



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 11:46 p.m.
AgriLife Extension Building—Angleton, Texas

President: Kristine Rivers called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 10:00 a.m., and requested additions or corrections.

Attendance:

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board	Present
Kristine Rivers (President)	X	Peggy Romfh (Membership)	
Jill Carroll (Vice-President/Programs)		Pete Romfh (Membership)	
Lisa Myers (Secretary)	X	Neal McLain (Publications)	
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Services)	X
		Larry Ruhr (Advanced Training)	X
Board Advisors		Carolyn May-Monie (Training)	
John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension)		Pam West (Chapter Host)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach)	X
Guests		Jimmy Salinas (Speakers Bureau)	
		Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
		Judy Green (Intern Representative)	X
		Ed Barrios (State Representative)	X
		Dave Brandes (Past-President)	X
		Quorum	Yes

Secretary: Lisa Myers stated that the minutes had been sent to the Board for review, and the corrections suggested by Board members were made. The minutes were approved.

Minutes Approval:

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
March Board Meeting & General Meeting	Don Sabathier	Dave Brandes	Minutes approved by voice vote

Action Register Review was led by Kristine Rivers [see *COT Board Action Register items at end of minutes*]. There were no completed and removed items.

Treasurer's Report: Don Sabathier presented the March, 2017, financial information, below. Don noted a \$220 check for intern shirts that remains outstanding despite his efforts to get the vendor to cash it. Regarding member dues for 2017, Don advised that eight to ten members had still not responded to his request to find out if they wished to remain members.

March, 2017, COT Treasurer Report

Date: 1 March – 31 March 2017

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,279.63
Revenue Summary	\$ 175.00
Interest	\$ 0.85
Expense Summary	(\$ 60.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,395.48



Quintana Habitat Destruction: Kristine Rivers advised the board that Melanie Oldham, a Freeport resident and Sierra Club Executive Committee member for both the Houston and Austin groups, had approached her and Lisa Myers at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary on April 1. Oldham provided details pertaining to Zachry’s accidental clearing about a year ago of 34 acres of land near the new overpass at the LNG plant. Subsequent to meeting Oldham, Lisa Myers contacted her to obtain more information so that it could be shared with board members. The affected acreage, previously known for its bobcat dens and excellent birding, had been covered in caliche as a laydown area for LNG. Since the acreage cannot easily be remediated, Oldham believes that LNG should remediate via significant donations, beyond what they are already doing, to the City of Quintana, GCBO and perhaps TMN-COT, to be used for projects related to Quintana. The matter was briefly discussed, with the consensus of the board that no action by the board was necessary now.

Lunch Arrangements for Intern Graduation at May Meeting: Pam West suggested that cake (only) be served at the meeting. Dave Brandes requested that ice cream be added, and members concurred.

Texas Water Specialist Certification: Larry Ruhr presented information regarding this new TMN Specialist Certification opportunity. The goal of the certification program is to “develop a corps of well-informed volunteer specialists who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of aquatic resources and aquatic habitats” in State of Texas communities.

Certification requirements include:

- Reading the required curriculum in the book, Texas Waters—Exploring Water and Watersheds.
- Eight hours of approved AT training relative to water and watersheds (only four hours can count for TMN recertification).
- Initial 10 hours of VT service relative to Texas waters and then 10 additional hours each year for recertification.

Larry indicated his desire to publicize the program via announcements at membership meetings, emails to chapter members, and an article(s) in the chapter newsletter. He noted that some TMN chapters had formed small discussion/study groups to review the curriculum; interested COT members may wish to do so as well, and Larry would be willing to coordinate the initial discussion session. Additionally, he will work with Pete and Peggy regarding how best to record and/or certify appropriate Waters Specialist-related AT activities in VMS. He also asked the board for and received acknowledgment of the fact that prospective specialists would need to be allowed to log AT credit in VMS for on-demand, pre-recorded webinars (i.e., they do not meet the TMS requirement for live, interactive webinars) that are part of the certification process. Larry plans to present this specialist opportunity at the next general meeting so that interested members can pursue it if desired.

BOARD REPORTS

Membership: Kristine presented the following impact data and VT and AT information provided by Pete and Peggy Romfh, who are on vacation. Kristine noted that Peggy had recently achieved a 4,000 hours milestone, and she will arrange to have Peggy’s name added to the plaque in the AgriLife building.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 March 2017	2137	6285	8422

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
1 January – 31 March 2017	4236	601.5



Membership (continued)

The following recertification and awards will be presented at the April 15 general meeting:

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin):		250 Hours Milestones (Bronze Dragonfly Pin):
Oron Atkins	Herb Myers	Judy Green
Susan Conaty	Lisa Myers	Lisa Myers
Garry Ellis	Peggy Romfh	Kristine Rivers
Judy Green	Pete Romfh	
Becky McClendon	Larry Ruhr	
Sheree Muzny	Chip Sweet	

State Representative: Ed Barrios announced that TMN needs volunteers for the annual state meeting to be held in Corpus Christi this year. While the chapter is already committed to bringing easels for a photo contest, TMN also needs volunteers for a variety of activities.

Volunteer Project & Activity Request Review: Oron Atkins indicated the following upcoming projects and/or updates on project status.

- Savannah Elementary, Rosharon—Date TBD; Ruby Lewis will personally handle the rescheduled event
- DEEP—LISD STEM 9th grade on April 27; Johnny Dwyer will be recruiting
- Spring Fling Host Station for Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary—Pete and Peggy have handled scheduling; calendar mostly filled
- Bobcat Woods Trail Boardwalk—Still ongoing; check calendar; contact Oron Atkins
- BNWR Big Slough Boardwalk— Still ongoing; check calendar; contact Oron Atkins
- Easter Bunny Festival at Brazos Mall—April 14; contact Ruby Lewis
- Sea Turtle Patrol Training—April 26 is last training date (AT); contact Bryan and Vicky Adams
- Texas Coastal Watershed Program at GCBO (work day)—April 20; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- Buff Breasted Sandpiper Surveys—Scheduled for April 14, 21, 28, and May 5; need dates and registration info for required training (AT); contact Kelli Stone
- Migration Celebration—April 21 (set-up), 22, 23, and 24 (clean-up); contact Ed Barrios
- Captain Shishka Bob—May 11, 12 at Angleton Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; VT (PO) for all work done (including kitchen help); contact Ruby Lewis
- Monarch Watch (counting Monarchs from mid-March through month of April)—All hours count regardless of weather or number counted; contact: <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2017/03/31/new-monarch-watch-citizen-scientist-project/>
- Hanson Riverside County Park Trail Clearing—May 15; contact Mike Mullenweg
- Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk Summer Youth Camp—Upcoming
- Exploration Green Planting—contact Mary Carol Edwards
- Plant Watch—Information needed



Outreach: Ruby Lewis reviewed the following upcoming events:

- Migration Celebration—same as above
- Captain Shishka Bob—same as above
- Earth Day Event, Richwood—April 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Easter Bunny Carnival at Brazos Mall—April 8; COT has three booths to be staffed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; contact Ruby Lewis
- TOC and Friends of BNWR Booth at Brazos Mall—April 14 (Good Friday); to promote Migration Celebration; contact Ruby Lewis
- Savannah Elementary, Alvin ISD—April date to be determined; owl pellet workshop; contact Ruby Lewis
- Water Fair—Next dates are April 10-11, 12-13; volunteers have received training
- Summer Library Program—Ruby will present information at the general meeting

Publications: Lisa Myers presented the following information from Neal McLain, who was not present:

Newsletter

- The April issue is expected to be published on Monday, April 10, via the Google group. All submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, or earlier if possible

Website

- Routine updates made to the AT page; information received from Jill Carroll
- Routine updates made to the Intern Training page as requested by Carolyn May-Monie

Calendar

- Certain volunteer opportunities are not being submitted for posting to the calendar, e.g., Brazoria Heritage Day on March 1 and Brazos Mall booths on April 8 and 14; emailed Ruby Lewis about these; everyone please submit all events for posting

Google Group Mailing List

- Removal of the TMN-COT header five months ago, part of an effort to fix problems that certain members with Comcast were experiencing, apparently has not made any difference, and I plan to restore it. Dave Brandes stated that no one has reported having trouble receiving TMN-COT mail in the past two months, so we should not make the change.\

President: Kristine Rivers asked members to let her know how much time they need to present at the General Meeting and adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
501(c)(3) Filing (non-profit)	Ed Barrios	May	Pending	Our 1023EZ application to apply for 501(c)(3) was accepted on March 19 th . The IRS indicated it takes about 90 days before we will hear back on the status of our application; after processing, we will file for ITIN (tax ID) and a tax-exempt code; Don indicated that we already have a code and tried unsuccessfully to find it
Look into the Liability Policy for D&O, share Friend's D&O liability policy with COT Board, discuss with Kim Richardson possible strategies for adding insurance for COT	Ed Barrios, Kim Richardson	May	Pending	Friends of BNWR received a quote from Chubb, that specializes in coverage for non-profits; Ed to check with Chubb to see if COT policy would be cheaper for a non-profit; we MUST have non-profit status first
Verify what emergency contact and health information is available in VMS and work with chapter members to update information and define a specific emergency-response protocol	Peggy Romfh, Pete Romfh (others to be named)	May	Pending	In the event of a volunteer's medical emergency at an event, we must have immediate access to his/her special medical concerns (if any) and contacts; Kristine to remind members at April meeting to update their info in VMS
New Action Items Added at April Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
None				



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER
AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.
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<http://tmn-cot.org>

Date 2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X	X									
Carroll, Jill	X	X	X										
Sabathier, Don	X	X		X									
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X									
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X										
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X									
Barrios, Ed	X		X	X									
Brandes, Dave	X	X		X									
Lewis, Ruby	X	X		X									
May-Monie, Carolyn	X												
McLain, Neal	X	X	X										
Romfh, Peggy	X	X	X										
Romfh, Pete	X	X	X										
Ruhr, Larry	X	X	X	X									
Salinas, Jimmy													
Schaffhausen, Dick		X		X									
West, Pam	X		X	X									
Training Class Representative(s)													
Green, Judy (2016)	X	X		X									
(2017)													
(2017)													
Guest(s)													
Jerry Eppner	X												
Jimmy Salinas			X										