



**CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER  
AGRI LIFE EXTENSION BLDG.**

21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903  
<http://tmn-cot.org>

**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, July 1, 2015 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.  
AgriLife Extension Building  
Angleton, Texas**

**President Dave Brandes** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Absent Elected Members of the Board:** Ed Barrios (State Representative)

**Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Pam West (Chapter Host), Don Sabathier (2015 Intern Advisor), Jerry Eppner (Membership Coordinator), Neal McLain (Publications Coordinator), Peggy Romfh (Advanced Training Coordinator), Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Coordinator), and Roy Morgan (Training Coordinator).

**Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** John O'Connell (Chapter Advisor, AgriLife Extension Agent), Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Ruby Lewis (Out-reach Coordinator), and Patty Brinkmeyer (2015 Intern Advisor).

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

Meeting Minutes	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
June Board	Mike Mullins	Jerry Eppner	Minutes approved by voice vote.
June 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**

- **Contract with Pearland Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife:** Pete Romfh reported that the contract for the development of a nature center is being revised to provide for an annual review.



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- **Finalize Celebrations:** **Pam West** has received 64 responses for the celebration, but will plan for 80 attendees. Ed Barrios will prepare a slide show. Tables and chairs from the Sea Center will be set up by volunteers: Dave, Roy, Leo, and Jerry. Discussion followed regarding the cost for using the pavilion. Jerry suggested purchasing paver stones. Roy moved, seconded by Pete that we take \$150 out of the treasury to purchase the stones. The motion carried.
- **Volunteer Management System Update:** **Jerry Eppner** reported that Texas Parks and Wildlife requires that everyone login and post volunteer time in the new VMS system. TNM-COT is in the third tier for implementation. Our contact is Bradley James. The set-up into the system requires obtaining profile data for all members since inception; i.e. addresses, telephone numbers, etc. Dave and Jerry will work to auto upload profiles for volunteers. The first step should be getting the upload done; then training for administrators. The training for most volunteers should be seamless, but connection to the internet is essential. The big change is the 45-day reporting requirement. The system will not accept dates that are more than 45 days old. Also Advanced and Volunteer Training projects prior to September 1, 2015 will have to be setup as acceptable projects. A date needs to be set up for training. It was pointed out that the state does not allow travel time to AT events to count. Clarification needs to be determined if travel time can count for VT hours.
- **Media Library Move:** **Neal McLain** reported that a room at the end of the hall is available as a volunteer room for the media library. The Master Gardeners have a computer available for our use. Also there will be a bookcase with open shelves for our books. After discussion it was agreed to put our books on the shelves in the volunteer room. Also, Ed has agreed to take the "Petersen Field Guides" to the "Taste of Nature" silent auction.

**Reports:**

**Leo Novak, Vice President/Programs**, reported that Marty Cornell will present the program, "CO2 in Perspective" for the general meeting. Mel McKey will have the nature quiz.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Gerald Forrest, Treasurer**, presented the Treasurer's report for June:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
06/01/2015 – 06/30/2015	\$8,013.35	\$7,360.31

Revenue Summary

Interest (Statement not Available)



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Expense Summary

Coffee, supplies, etc.	\$ 76.04
Speaker Mileage	77.00
Background checks	<u>500.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 653.04

**Training Coordinator, Roy Morgan** requested that we begin recruitment for his replacement. This will be a topic for the general meeting. He has agreed to serve on the committee. There was a question regarding the minimum age for membership. That will need to be researched.

**Volunteer Service Coordinator, Pete Romfh** reported that the Pearland project is underway, and that the paperwork for two other projects is due. He will clarify with Michelle Haggarty the rescue/rehabilitation question as well as the AT travel issue.

**Advanced Training Coordinator, Peggy Romfh** questioned how many are participating in web-based training. Jerry indicated that there are not many, and Pete added that only four hours from webinar classes can count.

<b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register July, 2015</b>				
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/Pending</b>	<b>Comments</b>
iNaturalist website participation	Ed Barrios	March 2015	Pending	Ed will contact Cullen Hanks to request a presentation.
501(c)(3) Filing	Ed Barrios, Peggy Romfh, Mike Mullins, Gerald Forrest	Mid-year	Pending	Ed will complete.
See VT Coordinator Report	Pete Romfh		Pending	Contact in Pearland is Michelle Graham.
Developing a new partnership with the Planetarium Center for Arts and Sciences	Jerry Eppner		Pending	Jerry Eppner will make contact to request a new partnership.



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Split the Policies and Procedures from the By-laws	Ed Barrios	Mid-year	Pending	Changes to be presented are at June general meeting.
Celebration for recipients of 10,000 and 5,000 volunteer hours	Pam West	June general meeting	Pending	Planning is to be completed at June general meeting.
Animal-at-home rehabilitation VT hours	Pete Romfh Jerry Eppner	March meeting	Pending	Review and possibly modify GCWR VPAL.
Project BudBurst	Ed Barrios		Pending	Email was sent to Thomas Adams regarding next step.
VMS update and training	Jerry Eppner	Pending	Pending	Awaiting state direction
Scholarship for state meeting	Connie Stolte	September	Pending	Presentation at state meeting
Dues reassessment	Dave Brandes	November	Pending	
Minimum age for Master Naturalist	Mike Mullins	July	Pending	Review state guidelines
Replacement for Training Coordinator	Dave Brandes	July	Pending	Announce to general meeting

**President Dave Brandes** adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.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
<b>Board Members</b>													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	-						
Brandes, Dave	1	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
Mullins, Mike	-	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
Novak, Leo	-	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
Sluis, Linda	1	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
<b>Advisors</b>													
O'Connell, John	1	1	n/a	n/a	-	-	-						
Stolte, Connie	1	-	n/a	n/a	1	1	-						
<b>Committee Coordinators</b>													
Eppner, Jerry	1	1			1	1	1						
Lewis, Ruby	1	1	n/a	n/a	1	1	-						
McLain, Neal	1	1	n/a	n/a	-	-	1						
Morgan, Roy	-	-			-	-	1						
Romfh, Peggy	-	1	n/a	n/a	-	-	1						
Romfh, Pete	-	1	n/a	n/a	-	-	1						
Schaffhausen, Dick	-	1	n/a	n/a	-	-	-						
West, Pam					1	1	1						
<b>Quorum</b>	Y	Y	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	Y						
<b>Training Class Representatives</b>													
Grigson, Joycelynn	1	1	n/a	n/a									
Kitchen, Brianna	1	-	n/a	n/a									
Sabathier, Don			n/a	n/a	1	1	1						
Brinkmeyer, Patty			n/a	n/a	-	-							