



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
AgriLife Extension Building
Angleton, Texas

President Dave Brandes called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Attending Elected Members of the Board: Dave Brandes (President), Leo Novak, (Vice President), Mike Mullins (Past President) Ed Barrios (State Representative), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), and Linda Sluis (Secretary).

Absent Elected Members of the Board: None

Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Neal McLain (Publications Coordinator), John O’Connell (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife® Extension Agent), Ruby Lewis (Outreach Coordinator), Joycelynn Grigson and Briana Kitchen (2014 Training Class Representatives), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), Peggy Romfh (Advanced Training Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), and Dick Schaffhausen (Publicity Coordinator).

Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board: Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) and Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator).

Guest: Pam West

Quorum: 15 of the Elected and Committee Coordinator members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

Meeting Minutes	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
January Board	Mike Mullins	Jerry Eppner	Minutes approved by voice vote.
February General Meeting	Mike Mullins	Jerry Eppner	Minutes approved by voice vote.

Table of Action Items is included at the end of the minutes.

Action Register: Dave

- **501(c)(3), Ed Barrios:** The application is still pending.
- **VPAL and VPAR for Pearland’s proposed Nature Park, Pete Romfh:** The agreement with the City of Pearland remains pending.



- **Developing a new partnership with Brazosport Planetarium, Jerry Eppner:** The partnership remains pending.
- **Policies and Procedures Handbook, Ed Barrios:** This action remains pending.
- **COT Brochure: Dick Schaffhausen, Publicity Chairman:** The brochure has been updated and completed. Copies were handed out to the board members.
- **Project Budburst, Ed Barrios:** Ed emailed Thomas Adams for clarification of the process for the project.
- **Purchase of Adobe Creator and Microsoft Office, Ed Barrios:** Pending receipt of 501(c)(3) status, software for Microsoft Office will be ordered from TechSoup, which provides discounts for non-profits. Adobe Creator not needed.
- **Introductory greeting explaining TMN-COT, Mike Mullins:** This item remains pending.

Pam West was nominated to the Chapter Host board position by Dave Brandes. Mike Mullins moved we accept Pam as the Chapter Host. Peggy Romfh seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Media Library Location and Peterson Field Guides: Neal McLain reported that the media library is currently boxed upstairs in the AgriLife Extension Building and is not being effectively utilized. Ruby Lewis suggested we get a four-shelved bookcase with rollers that could be housed in the current board meeting room and rolled out for use during the general meetings. John O'Connell will get approval to use space in the AgriLife building. Joycelynn Grigson volunteered to put wheels on the bookcase if needed. *(Subsequent to the board meeting, John offered one of the video cabinets in the meeting room for the books and is confident he can provide the use of a cart as well.)*

50th Anniversary Leather Bound Peterson Field Guides: Discussion was held regarding the disposition of the Peterson field guides. Several options were suggested, after which Pete Romfh made a motion seconded by Mike Mullins that we give the 50th Anniversary Peterson Field Guide set to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. The motion was approved.

News Letter Editor: Dave Brandes reported that Neal McLain will retire as newsletter editor, but he will continue to work with the website. Dave will do the newsletter at least until a replacement is found, and Neal will create a Newsletter Editor email address for submitting newsletter materials.

Rehabbing non-protected wildlife at home: Jerry Eppner began the discussion regarding the issue of rehabbing non-protected wildlife at home. The letter written by



Jerry regarding this situation was reviewed by the board, and it was agreed that squirrel rehabbing does not meet the mission of TMN-COT. After extensive discussion, it was agreed to review and modify GCWR VPAL. Jerry moved to limit 1 hour per day VT for rehabbing squirrels at home. It was further agreed, but not voted on, that we would modify the Policies and Procedures document to limit VT to activities that address and further our mission.

Reports:

Vice President/Programs: Leo Novak reminded the board that the next meeting will be held at the Brazosport Planetarium. The April meeting topic will be presented by Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Texas A&M University speaking on *Prairie Ecosystems and Making Sense of Ecology*. Pam will make arrangements for the placement of coffee and snacks at the Planetarium. Neal will send Pam West the list of volunteers to bring snacks.

Treasurer: Gerald Forrest presented the financial report for March:

<u>DATE</u> <u>BALANCE</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>ENDING</u>
02/02/2015 - 02/28/2015	\$8,585.75	\$8,162.92
Revenue Summary		
2015 Membership Dues	\$ 525.00	
New Intern Class Payments	600.00	
One Nametag	7.50	
Interest	<u>1.74</u>	
Total Revenue	\$1,134.24	
Expense Summary		
Website Expense	\$ 16.03	
Background Checks	220.00	
Speaker Mileage Reimbursement	47.00	
Intern Cancelled Refund	100.00	
Intern Class Supplies	<u>\$1,174.04</u>	
Total Expense	\$1,557.07	

State Representative: Ed Barrios reported that we need to make interns aware of the TMN listserv. Dave will put a notice in the newsletter. Neal noted that this information is available on the last page of every issue of the newsletter and on http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html.



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Membership Coordinator: Jerry Eppner reported that the timesheets are slowly coming in. He has received 16 timesheets, three of which are from interns. Total hours reported is 539 VT. Also, Dave Brandes recertified.

Volunteer Service Coordinator: Pete Romfh reported that Monica Krancevik's membership had lapsed, but she wants to come back and be active in Citizen Science. She sent two VPARS, one for a Butterflies and Moths Project with Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA), and the other one for Dragonflies and Damselflies Project with Odonata Central. Pete moved, seconded by Ed to accept the VPARS for Odonata Central and Butterflies and Moths of North America. The motion passed.

Outreach Coordinator: Ruby Lewis, reported that the total participation at Sea Center Texas Nature Day was 588, with 276 youth and 312 adults. Also, the following outreach activities remain for March:

- March 7: Brazoria Heritage Day at the Brazoria Museum, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Setup begins at 9:00 a.m. She will start contacting volunteers today.
- March 21: Camp Karankawa's 60th Anniversary from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This project is with the Boy Scouts and counts for outreach.

Publications Coordinator: Neal McLain reported that the 11-page newsletter went out, and the website is up to date.

Publicity Coordinator: Dick Schaffausen completed the TMN-COT brochure and has had 50 copies printed at a cost of \$51.33, which includes the paper and shipping. An additional 100 copies will be printed.

Migration Celebration Kickoff Dinner is coming up April 10th at Freeport RiverPlace. The topic, "Birds and Planes," will be presented by Dr. John Lienhard, the M.D. Anderson Professor of Technology and Culture, Emeritus, at the University of Houston. It is approved for .75 hour AT credit.

Also, Dick met with *The Facts* and will try to get more articles in the newspaper.

Chapter Advisor: John O'Connell completed background checks, and all are good.



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register March, 2015				
Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Pending	Comments
iNaturalist website participation	Ed Barrios	March 2015	Pending	Ed will contact Cullen Hanks to request a presentation.
Pearland Parks & Recreation. VPAL and VPAR Report	Pete Romfh		Pending	Contact in Pearland is Michelle Graham. Awaiting receipt of signed agreement.
Developing a new Partnership with Brazosport Planetarium	Tom Morris		Pending	Jerry Eppner to make contact
Split the Policies and Procedures from the By-Laws	Ed Barrios	Mid-Year	Pending	Awaiting TMN By-Laws update from the state.
GCWR VPAL modification to limit non-protected species rehab	Pete Romfh	April	Pending	VPAL to be amended
Project BudBurst	Ed Barrios		Pending	Awaiting clarification of the process for the project.
Purchase of MS Office	Ed Barrios		Pending	Awaiting 501(c)(3) for discounted purchase.
Introductory greeting explaining TMN-COT	Mike Mullins	May	Pending	Mike will create an introductory greeting
501(c)(3) Application	Ed Barrios	May	Pending	

President Dave Brandes adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Sluis, Secretary of TMN-COT



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Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Board Members													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1			n/a							
Brandes, Dave	1	1	1			n/a							
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1			n/a							
Mullins, Mike	-	1	1			n/a							
Novak, Leo	-	1	1			n/a							
Sluis, Linda	1	1	1			n/a							
						n/a							
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	1	1	1			n/a							
Stolte, Connie	1	-				n/a							
Committee Coordinators													
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1										
Lewis, Ruby	1	1	1			n/a							
McLain, Neal	1	1	1			n/a							
Morgan, Roy	-	-	-										
Romfh, Peggy	-	1	1			n/a							
Romfh, Pete	-	1	1			n/a							
Schaffhausen, Dick	-	1	1			n/a							
Quorum	Y	Y	Y			n/a							
Training Class Representatives													
Grigson, Joycelynn	1	1	1			n/a							
Kitchen, Brianna	1	-	1			n/a							
						n/a							
						n/a							