



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING Wednesday,
September 5, 2018, 9:07 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. AgriLIFE
Extension Building, Angleton, Texas

Vice President: Bill Ahlstrom called the meeting to order, presented the agenda and asked for additions or corrections.

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board		Present	Appointed Members of Board		Present
Kristine Rivers (President)			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)		X
Board Advisors			Carolyn May-Monie (Training)		
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)			Pam West (Chapter Host)		X
			Ruby Lewis (Outreach)		
Guests			Ed Peebles (Speakers Bureau)		X
			Richard Schaffhausen (Publicity)		
			Bob Whitmarsh (Intern Representative)		X
			Connie Stolte (State Representative)		X
Quorum		Yes	Dave Brandes (Past-President)		X

Secretary—Lisa Myers stated that the August 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 August General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Pete Romfh	Oron Atkins	Minutes approved by voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve covering the cost of lunch and incidental expenses for the Bonus AT Event	Peggy Romfh	Larry Ruhr	Motion approved by voice vote of Board members present

Action Register Review was led by Bill Ahlstrom [see *COT Board Action Register items at end of minutes*]. The following are completed and removed items:

Completed Action Item	Who?	Comments
Promote Fall Intern Training Class	Neal McLain, Kristine Rivers, Dick Schaffhausen, Edward Peebles	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 <i>Motion</i>]. Ruby has passed all names collected at outreach events to Carolyn August meeting: Carolyn has 10 registrations so far; Dick has a Facebook ad running for approximately three more weeks; Don sent class information to a Pearland blog September meeting: 13 interns registered, one had to withdraw and one was absent
Subscribe to Constant Contact for email-group management	Kristine Rivers	To solve ongoing problems some members with Comcast are experiencing July meeting: Kristine will handle as soon as possible August meeting: Kristine has set up; we need to provide proof of State of Texas non-profit status in order to get a discount September meeting: Don pre-paid for six months of service; cost will be \$20/month in the future

Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier presented the August 2018, financial information, below.

1 August – 31 August 2018, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 8,153.61
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.71
Expense Summary	(\$ 278.41) ¹
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 7,899.99

¹ Includes \$225 for president's Annual State Conference registration

Peggy suggested that the board discuss whether to reduce the COT 2019 annual dues at the October or November board meeting [see Action item].

Longacres Ranch VPAR—Oron Atkins received input from John O’Connell regarding the board’s concerns. Longacres is a non-profit, is a partner with AgriLIFE and has a good reputation. There is no reason not to approve VT hours performed by COT members.

Seabourne Nature Fest—It is Oron Atkin’s understanding that Ruby Lewis will coordinate leaf printing and Phil Huxford will coordinate a live snake demonstration at this event held the first week of November. Booth requirements remain an open question.

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

Programs—Bill Ahlstrom noted the following speakers for upcoming chapter meetings:

- September—Dr. John Jacob, Director, Texas Coastal Watershed Program, Professor and Extension Specialist, TAMU Sea Grant Program and the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service: speaking on geoscience and wetland topics in Brazoria County and beyond; Nature Notes: Mike Mullenweg, “Microplastics and What’s Next”
- October—Rebecca Laurent: speaking on colonial folklore, with an emphasis on herbs and plants; Nature Notes: Mike Mullins, “Beach Trash”
- November— Kristine Rivers: speaking on *A Wonderland of Winter Waterfowl*; Nature Notes: TBD

Cactus Moth Update—Bill Ahlstrom told the board that experts are awaiting positive identification of additional cactus moths that have been collected. Bill added that he may have collected a new species of moth; identification is also pending.

Membership—Pete and Peggy Romfh presented the following impact data, VT and AT information, and award recipients for the September General Meeting.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—August 31	10,539	30,849	41,388 ¹

¹ Missing data from Ruby Lewis

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours	# of Volunteers
YTD Totals—August 31	12,584	1,324	96

Recertification 2018 (Ocelot Pin)	4000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold Dragonfly with Ruby Pin)	5000-Hour Milestone (Polished Gold Dragonfly with Diamond Pin)
Sandy Henderson Edward Peebles	Pete Romfh	Peggy Romfh

Volunteer Project, Public Outreach and Activity Request Review—Oron Atkins noted the following activities:

- **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—September 8 and 9; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Exploration Green Nursery / Wetland Work Day**—September 9 and 13, 8-11 a.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **TCWP at GCBO Work Day**—September 20, 8-11 a.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **GCBO Native Plant Work Days**—every Saturday until further notice, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Pearland Natural Resources Work Day**—First Thursday each month; contact Cullen Ondracek
- **Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup at Quintana and Surfside Beaches**—September 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **[(THIS EVENT NEEDS TO BE VERIFIED—later verified by Oron and Neal)]**
- **BCPD Trail Day**—Hanson Riverside County Park, September 20, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **MD Anderson Demonstration Wetland**—October 4, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mary Carol Edwards
- **Smith Point Hawk Watch**—Daily, through November 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; contact Sue Heath

Outreach—In Ruby Lewis' absence, the following, upcoming activities have been rolled over from last month and are assumed to be accurate:

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

Advanced Training—Larry Ruhr indicated that he has no new AT events to report. Most that come to his attention are cost prohibitive and/or too far away and/or outside of COT's typical purview. Peggy Romfh noted that Joe Marcus, who runs the wildflower.org database at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, is scheduled to review his book, *Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide*, at the Brazoria County Historical Museum on September 27 at 6:30 p.m. [Specifics provided by Neal after the meeting.]

Speakers Bureau—Ed Peebles stated that he is checking on printing costs for a Speakers Bureau brochure.

Publications—Neal McLain provided the following information regarding publications:

WEBSITE

- Routine updates to Advanced Training page
<http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html>
- Posted photos of Lake Jackson Historical Museum ScienceFest
<http://scifest18.blogspot.com/2018/08/blog-post.html>

Includes photos of other ScienceFest exhibitors: Brazosport Archaeological Society (with Johnney Pollan), Brazoria County 4-H (with Courtney Latour), Brazosport Museum of Natural Science (with Roy Morgan), Brazos Valley Railroad Society, and the Houston Museum of Natural Science

NEWSLETTER

- August issue went out on schedule
- September issue publication schedule:

Wednesday September 5	Board meeting, 9 a.m.
Thursday September 6 *	Submission deadline, 5 p.m.
Sunday September 9	Review draft posted for board review
Monday September 10	Publication

* Changed from Friday to allow editor enough time to complete editing and meet deadline

Chapter Host—Pam West announced that she will check with Duran’s today regarding lunch costs for the Bonus AT Event. (Later in the day, Pam reported via email that the cost per person will be \$8.99 based on attendance of 100.)

Past President—Dave Brandes asked board members to think about nominations for board positions, which will be announced at the November General Meeting. He also asked that members consider whether to extend to three years the term limit for president as we will likely not receive the State’s by-laws update in time for nominations.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
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	Ongoing	<p>Given the success of the January 20 Bonus AT Day, the Board would like to promote an annual event—perhaps on a smaller scale</p> <p>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</p> <p>May meeting:</p> <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</p>



				<p>have to); John is to follow-up on rental contract</p> <p>August meeting: see "2019 Bonus AT Event" on page 3, above</p> <p>September meeting: Larry noted that Saturday, January 26, has been selected for the 2019 Bonus AT Event; agenda is almost finalized; event will be held at AgriLIFE and maximum attendance of 100 will primarily be limited to COT membership (others if there is room); lunch will be provided, and donation boxes be prominently placed; time will be allocated for displays</p>
Begin development of an annual budget; review, adjust and implement in 2019	Don Sabathier with input from Board	Oct	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</p> <p>May meeting: Don does not think COT needs to use a software accounting package as suggested to chapters by State; spreadsheets meet our needs</p> <p>July meeting: no further action taken yet</p> <p>August meeting: Don asked for budget information from each board member before the October meeting; Don will resend the 2017 financials file</p> <p>September meeting: Don is gathering input from Board members; awaiting estimated costs for 2019 intern class; need to determine speaker travel-reimbursement costs</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</p> <p>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> <p>August meeting: Connie does not have any comments to provide; expects draft from State in November</p> <p>September meeting: Awaiting draft of changes from State. Bill asked about how to handle Kristine running for President for an additional year if we do not receive the rules change in time for nominations; Dave suggested that we would have to act as if the change had been implemented</p>
Add an additional COT Chapter Advisor	Kristine Rivers	ASAP	Pending	<p>Must be a Texas Parks and Wildlife employee</p> <p>August meeting: Kristine will contact David Abrego at Sea Center Texas</p> <p>September meeting: No update</p>



NEW Action Item(s) Added at September Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
Correct information on the COT website regarding how to log travel time for VT	Neal	Pending	Connie will provide accurate information to Neal
Discuss how much COT 2019 annual dues should be at the October or November Board meeting	Board	Oct or Nov	Given the current bank balance and budget, dues might be decreased
Verify booth requirements for participation at Seabourne Nature Fest	Ruby Lewis	Oct	Will they supply a canopy, or do we bring one?
Determine whether to extend term of president to three years prior to receiving State rules change	Board	Oct	Rules changes from State are not expected until November—after COT board will present a slate of officers to the general membership

Vice President: Bill Ahlstrom adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

Cc: Board Members
 Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary
Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu



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	X					
Ahlstrom, Bill	X	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X				
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	I	X	X	X				
Myers, Lisa	X	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X				
Advisor(s)													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X									
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X			X			X	X				
Barrios, Ed		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brandes, Dave		X	X			N		X	X				
Lewis, Ruby	X		X	X	X	O	X						
May-Monie, Carolyn	X	X	X	X	X	T		X					
McLain, Neal	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Peebles, Ed	-	-	-	-	-		-	X	X				
Romfh, Peggy		X	X	X	X	M	X		X				
Romfh, Pete		X	X	X	X	E	X		X				
Ruhr, Larry	X	X		X	X	E		X	X				
Salinas, Jimmy	X	X		X	X	T	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Schaffhausen, Dick	X	X	X	X	X		X	X					
Stolte, Connie	-	X			X			X	X				
West, Pam	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Training Class Representative(s)													
Whitmarsh, Bob (2017)	-	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Guest(s)													
Edward Peebles							X						