported that the chapter is behind last year's number of volunteer hours but several members have not reported hours. To date 80 time sheets have been turned in with 10,220 hours of VT logged.

**Training:**

**Roy Morgan, Training Coordinator,** reported that 25 people have expressed interest in the spring intern training program. He invited all 25 to the Hog Wild Party. Also, all the trainers for the intern training program have been contacted, and Roy has commitments from 10. The Training Committee is complete. Taco soup is planned for the first training class.

**Advanced Training:**

**Tom Morris, Advanced Training Coordinator,** was absent and there was nothing to report.

**Nominating Committee:**

**Past President, Barbara Burkhardt,** passed around a sample ballot for Board Members to preview. There was no discussion about content just the number of copies needed for the general meeting.

**Media:**

**Neal McLain, Media Coordinator,** reported that the location for the library has not been finalized so discussion is suspended until January.

**Programs Update/Gallery:**

**Peggy Romfh, Vice-President,** informed the Board that the January General Meeting program is a mixed bag of environmental issues titled "Protecting the Environment." Stephen Scalise, Coastal and East Texas Outreach Coordinator for the Take Care of Texas Program, a part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, will be our guest speaker. His presentation is titled "Take Care of Texas." Besides Stephen Scalise, there will be additional short



presentations on Texas Beach Clean-up programs and Recycling. Discussions will follow on how TMN-COT members might incorporate these concepts into our educational programs.

**Photo Gallery:** Peggy shared that the photo gallery has now reached 45,000 views and has a total of 850 identified species to date.

### **Outreach:**

**Ruby Lewis, Outreach Coordinator**, reported on two recent events:

- November 22 / 23 – Festival of Lights in Lake Jackson involved 12 volunteers with approximately 3000 participants. Ruby will request a bigger site for TMN-COT next year and will negotiate a more centrally located site.
- KBR Kids Day required 31 volunteers with 6000 participants.

### **Upcoming Events include:**

- December 16, 2014 – TMN-COT display is needed for leadership team meeting. The display needs updating.
- DEEP – Volunteer signup sheets will be passed around at December General meeting.
- February 22, 2015 – Nature Day at Sea Center
- March 7, 2015 - Brazoria Heritage Day at Brazoria Civic Center
- Summer Library Program is already in planning stages. 10 of the 12 county libraries have already chosen dates. Ruby meets with libraries December 12, 2014. Reptiles and Sea & Shore are the two programs to be presented this summer.
- Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk County Park dates are set for June 29 – July 2.

### **Volunteer Updates:**

**Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Coordinator**, everything is updated except for GCWR VPAL.

### **State Convention Report:**

**Ed Barrios, State Representative**, reported there is no Chapter news, but there are new state bylaws that we as a chapter will have to adopt. There is more information to come.

### **Host Report:**

**Jerry Krampota, Chapter Host Coordinator**, reminded the Board that December's meeting is a festive affair and currently only 3 people are signed up to bring snacks. Mike Mullins will send out an email inviting all members to bring snacks. Also, Mike will have a slide show of memorable moments after the general meeting.

Mike Mullins reviewed the December Meeting timeline:

- 9:30 – 10:00 Fellowship
- 10:00 – 11:00 Meeting
- 11:00 – 11:30 Eat

### **Break**

**Guest Speakers from Pearland – Parks and Recreation Director, Michelle Graham** spoke to the Board about the \$1.9 million Pearland Nature Center Project. Michelle outlined the



phases of the project and asked for TMN-COT partnership. Her vision for help from TMN-COT is to help with plantings, educational activities, static display in the Rec Center, and Phase 2 trail planning.

**\*New Action Item – Pete Romfh will draft a VPAR and VPAL with Pearland Parks and Recreation.**

**Action Items:**

**Mike Mullins** reviewed existing action items, as shown below and updated to reflect the current status of outstanding items. New action items are included on this table. All new items or updates are highlighted in **yellow**.

**501(c)(3) Discussion** started with Mike Mullins and Gerald Forrest reporting the EIN# (Employer Identification Number) was untraceable in the TDECU account information. John O’Connell did not find an EIN# for the Chapter.

On December 11, 2014, at 2:30 – 4:30 pm, there will be webinar training titled, “Developing a Non-Profit Organization for you TMN Chapter: Tips, ‘Tricks’, and How-Tos” with TMN, Al Kirchner.

**\*New Action Item – All previous action items pertaining to 501(c)(3) will be combined into one action item, and pending completion of the December 11 training, timeline for filing will be discussed. Involved members are Mike Mullins, Gerald Forrest, Ed Barrios, and Peggy Romfh.**

**Canopy discussion** – Marty Cornell’s email to Mike Mullins recommending a larger, sturdier canopy with sides was discussed. The cost for the recommended canopy was greater than the \$800 authorized. Barbara Burkhardt made a motion to increase the canopy purchase price up to \$1000. Ed Barrios seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. **The current action item is adjusted to reflect the new motion.**

<b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register December 2014</b>				
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/P ending</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Notify members about state rules on volunteer activities that are not covered for VT.	Jerry Eppner Ed Barrios	Aug. 6, 2014	<b>Pending</b>	Ed contacted Michelle Haggerty and received clarification on partner boards. Still waiting on episodic events clarification.
Contact interns from 2014 class to provide coaching on filling out timesheets and to verify that intern has linked up to desired volunteer activities	Roy Morgan, Joycelynn Grigson	Aug. 6, 2014	<b>On-going</b>	



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<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/P ending</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Pete Romfh will renew and update VPAL with GCWR.	Pete Romfh, Sandy Henderson		Pending	VPAL should read 3 hours or time spent per shift on Hotline for VT hours. Awaiting signed agreement.
Ed Barrios will check with David Plunkett about canopy for purchase by chapter.	Ed Barrios David Plunkett		Completed	Ed borrowed canopy from GCBO for the Festival of Lights.
Ed Barrios will purchase canopy for the chapter.	Ed Barrios		Pending	Ed will purchase a canopy for an estimated cost of up to \$1000. See notes.
Barbara Burkhardt will have a slide of slate of officers.	Barbara Burkhardt	11/12/14	Completed	
Barbara Burkhardt will have ballots ready for December meeting.	Barbara Burkhardt	12/10/14	Completed	Copies were available for Board members.
Ed Barrios will get more information from Cullen Hanks and present findings to chapter	Ed Barrios	March 2015	Pending	Peggy contacted Cullen and iNaturalist is still in development stage. Will revisit later.
501(c)(3) Filing	Ed Barrios, Peggy Romfh, Mike Mullins, Gerald Forrest		Pending	Dec. 11, 2014 webinar state training. See notes.
VPAL and VPAR with Pearland Parks and Recreation	Pete Romfh		Pending	Contact in Pearland is Micelle Graham.

**President Mike Mullins** adjourned the meeting at 12:20pm.

Submitted by Becky McClendon, Secretary of TMN-COT



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER**  
**AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.**  
 21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Board Members</b>													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Burkhardt, Barbara	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
McClendon, Becky	1		1	1	1	n/a		1	1	1	1	1	9
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Morgan, Roy	1					n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Mullins, Mike	1	1	1		1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Romfh, Peggy	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
<b>Sponsors</b>													
O'Connell, John		1	1			n/a	1			1	1	1	6
Stolte, Connie	1	1		1		n/a				1			4
<b>Committee Coordinators</b>													
Romfh, Pete	1		1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Krampota, Jerry	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1		1	1	10
Lewis, Ruby	1	1		1		n/a		1	1			1	6
McLain, Neal	1	1	1		1	n/a		1	1	1	1	1	9
Morris, Tom	1	1				n/a							2
<b>Quorum</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
<b>Training Class Representatives</b>													
Kneupper, Chris	1	1	1	1		n/a	1	1	1				7
Schaffhausen, Dick	1	1	1			n/a						1	4
Joycelynn Grigson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		1		1	1	4
Sherri Wilson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1		-	-	-	-	1
Breana Kitchen									1	1	1	1	4