



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 9:02 a.m. – 10:50 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)		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
Board Advisors		Carolyn May-Monie (Training)	X
John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension)	X	Pam West (Chapter Host)	X
		Ruby Lewis (Outreach)	
Guests		Jimmy Salinas (Speakers Bureau)	
		Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
		Bill Ahlstrom (Intern Representative)	X
		Ed Barrios (State Representative)	
		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
Approve the November General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Peggy Romfh	Oron Atkins	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded by	Vote
Provide lunch at no cost to attendees of January 20 AT event; not to exceed \$10/person	Peggy Romfh	Pete Romfh	Decision approved by voice vote of Board Members present

After obtaining input from COT State Representative Ed Barrios, Kristine Rivers should notify Bruce Neville, TMN Brazos Valley Chapter President, other chapters as necessary, and TMN State of COT's concurrence with Neville's concerns (as indicated in his email of 30 Nov.) relative to CMOP and COH	Larry Ruhr	Don Sabathier	Decision approved by voice vote of Board Members present (with one abstention)
Reimburse the Publicity Director (Dick Schaffhausen) for the cost of a subscription to <i>The Facts</i>	Peggy Romfh	Neal McLain	Decision approved by voice vote of Board Members present

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

Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier presented the November 2017, financial information, below.

1 November – 30 November 2017, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 6,395.50
Revenue Summary	\$ 125.00
Interest	\$ 0.61
Expense Summary	(\$ 556.34)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 5,964.77

Don noted that:

1. COT may receive a matching gift from Phillips 66
2. He intended to remind members at the General Meeting next week that donations to COT are tax deductible and that some companies offer matching gifts
3. Regarding the dates of the annual audit required by the State, Don said that he had still not heard from anyone at State; however, we will continue to record accounting data on a January to December basis. An audit committee, Lisa Myers, Oron Atkins and Jill Carroll, will meet to review the financial records at 10:30 a.m. before next week's General Meeting.

Revisions to CMOP and COH—In Ed Barrios' absence, Lisa Myers reminded members of the Email from TMN Brazos Valley Chapter President Bruce Neville and forwarded by Kristine Rivers, which outlined his concerns regarding changes to the CMOP, specifically:

1. The Statewide Committee is not a representative body and, as such, has no authority over the chapters
2. The objectives in the CMOP have been greatly modified, restricting our mission and activities

3. A new, undefined criterion has been added to the advanced training guidelines that further restricts our mission and activities
4. No rationale has yet been given for restricting advanced training and volunteer service to the local region and ecosystem

After a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed [see “Motions,” above].

New VPAL Form(s)—Oron Atkins asked for some clarification regarding which organizations the Board had approved last month for new VPAL agreements. He will gather more information from Lake Jackson Historical Museum and will work on a VPAL for the Cradle of Texas Conservancy [see “Action Register,” below].

BOARD REPORTS

Programs—Jill Carroll announced the following General Meeting and Nature Notes speakers:

- **January**—Martin Hagne, “Pelagic Birds”; Nature Notes: Larry Ruhr, “Parasitic Plants”
- **February**—Stephen Curtis, “The American Eel”; Nature Notes: Candace Novak, “Frog Calls.”

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh presented the following impact data and VT and AT information and award recipients for the December General Meeting. They noted that approximately six people are close to recertifying and have been contacted. Approximately 120 people have entered hours in 2017 to date; five members have not entered any hours.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
1 January – 30 November 2017	14,603	33,776	48,379

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
1 January – 30 November 2017	15,339	1,632	115

Recertification (Sea Turtle Pin)		250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)	1000-Hour Milestone (Gold Dragonfly Pin)
Mike Bettorf	Mary Helen Israel	Vicki Kirby	Neeta Allen	Kim Richardson
Barbara Burkhardt	Mike Mullenweg		Anna King	
Julia Geisler	Candace Novak			
Christina Hartman	Ed Peebles			
Mary Holler	David Plunkett			

Training—Carolyn May-Monie indicated that the training team committee had recently met and developed a schedule for next year's training class (see attachments). Carolyn indicated that the presenter list had not yet been finalized and some adjustments would be made; however, the start and end dates (September 5 and December 12) were set.

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

- **TCWP at GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory) Nursery Work Day**—December 21, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com
- **Exploration Green Nursery/Wetland Workday**—December 21 and 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **GCBO 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
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Day**—Every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper kneupper@bazorianet.com
- **Bobcat Woods Trail**—Installation of new boardwalk began November 13; basic scope of work includes staging materials along trail, drilling ground holes for posts, attaching sub-structure, installing TanDeck boards. More volunteers needed. See calendar for scheduled work days
- **Christmas Bird Count Events**—See Calendar for details
 - **December 14**—Guadalupe River Data, McFadden Ranches (TXGF)
 - **December 15**—San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges (TXSB)
 - **December 16**—Brazos Bend State Park (TXBZ)
 - **December 17**—Freeport (TXFR)
 - **December 18**—Matagorda Co., Mad Island Marsh CBC (TXMM)
 - **December 20**—Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR (TXAP)
 - **December 30**—Brazoria, Columbia Bottomlands (TXBR)
- **DEEP**—January 23 and 25, contact Karis Watson.

Don Sabathier noted that the Recycle Center has begun preliminary work on a Nature Center; they may request volunteers at a future date.

Advanced Training—Larry Ruhr said that there was little AT activity for December; however, if last year is a guide, he expected an uptick in February.

Publications—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

Website

- Added info about 2017 Christmas Bird Counts
<http://tmn-cot.org/BirdCounts/CBC-2017-08.pdf>
- Added photos of the chapter's participation in the Lake Jackson Festival of Lights
<http://festival-lights-2017.blogspot.com/>

FOBWR and MC Websites

- Temporarily agreed to run the FOBWR and MC-2018 websites pending further action by the FOBWR board
<http://refugefriends.org/>
<http://migrationcelebration.org/>

Newsletter

- November issue went out on schedule
- December issue publication schedule:

Wednesday, December 6	Board Meeting
Friday, December 8, 5 p.m.	Submission deadline
Sunday, December 10	Review draft posted for Board Review
Monday, December 11	Publication
- Neal has asked Judy Green to interview Justina Dent for a proposed article for the January newsletter. Judy is an excellent interviewer, having previously interviewed Jim Calvert (President’s Call to Service Award) and Phil Huxford (15th anniversary of the BOP school program) for newsletter articles.

Publicity—Dick Schaffhausen indicated that he had sent an article to *The Facts* about COT General Meetings and would begin promoting the 2018 intern class in January. He noted that *The Facts* does not notify him when they use an article or press release, and as he does not receive the publication, it is hard for him to monitor. A motion was made, seconded and passed to cover the cost of a subscription for the Publicity Director [see *Motions*].

2017 Interns—Bill Ahlstrom noted that many Christmas Bird Counts offer access to areas not usually open to the general public—another benefit of participating.

As of the date of the Board Meeting, there is no definite candidate to replace Bill Ahlstrom as Intern Representative if he is elected Vice President for 2018. Kristine has feelers out to one possible candidate; Carolyn May-Monie indicated that she has two others to recommend and will pass their names to Kristine.

Board Advisor—John O’Connell stated that a Citizen Science project to monitor Zika-carrying mosquito larvae would be starting. He will present the opportunity to COT at the January Member Meeting and will hold training after the February General Meeting.

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 Pam West	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 with attendance limited to 80; lunch included; AgriLife



				room has been reserved; and Larry Ruhr to reserve conference room for food and coordinate sessions; Jill to send out Evite ASAP and coordinate with Kristine about inviting other chapters after January Board Meeting; Mike Mullenweg cannot attend; therefore, reptile presentation can be extended
Explore what general liability coverage we do and do not have; ask Michelle Haggerty for clarification	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
Determine a method to register members and guests for the multi-hour AT event on Jan. 20; probably Evite	Jill Carroll	Now	Pending	Need to pre-register COT attendees ASAP and allow for a.m., p.m., and both sessions registration (if possible) and to determine food needs; send Evite to other, designated TMN chapters after January Board Meeting
New Action Item(s) Added at December Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Complete/Pending	Comments
Print a list of all active COT members for use at the General Meeting to sign-up for the January 20 AT event	Peggy and Pete Romfh	13 Dec.	Pending	To facilitate member sign-up and to be combined with Evite registration (by Lisa or Jill)
Prepare a VPAL for Cradle of Texas Conservancy	Oron Atkins	Now	Pending	Per presentation made by Chris Kneupper at November Board Meeting and Board Members' approval to proceed



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

President: Jill asked members how much time they need to present at the General Meeting, asked Neal McLain to send an Email reminder to members that the General Meeting next week would start at 11:00 a.m. (not 10:00 a.m.), with snacks at 10:30 a.m., and adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Attendance 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	X		9
Carroll, Jill	X	X	X		X	X				X		X	7
Sabathier, Don	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	9
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	10
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X		X	X						X	6
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	N		N	X	X	X	9
Barrios, Ed	X		X	X			O		O	X			4
Brandes, Dave	X	X		X	X	X		X					6
Lewis, Ruby	X	X		X	X		M	X	M	X	X		7
May-Monie, Carolyn	X					X	E	X	E	X		X	5
McLain, Neal	X	X	X		X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	9
Romfh, Peggy	X	X	X		X	X	T		T	X		X	7
Romfh, Pete	X	X	X		X	X	I		I	X		X	7
Ruhr, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	X	N	X	X	X	10
Salinas, Jimmy						X	G		G		X		2
Schaffhausen, Dick		X		X	X					X	X	X	6
West, Pam	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	9
Training Class Representative(s)													
Ahlstrom, Bill (2017)						X		X		X		X	4
Green, Judy (2016)	X	X		X	X								4
Guest(s)													
Jerry Eppner	X												1
Jimmy Salinas			X										1
Chris Kneupper											X		1