

TMN-COT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 1:14 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.
Chili's Restaurant—Lake Jackson, Texas

President: Kristine Rivers called the meeting to order, presented the agenda at 1:14 p.m., and requested additions or corrections.

Kristine announced that Jimmy Salinas had resigned from the Board because of other obligations, and Edward Peebles is taking over the role of Speakers Bureau Coordinator.

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board	Present	Appointed Members of Board	Present
Kristine Rivers (President)	X	Peggy Romfh (Membership)	X
Bill Ahlstrom (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)	
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)	X
Edward Peebles	X	Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)	X
		Bob Whitmarsh (Intern Representative)	
		Connie Stolte (State Representative)	
Quorum	Yes	Dave Brandes (Past-President)	

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	Vote
Approve the May General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Pete Romfh	Don Sabathier	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Authorize up to \$50 in Facebook boost ads to promote the 2018 Intern Training Class	Peggy Romfh	Pete Romfh	Motion approved by members present
Fund the initial Intern Training Class lunch for interns, training team and necessary personnel at a cost not to exceed \$12 per person	Peggy Romfh	Pam West	Motion approved by members present
Reimburse Chapter Host for the	Don Sabathier	Peggy Romfh	Motion approved by members



Costco membership used to purchase Chapter supplies			present
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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 June 2018, financial information, below.

1 June – 30 June 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,104.04
Revenue Summary	\$ 49.77
Expense Summary	(\$ 0.00)
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 8,153.81

Volunteer-Service Related

Longacres Ranch VPAR—Oron Atkins will contact Longacres with the questions and concerns collected from Board members. Some of those concerns include the fact that Longacres appears to be a private entity, that it charges participants for activities (does it charge school groups?), and it is not in Brazoria County.

Coastal Prairie Chapter Event—Oron indicated that COT has been invited to participate at the Seaborne Nature Fest held in Rosenberg on November 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ruby stated that she has a leaf prints activity ready and would need four volunteers. Phil Huxford has offered to do a snake presentation. Oron will check with Coastal Prairie to verify COT participation and ask if canopies are provided.

BOARD REPORTS

Programs—Bill Ahlstrom is working on future General Meeting and Nature Notes speakers. Peggy suggested geologist and soil expert John Jacob; Bill said that he would contact Cullen Ondracek to present on urban wetlands management unless he is already scheduled to present to the intern training class. The Nature Notes speaker in August will be either Marty Cornell or Mike Mullins.

Secretary—Lisa Myers again reminded board members to send their notes in advance of meetings so that she can accurately prepare minutes.

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh reminded members that the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients were announced at today’s July General Meeting. They indicated that several COT members have certified as Texas Water Specialists and several more are pending; however, program requirements seem to have changed and Peggy said she will check with State to verify the requirements and ask Neal to post them to the COT website. Pete, Peggy, and Oron all indicated that they have tried to catch and accurately account for water-specialist-related hours in VMS.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—June 30	9,389	28,896	38,285

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—June 30	10,334	1,181	95

Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	250-Hour Milestone (Bronze Dragonfly Pin)	500-Hour Milestone (Silver Dragonfly Pin)
Howard Allen Anne Bettinger George Bettinger Marlies Greenwood	Anna King Becky McClendon Huff Georgia Monnerat	Joanna Harlan Jackie Hicks Jo Myers

Volunteer Project, Public Outreach and Activity Request Review—Having already announced current activities at the General Meeting, Oron Atkins asked how to count hours for **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**, and the Board agreed that all participation is Public Outreach.

Outreach—Ruby Lewis noted the following, upcoming activities:

- **KBR Kids Day**—Guadalupe Plaza Park, October 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Fill the Gap**—August 8, 6 p.m.
- **Seabourne Nature Festival**—Rosenberg, November 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chapter Host—Pam West asked to be reimbursed for the Costco membership she uses to buy supplies for the Chapter [see *Motion, above*].

Publications—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

WEBSITE

- Routine updates to AT page
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>
- Posted adspots on the home page for 2018 Training Class and 2018 State meeting
- Added “Historic Oaks” and “Life Support for Planet Earth” to Nature Notes page
<http://tmn-cot.org/Quizzes+NatureNotes/index.html>

NEWSLETTER

- May and June issues posted on schedule
- July issue publication schedule:
Wednesday, June 27, 9 p.m. Submission deadline

Friday, July 6, 9 a.m.
Saturday, July 7

Review draft posted for Board Review
Publication

MISCELLANEOUS

- Added BASF Planetarium to the Wikipedia page, "List of Planetariums"
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_planetariums#United_States

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Pending	Comments
Promote Fall Intern Training Class	Neal McLain, Kristine Rivers, Dick Schaffhausen, Edward Peebles	Ongoing	Ongoing	Perform outreach to area community colleges and other groups not previously contacted; explore whether colleges would give credit for attendance; explore whether teachers would give extra credit for class or individual sessions (if there is space) Change to fall class is permanent and AgriLIFE meeting room will be reserved as a reoccurring event for 2019 and after. Carolyn May-Monie finalized and published presenter schedule; Dick Schaffhausen will disseminate press release March meeting: Push for new interns at Migration Celebration; have a volunteer spokesperson in the TMN-COT booth; have a sign-up sheet and follow-up with interested persons; possibly make a big poster April meeting: Jimmy Salinas contacted Mickey Dufilho, who teaches at Brazosport College; Ruby and Carolyn have names of a couple of potential interns May meeting: Two people have to date applied/paid for training; approximately 18 names of potential interns have been gathered at recent events, and Carolyn will contact them; Dick has received no "testimonials" from recent interns to use in promotion July meeting: Kristine suggested a Facebook boost ad; Dick will handle [see Motion]. Ruby has passed all names collected at outreach events to Carolyn
COT should hold an annual, Bonus AT Event, if possible; solidify theme/topic(s) and timeframe to develop/organize by August Board Meeting	Larry Ruhr, Edward Peebles, Bill Ahlstrom	August	Pending	Given the success of the January 20 Bonus AT Day, the Board would like to promote an annual event—perhaps on a smaller scale April meeting: Larry will solicit input regarding topics/format from members via a short survey (on-line and/or General Meeting); perhaps have members "vote" on a whiteboard May meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send topic/theme/agenda ideas to Larry Informal survey at April General Meeting: members prefer full-day event (very few responded) Contact Dennis Jones regarding ornithology presentation Suggestion to focus on citizen science projects and include training Suggestion to possibly include a webinar module and a (live) moderator Suggestion to reach out to nearby TMNs for presenters



				<p>July meeting: Theme was announced at May General meeting—"A Little R & R" (scientific research and land and species resource management); it is now time to finalize partners and presentations (need a committee and an initial meeting time); Peggy: need to allocate time for displays; suggested possible topics of shoreline reclamation, new yucca plant, cactus moth; Sebesta building at Brazoria County Fairgrounds will meet our needs and at no fee, but we could get bumped (secure right of first refusal and maybe pay if we have to); John is to follow-up on rental contract</p>
Begin development of an annual budget; review, adjust and implement in 2019	Don Sabathier with input from Board	Sept	Ongoing	<p>For planning and accountability; Don sent 2017 spreadsheets to the Board; State reporting dates are firm, and reports require 1 of 2 software packages; more input from Board is needed May meeting: Don does not think COT needs to use a software accounting package as suggested to chapters by State; spreadsheets meet our needs July meeting: no further action taken yet</p>
Provide lunch to new COT interns, training team and invited Board Members on Day 1 of training; cost to be determined	Pam West (research)	August	Completed	<p>As a welcome to new interns; Pam will determine cost [see Motion]</p>
Create an on-line Intern Training Class payment option for registration fee	Kristine Rivers, Neal McLain	ASAP	Pending	<p>To make it easier and faster for interested persons to register July meeting: no action taken yet</p>
Review of 2018 CMOP	Connie Stolte, Kristine Rivers	August	Pending	<p>Connie will coordinate the review; set up a committee, if needed; determine input to be provided to State May meeting: Connie's review—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit period is not specified but is required prior to the last chapter meeting of the year; therefore, would need to be in November for COT • Board decided that it will continue current accounting procedures • When State has finalized CMOP, make it available on-line for members to review <p>July meeting: no update in Connie's absence</p>
Subscribe to Constant Contact for email-group management	Kristine Rivers	August	Pending	<p>To solve ongoing problems some members with Comcast are experiencing July meeting: Kristine will handle as soon as possible</p>



NEW Action Item(s) Added at July Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
Submit Annual Report Addendum to State	Kristine Rivers	July	Required by State
Add an additional COT Chapter Advisor	Kristine Rivers	Pending	Must be a Texas Parks and Wildlife employee
Ask Melissa Alderson for the current Texas Water Specialist qualifications	Pete Romfh	Pending	Because of conflicting information posted in emails versus web
Send 20 th Anniversary video release forms to State office	Lisa Myers	Pending	Required by State (Lisa sent on 7/20/18)

President: Kristine adjourned the Board Meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary



Attendance Date 2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X	X	X		X						
Ahlstrom, Bill	X	X	X	X	X	D	X						
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	I	X						
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X	X	D	X						
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X									
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X			X								
Barrios, Ed		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brandes, Dave		X	X			N							
Lewis, Ruby	X		X	X	X	O	X						
May-Monie, Carolyn	X	X	X	X	X	T							
McLain, Neal	X	X	X	X	X		X						
Romfh, Peggy		X	X	X	X	M	X						
Romfh, Pete		X	X	X	X	E	X						
Ruhr, Larry	X	X		X	X	E							
Salinas, Jimmy	X	X		X	X	T	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Schaffhausen, Dick	X	X	X	X	X		X						
Stolte, Connie	-	X			X								
West, Pam	X	X	X	X	X		X						
Training Class Representative(s)													
Whitmarsh, Bob (2017)	-	X	X	X	X		X						
Guest(s)													
Edward Peebles							X						