



**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:02 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—**

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

**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
Approve the October General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Don Sabathier	Oron Atkins	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present

**Motions—**

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
To pursue a VPAL (Volunteer Project and Activity) relationship with Cradle of Texas Conservancy to support its efforts to develop the LNG Mitigation Land at Surfside as a small bird sanctuary	Larry Ruhr	Neal McLain	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**—Don Sabathier presented the October 2017, financial information, below [interest information provided after the meeting, upon receipt from the bank].

**1 October – 31 October 2017, COT Treasurer Report**

<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	\$ 6,394.85
Revenue Summary	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.65
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00)
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	\$ 6,395.50

Don noted that no real contributions have been made to COT via the Website other than a “test” contribution made by one Board Member. Kristine said that she would like a more concerted fundraising effort and various suggestions were made.

**Cradle of Texas Conservancy (CTC)**—Chris Kneupper noted that the CTC is a land trust organization that was the origin of the Brazoria County Parks Department. It collects funds and land donations. Chris explained that CTC owns 80 acres of LNG Mitigation Land in Surfside, which it passively manages; however, they would like a relationship with COT to develop parts of the palustrine property as a “mini refuge” to attract neotropical birds. This would entail conducting a plant survey, gathering seed, planting and other activities, some of which might be taken on by the next COT intern class. [see Motion, above.]

**State Meeting Overview**—Kristine provided a brief overview of the presentation team’s sessions at the State Meeting: Attendance was larger than expected at all sessions except the Sunday field trip, which had 14 attendees. People especially loved the take-aways provided by Peggy and Pete Romfh for their sessions. The State office posted about the reptile session on Facebook. All team members felt that our participation was worth all the work entailed in making it happen.

**Nominating Committee**—In Dave Brandes’ absence, Kristine reported that Bill Ahlstrom is interested in running for Vice President; no other members have expressed an interest in running for office. Ellen Lasseter is still considering the position of Webmaster; Neal McLain is compiling a “how-to manual” for the position.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Programs**—In the absence of Jill Carroll, Kristine reminded the Board of the November General Meeting and Nature Notes speaker:

- **November**—Shane Bonnot presenting “Aquaculture”; Candace Novak, Nature Notes: “Monk Parrots”

**Membership**—In the absence of Pete and Peggy Romfh, Lisa presented the following award recipients for the November General Meeting and noted that impact data and VT and AT information would be forthcoming and added to the Board Minutes [see data supplied on November 2, below].

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 31 October 2017	14,091	32,752	46,843

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 31 October 2017	14,364	1,517	116

Additionally, Bill Ahlstrom earned the Angler Certification.

Initial Certification (Dragonfly Pin)	Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	5,000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold with Diamond Dragonfly Pin)
Victor Wade	Roger Allen John Boettiger Chris Kneupper Rich Tillman Denis James	Herb Myers Kristine Rivers	Justina Dent

**Volunteer Project, Public Outreach, and Activity Request Review**—Oron Atkins presented a VPAL opportunity with the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science requested by Roy Morgan and which stems from his volunteer work in the seashell area of the museum. The Board agreed that his volunteer work should count as COT VT and that COT should pursue a VPAL relationship.

Oron shared the following, upcoming projects, outreach and/or status updates:

- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—November 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper [kneupper@bazorianet.com](mailto:kneupper@bazorianet.com)
- **Exploration Green Habitat Island Tree Planting**—November 18, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Exploration Wetland Planting Prep Day**—November 24, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Exploration Green Habitat Island Wetland Planting**—November 25, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **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](mailto:mhagne@gcbo.org). Rebuilding dates TBD
- **Bobcat Woods**—There is an upcoming meeting on concrete work; materials are ready for boardwalk work.

**Advanced Training**—Larry Ruhr said that he is compiling AT events. Kristine stated that Kari Howard is interested in doing a Texas Estuaries Resource Network (TERN) training program with interested COT members.

**Outreach**—Ruby Lewis provided a recap of recent events including KBR Kids Day, a forest and forest animal program at Griffith Elementary School Pre-K and reptiles at Spooktacular, Texas Sea Center.

Ruby announced the following Public Outreach event:

- **Lake Jackson Festival of Lights**—November 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Civic Center grounds.

**Chapter Host**—Pam West thanked Don and Lisa for taking over host duties at the General Meeting in her absence last month and noted the following were scheduled to bring snacks to the General Meeting: Mary Holler, Rainbo Johnson, Georgia Monnerat, Laurel Owen, Anne Bettinger, Ken Sluis and Linda Sluis. She will also verify that Justina Dent will attend the November General Meeting and will have a cake to honor Justina's 5,000-hour milestone.

**Publications**—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

#### Website

- Completed routine updates to the homepage and the Advanced Training page
- Revised Intern Training page to reflect schedule change
- Added photos of 2017 State Meeting in Corpus Christi

#### Newsletter

- October Issue went out on schedule
- November issue publication schedule:

Wednesday, November 1	Board Meeting
Friday, November 3, 5 p.m.	Submission deadline
Sunday, November 5	Review draft posted for Board Review
Monday, November 6	Publication
- Many past issues of the newsletter include reference to the availability of Board Meeting Minutes on the website. Question: Should they be removed? Kristine said that she did not think old newsletters need to be revised. If someone asks about availability, it can be addressed at that time.
- Justina Dent has reached the 5000-hour VT milestone. I have asked Judy Green to interview Justina for a proposed article for the December newsletter

#### Media Library

- I have replaced the signed copy of *Lower Brazos River Canals* by Lora Marie Bernard. Joycelyn Grigson borrowed the original signed copy and apparently lost it. I met Lora Marie at a recent Brazoria County Museum Alliance meeting and asked her to sign a new copy for the chapter.

**Speakers Bureau**—Jimmy Salinas noted that Edgar Allan Poe Elementary had requested a reptile program. Ruby will contact them and the contact from the TMN Galveston Chapter, who also requested a reptile program for their June camp.

Ruby revealed that she had asked Jennifer Fielding to update the COT brochure and circulated copies of the new tri-fold.

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; event will be on 20 Jan. 2018; lunch included; AgriLife room has been reserved and Larry Ruhr to coordinate sessions/sign-up/food with appropriate people
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	Dec.	Pending	To explore whether volunteers need general liability coverage and in what amount; deferred in John's absence; Ed Barrios forwarded to Board his 2009 presentation to COT membership on the topic and will ask Michelle Haggerty if there have been changes since 2009; Jennifer Fielding secured and summarized some information from AgriLife but Board has questions about ambiguous language
Edit COT website to reflect change in 2018 Intern Training Class (to August, 2018) DONE; announce at General Meetings, include in promotion materials/activities, urge Members to spread the word	Neal McLain, Kristine Rivers, Dick Schaffhausen	Ongoing	Pending	Change in class date allows those impacted by Hurricane Harvey time to plan/participate; a plan is needed to promote the new class
New Action Item(s) Added at November Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Complete/Pending	Comments
Determine a method to register members and guests for the multi-hour AT event on Jan. 20	Larry Ruhr	Dec.	Pending	Need to pre-register attendees and allow for a.m., p.m., and both sessions registration and to determine food needs

**President:** Kristine asked members how much time they need to present at the General Meeting and adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Date 2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Elected Board Members</b>													
Rivers, Kristine	X	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	X		
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		
<b>Advisor(s)</b>													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X		X	X							
<b>Appointed Board Members</b>													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	N		N	X	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	X		
May-Monie, Carolyn	X					X	E	X	E	X			
McLain, Neal	X	X	X		X	X	E	X	E	X	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	X		
Salinas, Jimmy						X	G		G		X		
Schaffhausen, Dick		X		X	X					X	X		
West, Pam	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X		
<b>Training Class Representative(s)</b>													
Ahlstrom, Bill (2017)						X		X		X			
Green, Judy (2016)	X	X		X	X								
<b>Guest(s)</b>													
Jerry Eppner	X												
Jimmy Salinas			X										
Chris Kneupper											X		