



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
AgriLife Extension Building—Angleton, Texas

President: Kristine Rivers called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 9:00 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)	X
Jill Carroll (Vice-President/Programs)	X	Pete Romfh (Membership)	X
Lisa Myers (Secretary)	X	Neal McLain (Publications)	X
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)	X	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Services)	X
		Larry Ruhr (Advanced Training)	X
		Carolyn May-Monie (Training)	X
		Pam West (Chapter Host)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach)	X
		Jimmy Salinas (Speakers Bureau)	
		Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
		Bill Ahlstrom (Intern Representative)	X
		Ed Barrios (State Representative)	X
		Dave Brandes (Past-President)	
		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
August and September General Meetings; August Board Meeting (September Board Meeting cancelled)	Peggy Romfh	Pete Romfh	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present



Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
Reimburse COT presentation participants Mike Mullenweg, Phil Huxford and Rich Tillman up to \$150 each to defray hotel expenses at TMN State Meeting	Carolyn May-Monie	Ed Barrios	Decision approved by voice vote of Board Members present
Start the next Intern Training Class the third week of August, 2018, and let the Training Team determine the class schedule	Larry Ruhr	Ed Barrios	Decision approved by voice vote of Board Members present

Action Register Review was led by Kristine Rivers [see *COT Board Action Register items at end of minutes*].

Treasurer’s Report—On behalf of Don Sabathier, Kristine Rivers presented the September 2017, financial information, below.

1 September – 30 September 2017, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,814.21
Revenue Summary	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.64
Expense Summary	(\$ 420.00)*
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 6,394.85

*For Directors and Officers insurance

State Meeting Presentation Team—Kristine raised the issue of reimbursing team members for registration costs (impacting three team members, not including those of the President, whose costs are reimbursed) and one-night’s hotel expenses (impacting another three team members). The issue had previously been raised via email and further discussion postponed until the next Board Meeting. Board Members offered examples of what had and had not been reimbursed and/or requested in the past, and after a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved (see “Motions,” above). Peggy asked to be reimbursed for the cost of exhibit materials and presentation handouts, and the Board agreed that she should submit the expense.

2018 Intern Training—Carolyn May-Monie informed the Board that due to Hurricane Harvey, training-team members are behind in planning for the next class. Because of flood damage she suffered, Carolyn indicated that she could not head the team if it started on schedule. Kristine said that she and Carolyn had discussed the possibility of moving the class to the Fall of 2018. Board Members considered the pros and cons of such a move and Carolyn suggested:



- A class start date of August 15 (in order to accommodate November and December holidays)
- Conducting warm-weather sessions first
- Holding intern presentations at the December General Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved (see “Motions,” above).

December Meeting—Per Pam West’s suggestion, Kristine requested that the start time of December’s General Meeting be moved to 11 a.m. with hospitality beginning at 10:30 a.m. This change would dovetail with the start time of the annual Hog Wild party. Board Members concurred and expressed the need to get the word out to membership via emails, website, newsletters, and General Meetings.

Nominating Committee—Kristine asked who might not want to run for re-election besides Jill (Vice President), who had previously indicated her need to step down. Kristine asked that Board Members let her and Nominating Committee Chairperson Dave Brandes know if they intend to leave the Board.

BOARD REPORTS

Programs—Jill Carroll informed members of the following General Meeting and Nature Notes speakers:

- **October**—Glenn Olsen presenting “Phenomenal Flights: The Amazing Intercontinental Flights of Birds”; Jimmy Salinas, Nature Notes: “Oil Spill Technology”
- **November**—Shane Bonnot presenting “Aquaculture”; Candace Novak, Nature Notes: “Monk Parrots”
- **December**—No speaker due to Hog Wild party
- **January, 2018**—Martin Hagne presenting “Pelagic Birds”; Larry Ruhr, Nature Notes: “Parasitic Plants”
- **February, 2018**—Not yet scheduled (possibly have Stephen Curtis present an eel program in January and move Martin Hagne to February); Candace Novak, Nature Notes: “Frog Calls.”

Membership— Pete and Peggy Romfh presented the following impact data and VT and AT information:

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 30 September 2017	9,967	27,867	37,834

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 30 September 2017	13,111	1,359	115



Recertification awards to the individuals whose names are listed below will be presented at the October 11, General Meeting. Peggy indicated that a couple of people are very close to achieving major milestones. Kristine asked Pete and Peggy to clarify at the General Meeting the timeframe in which 2017 interns may certify and clarify the requirements for active membership versus recertification.

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	
Ed Barrios	Donna Graham
Jill Carroll	Phil Huxford
Mickey Dufilho	Bob Whitmarsh

State—Ed Barrios asked for and received confirmation that COT still intended to loan and transport easels to the TMN State Meeting. He announced that he is sending out to all volunteers who have participated in the last two years a request for feedback on the Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) and will be giving the form to all teachers who attend this year.

Finally, Ed noted that he received copies of TMN documents that State sends out annually for chapter review and suggestions. Although he had not yet thoroughly reviewed the files, he intends to ask that State: 1) send the documents with changes highlighted, and 2) change the due date of chapter financial audits to January versus December.

Training—Carolyn May-Monie thanked Board Members for moving the start date of the 2018 Intern Training Class.

Volunteer Project, Public Outreach, and Activity Request Review—Oron Atkins presented the following upcoming projects, outreach and/or status updates:

- **Grass Mowing at SBNWR**—Mondays through Thursdays; contact Roland Davis roland_davis@fws.gov (no TMN calendar entry)
- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—October 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com
- **Kid’s Fishing Derby, Brazoria County Parks Department** —November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at San Luis Pass Park; eight volunteers needed; contact Mike Mullenweg mikem@brazoria-county.com
- **GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Harvey Flood Recovery Work Days**—Every Wednesday and Saturday until further notice, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Martin Hagne mhagne@gcbo.org.

Peggy asked about the status of the Pearland work day considering Hurricane Harvey impact. Don indicated that the work day was still scheduled, but he saw that the small islands are almost completely submerged and Mary Carol said that the large islands had been dragged up on the south shore by the City. He was not sure what was going to be able to be done. New anchors are needed and probably replanting the islands.



Advanced Training—Larry Ruhr announced the following, upcoming AT events and indicated that he will have full information at the General Meeting:

- **Angler Education**—October 7; Larry will post on the Calendar
- **Water Testing Program**—“is coming up”
- **Archeology**—He needs to check if it qualifies.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis provided a recap of recent events including the August mall event (over 1,000 impacted); September 23 Lake Jackson Historical Museum event (very successful and Jodi Larson at the museum would like to partner with COT; Peggy noted that partner relationships are generally *quid pro quo*); September 29, Trinity Oaks Assisted Living event in Pearland.

Ruby announced the following Public Outreach events:

- **KBR Kids Day**—October 7; Ruby will be sending out directions and information to those who volunteered. David Plunkett has had a death in the family and will not attend
- **Spooktacular, Texas Sea Center**—October 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Ruby to circulate sign-up sheet at General Meeting
- **Lake Jackson Festival of Lights**—November 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Civic Center grounds. Organizers have waived for COT only the exhibitor fee this year, but it will apply next year. Board members discussed the value of participating and expressed displeasure at having to pay a fee as COT is a 501(c)(3) offering a service to the community and is not selling any goods at the festival. It was determined that COT would decline participation in the future and see if organizers waive the fee again.

Chapter Host—Pam West reminded the Board that she would not be at the October General Meeting and that Don Sabathier and Lisa Myers will handle host duties. Lisa offered to thank the Brazoria County Library System representatives for providing snacks; they are doing so in appreciation for COT members’ participation in the Summer Reading Program.

Publications—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

Website

- Routine updates to homepage and Advanced Training page
- Added Father Peter Conaty to the *In Memoriam* page. As noted last month, the page is normally limited to Chapter members; however, Bryan Adams, John Tveten, and Conaty have been included due to their close association with the chapter

Newsletter

- The August and September issues went out on schedule
- Judy Green submitted a Book Review of a Media Library book for the August issue and has been encouraged to submit a review every month
- The October issue publication schedule is:

Friday, October 6	Submission deadline, 5 p.m.
Sunday, October 8 (or earlier)	Review draft published for Board
Monday, October 9	Publication via the Google group



Media Library

- No changes to holdings
- One of the bookcases has been commandeered by the Master Gardeners
- Joycelynn Grigson has yet to return the book borrowed a year ago

General Meeting Projector Setup

- Larry Peterson has agreed to take over this function, did so at the September meeting, and is doing an excellent job

Secret Pages on Website

- As a reminder to the Board, there are three “secret” COT website pages that are not linked from the home page (or any other page); you must know the URLs to access the following pages:
 - Minutes of Board and General Meetings—<http://tmn-cot.org/Minutes/>
 - Photos of people (150px high unless noted)—<http://tmn-cot.org/Mugshots/>
 - Special forms (e.g., sales tax exemption)—
http://tmn-cot.org/COT_Special_Forms

Kristine indicated that Ellen Lasseter may not be able to take over Web Master duties due to time constraints and her travel schedule. Lisa asked that someone take group pictures at the General Meeting of those certifying or recertifying and not just those achieving milestones.

Publicity—Richard Schaffhausen asked Board Members to take pictures at events and will ask the general membership to do so as well. He requested from Pete and Peggy a current member list that includes email and phone numbers.

Intern Representative—Bill Ahlstrom mentioned a recent article he had read concerning Hurricane Harvey’s impact on Galveston Bay, especially the hurricane’s impact on the nearby Superfund Site.



Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
Organize a multi-hour member event consisting of several AT-eligible sessions	Jill Carroll Larry Ruhr	20 Jan. 2018	Pending	COT has had similar events in the past for general education and to provide an opportunity for AT hours; due to hurricane, holding event as a dry run for State Meeting Presentations not feasible; after discussion regarding how many need AT hours, 20 Jan. 2018 was set for the event, which will include lunch
Explore what general liability coverage we do and do not have; arrange for a guest speaker to explain exposure to the Board, if necessary	John O'Connell	Nov.	Pending	To explore whether volunteers need general liability coverage and in what amount; deferred in John's absence; Ed Barrios to forward to Board his 2009 presentation to COT membership on the topic and ask Michelle Haggerty if there have been changes since 2009; Kristine Rivers to check with John O'Connell
New Action Item(s) Added at October Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Complete/ Pending	Comments
Edit COT website to reflect change in 2018 Intern Training Class (to August, 2018); announce at General Meetings, include in promotion materials/activities, urge Members to spread the word	Neal McLain, Kristine Rivers, Dick Schaffhausen	Now (web-site); ongoing	Pending	Change in class date allows those impacted by Hurricane Harvey time to plan/participate

President: Kristine asked members how much time they need to present at the General Meeting. Jill asked about the status of charitable contributions now that COT is a 501(c)(3). Ed mentioned that Phillips Petroleum has a matching contribution program, and some members may have an affiliation with this or other companies with similar programs. Don said that he would emphasize this point at the General Meeting.

Kristine adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Date 2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			
Carroll, Jill	X	X	X		X	X				X			
Sabathier, Don	X	X		X	X	X		X		X			
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X		X	X							
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	N		N	X			
Barrios, Ed	X		X	X			O		O	X			
Brandes, Dave	X	X		X	X	X		X					
Lewis, Ruby	X	X		X	X		M	X	M	X			
May-Monie, Carolyn	X					X	E	X	E	X			
McLain, Neal	X	X	X		X	X	E	X	E	X			
Romfh, Peggy	X	X	X		X	X	T		T	X			
Romfh, Pete	X	X	X		X	X	I		I	X			
Ruhr, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	X	N	X			
Salinas, Jimmy						X	G		G				
Schaffhausen, Dick		X		X	X					X			
West, Pam	X		X	X	X	X		X		X			
Training Class Representative(s)													
Ahlstrom, Bill (2017)						X		X		X			
Green, Judy (2016)	X	X		X	X								
Guest(s)													
Jerry Eppner	X												
Jimmy Salinas			X										