



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:02 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

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

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board		Present	Appointed/Other Members of Board		Present
Bill Ahlstrom (President)		✓	Kristine Rivers (Immediate Past President)		✓
Mickey Dufilho (Vice-President/Programs)		✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)		
Lisa Myers (Secretary)		✓	Mary Schwartz (New Class Dir.)		✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)		✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)		✓
			Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)		✓
Chapter Advisor(s)			Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)		✓
John O’Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)		✓	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)		✓
Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)		✓	Connie Stolte (State Rep.)		✓
Guests/Other			Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)		✓
Neal McLain (Communications Support)		✓	Kathy Pittman (Class of 2020 Rep.)		✓
			Quorum		Yes

Approve Previous Board Minutes—Bill Ahlstrom stated that the June 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 June General Meeting and Board Meeting Minutes	Mickey Dufilho	Larry Peterson	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Motions—

Motion	Motion	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the Trash Collection/Analysis Project VPAR	Oron Atkins	John Boettiger	Passed by a majority email vote of Board members on June 19

Action Register Review—Bill Ahlstrom led the review. [see COT Board Action Register at end of minutes.]

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Exploratory committee for area beaches cleanup	Oron Atkins (chair), Bill, Mickey, Rose, Larry, BCPD person(s) TBD	Jun: Bryan needs help for beach cleanup but cannot currently use probationers. <i>Suggestions:</i> patrol beaches (possibly combine with education effort and hand out garbage bags); combine cleanup with citizen science project; join with Adopt -A-Beach Jul: Oron set up VPAR that board approved on June 19; Jimmy and Luanne

		Salinas coordinated a cleanup at Quintana Beach County Park on June 23 using Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app; Mickey Dufilho also cleaned up on another occasion; Oron will remind members at the July General Meeting
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Treasurer's Report—Don Sabathier presented the June 2020 financial information, below (amended on July 2 to include bank interest). Don indicated that he had not yet received TDECU interest information. Don added that one active member had not yet paid 2020 dues; the Ecofund Grant expenses had not yet been paid, and Mickey Dufilho offered to follow up with Jackie Hicks.

1 June – 30 June 2019, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 11,154.69
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.15
Expense Summary	(\$ (0.00))
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 11,178.84

State Chapter Presidents Meeting June 29—Bill Ahlstrom provided a few notes from the latest presidents meeting, as follows:

- Recertification hours for 2020 are being reviewed considering Covid-19
- TXMN.org has the latest Covid-19 guidelines; John O'Connell added that we must follow county guidelines)
- Recertification limit of four AT hours via webinar has been lifted as long as the webinar has Q and A
- Having a diversity and inclusion policy was emphasized
- Volunteering-at-a-distance ideas were emphasized
- No CMOP revisions regarding Covid-19; they will be in a separate document
- Updates regarding the State Annual Meeting

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

Past President—Kristine Rivers asked if there were any other way to access MS Teams meetings without email as she has had computer issues.

General Meeting Programs—Mickey Dufilho said that Sue Heath needs volunteers for the winter shrike project and that the project will have to be adapted due to Covid-19.

Mickey then provided the following status on upcoming general-meeting speakers:

- **July**—speaker Susan Heath, Director of Conservation Research, GCBO, on “Eastern Willet Migration and Nesting”; Nature Notes, John Boettiger on “White-tailed Deer in Texas—Facts and Figures”
- **August**—Chris Kneupper’s cancelled April presentation on the history of Forts Velasco has been rescheduled for August (Jim and Deb Nance and Neal McLain presentation on “Geology and Paleontology” to be rescheduled); Nature Notes TBD
- **September**—Bryan Frazier, Director of Brazoria County Parks, on “Brazoria County Parks Update and Vision for the Future”; Nature Notes, Jackie Hicks on her Ecofund Grant

- **October**—Need speaker (likely no chapter field day this year due to Covid-19); Nature Notes TBD

Membership—On July 2, Data Manager Dave Brandes sent the June impact and awards data for inclusion in the minutes.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—June 30	158	101	259

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—June 30	6548 ¹	1081

Recertification 2020	500 Hours	1000 Hours
Melanie Hollenshead Dick Schaffhausen Andy Smith	Larry Peterson	Georgia Monnerat

¹ 61 volunteers reported in June

State Representative—Bill Ahlstrom and Connie Stolte reported that the State Meeting Planning Committee held several meetings in June and was finally able to make some progress after State determined the meeting would be virtual. Kim Richardson drafted rules for a virtual photo art and media contest. The COT State Meeting Committee’s Zoom meeting with Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth covered our draft of the contest rules, and Kim agreed to create a second draft based on feedback. The committee will continue to work on its action items and plans to start accepting contest entries a month or two before the State Meeting. [See also Attachments A and B].

Training Director—Mary Schwartz said that the fall intern training class is scheduled to begin on August 26 and that online registration is open. One person has registered to date. Larry Peterson will ask someone to help publicize the class. Mary indicated that many chapters are planning or conducting virtual training, but field trips during the pandemic pose a challenge.

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins noted two opportunities of which he is aware:

- **FOBWR Bobcat Woods Trail Project**
- **Trash Collection/Analysis Project**

Advanced Training Director—Bob Whitmarsh indicated that he will send links for opportunities to Mickey to include on the July General Meeting agenda.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis announced the following events that have been cancelled, postponed, or scheduled:

- **Brazoria County Library System, COT Wild in the City Program***—July; virtual via recorded presentations; over 1300 viewers of June videos; the libraries’ most viewed summer programs

- **Nature Camp at Quintana Beach County Park**—July 13 through 16; still planned at this point, but with reduced number of campers and volunteers.
- **KBR Kids Day**—still planned at this point
- **Prairie Walk at Galveston State Park**—Cancelled
- **GCBO’s Hummingbird Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**—Virtual Event.

Chapter Host—Rose Wagner asked how we can include guests at virtual General Meetings. John O’Connell said that he can send a link to individuals we identify as desiring an invitation; for security reasons, the link cannot be made public.

Communications Director—Larry Peterson presented the following report:

WEBSITE

Site transition is ongoing. New WordPress theme training sessions remaining on July 6, 8, and 13. New site is still being developed and tested. Current website has been stable for the last month and is maintained by Larry Peterson. He is maintaining both the old and new websites. The Home Page currently hosts notice of the July General Meeting announcement, two adspot links (most recent Newsletter and TMN Annual Meeting) and two news items (2020 Intern Training and BCLS Nature Notes). Other web pages are being updated on both servers.

NEWSLETTER

Latest copy is posted on the website, <http://tmn-cot.org/Newsletters/index.html>

BUSINESS CARDS

Business cards with TMN-COT logo are available for any TMN-COT member for \$16/100 cards + \$4 shipping. To order, contact Neal McLain at mclain@tmn-cot.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook page “liked” by 575 people (up by 20). Followed by 639 (up by 19).
Twitter @tmncot, 50 followers (up by 12); following, 82.

Speakers Bureau—Kristine Rivers has given out contact information for opportunities to several members.

July General Meeting—Mickey will update and send out the agenda; she suggested that the main speaker be moved to the beginning of the July meeting.

Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell said that he and Kathy Pittman attended the recent on-line riparian training, and he highly recommends it if offered in the future. John added that he would like to conduct an interactive poll during the July General Meeting.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Ask local libraries if they are interested in showing the displays prepared for the Bonus AT Day	Ruby Lewis	October	Tabled	To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes March: No update (Ruby absent) April: Ruby contacted the library system and they would like to display them at libraries that have space starting in August. Ruby will coordinate a schedule and transport by a TMN member June: Ruby said libraries said fall would be best; they need a container to hold the presentation boards for transport between libraries or we



				<p>can transport; Ruby will work out details in September</p> <p>Sept: no update</p> <p>Oct, Nov: Ruby not present</p> <p>Dec: Ruby not present</p> <p>Feb 2020: No action; Ruby will follow up</p> <p>Apr: Not discussed; libraries are closed</p> <p>May: Libraries still closed</p> <p>Jun/Jul: Libraries opened for limited hours/access; too soon for the displays</p>
Review and update partners webpage (see below also)	Oron Atkins	ASAP	Ongoing	<p>Sept: Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website</p> <p>Oct: Oron working to finalize changes</p> <p>Nov: Oron said that there will likely be 6 partners: USFWS Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex; GCBO; arts center complex at Brazosport College; Brazoria County Library System; Brazos Bend State Park; Brazoria County Parks Department</p> <p>Dave expressed concern that these relationships should be reciprocal</p> <p>Dec: Agreements being worked on</p> <p>Feb 2020: Agreements being worked on</p> <p>Apr: Agreements being worked on</p> <p>May: No update; Bill said Angleton Parks & Recreation Department wants to be a VPAR</p> <p>Jun/Jul: No update</p>
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	<p>Sept: We have 16 partners; some paperwork is missing; Peggy Romfh checking to see if there is VT logged or not; the board agreed that agreements will be auto-renew with a 30-day cancellation clause and agreement contact information will be updated every two years</p> <p>Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR</p> <p>Nov: Oron is working to finalize</p> <p>Dec: Oron continuing to work on</p> <p>Feb 2020: Oron spoke with the Center for Arts and Sciences, which is in the process of consolidating all its entities; Oron will coordinate a meeting with them to discuss our relationship</p> <p>Apr: Oron is working to finalize</p> <p>May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner</p> <p>Jun: Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up</p> <p>Jul: Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1</p>
Find the portable loudspeaker system; possibly buy a new system for intern training (need cost information); decide on a system	Larry Peterson -->Mary Schwartz	Jan.	Tabled	<p>Location of COT's system is unknown but was not acceptable; need to investigate intern-class needs</p> <p>Dec: speaker system has been found; Larry will test it but likely is not adequate for our training needs</p> <p>Feb 2020: Larry will determine training class needs and cost to meet them; Kathy suggested individual earphones for participants</p> <p>Apr: Larry has found one in the \$150-200 range that he thinks will meet our needs</p> <p>May: Larry asked to table this until late summer</p> <p>Jul: Mary will select a system</p>
Executive Committee to meet	Kristine Rivers		Ongoing	<p>State suggested that chapters provide a "welcoming atmosphere"; Peggy Romfh requested that accommodations for impairments be</p>



and draft wording for harassment and accommodations for disability policies				included Feb 2020: The Executive Board has not yet met Apr: Not discussed May: Connie has collected some wording; John O'Connell will provide the 4H volunteer policy Jun/Jul: No update
2020 State Meeting Planning	State Mtng Comm: Bob, Bill, Rose, Connie (chair), John O., Kim Richardson	Oct.	Ongoing	Need photo contest committee and volunteers; find/create easels for display; Field Trip Committee Liaison and trip ideas; session ideas; vendor ideas; silent auction items Feb 2020: Committee meeting to be set up Apr: Not discussed May: As of now, the meeting is still on; Bill needs volunteers to help with the photo contest (Kim has offered). Connie will coordinate a May 13 virtual meeting with committee members Jun: See Connie's report in minutes and Attachment A Jul: See Connie's report in minutes and Attachments A & B
Spotlight a different COT member each month on Facebook and in the newsletter	Kathy Pittman	Mar.	Tabled	To honor the efforts of our membership and help us get to know each other Apr: Kathy requested information from several members; none has yet replied May: Kathy has put on hold Jun/Jul: No action
Hold a brief training session on entering hours in VMS via Smart Phone	?	TBD	TBD	To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours Apr: Not discussed May: No update Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings
		ASAP	Ongoing	Jun: Bryan needs help for beach cleanup but cannot currently use probationers. <i>Suggestions:</i> patrol beaches (possibly combine with education effort and hand out garbage bags); combine cleanup with citizen science project; join with Adopt -A-Beach Jul: Oron set up VPAR that board approved on June 19; Jimmy and Luanne Salinas coordinated a cleanup at Quintana Beach County Park on June 23 using Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app; Mickey Dufilho also cleaned up on another occasion; Oron will remind members at the July General Meeting
Complete Volunteer at a Distance Idea Form (on State website)	Oron Atkins with Dave Brandes	ASAP	Ongoing	For chapters to share ideas for volunteering during COVID-19 Jul: Oron says not much listed on state site; only four chapters have submitted ideas; anyone can submit but no guarantee it will be approved; Connie submitted water quality testing; Oron will submit our recent trash collection/analysis project
NEW Action Item(s) Added at July Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments	
None				



President: Bill Ahlstrom adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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

Attendance 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Bill Ahlstrom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Mickey Dulilho	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Myers, Lisa	X	X		X	X	X	X						
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Cason, Paul		X		X	X		X						
Immediate Past President													
Rivers, Kristine	X	X	X	X	X		X						
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X		X	X						
Boettiger, John	X		X	X	X	X							
Lewis, Ruby		X		X	X	X	X						
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Pittman, Kathy		X	X	X	X	X	X						
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X						
Wagner, Rose		X			X	X	X						
Whitmarsh, Bob	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Guests													
McLain, Neal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Lewis, Laina						X							

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A

TMN State Meeting Planning Meeting Notes

Meeting Date and Time: June 24, 2016, at 11a (virtual meeting coordinated by John O'Connell)

Committee members in attendance: Bill Ahlstrom, John O'Connell, Kim Richardson, Connie Stolte, Rose Wagner. (Lisa Myers resigned from the committee but has offered to help Kim as needed.)

Virtual TMN State Meeting Dates: October 14-17, 2020; virtual only meeting

Meeting registration opens August 1, 2020; meeting website <https://txmn.org/2020-annual-meeting/>

I. Meeting format- announcement was made last week that the meeting would be virtual

A. Photo Contest update, Bill Ahlstrom: Mary Pearl has requested a meeting with our committee later this week or Monday or Tuesday. Rose is available all day on Friday and Monday after 11; Connie and Kim are flexible; John busy all day Thursday and is available before 10 or after 11 on Friday; has a staff meeting on Monday morning. Bill will be attending a President's meeting with the State Office on Monday from 1p to 3p.

Group discussed the need to revise the rules for a virtual meeting. Kim volunteered to revise the Migration Celebration rules for use at a virtual TMN meeting.

Consensus was that our committee would propose changes to the rules and submit them to Mary Pearl for her feedback and comments.

The committee discussed recommending the following:

- a. Photo should be submitted in 8x10 format with a maximum size of 8 MB.
- b. Max of 1 photo submission per contestant per category.
- c. Previously had 6 categories but committee is suggesting a new digitally enhanced photo category.
- d. Photos need to be labeled with category and photo title but no names.
- e. A separate entry form would have to be drafted for submission with the photo.
- f. Question for Mary Pearl: Who votes? All TMN members or meeting participants only
- g. For artwork and sewing stitchery: one photo to be submitted
- h. For media: scrapbooks, newsletter, brochure: pdf files submitted
- i. Need to find out how to upload pdf file into app
- j. COT newsletter for June was good: would be good to submit for contest

B. Field Session Update: No field sessions. Hopefully, Bob's research and submittal can be utilized for a future meeting.

C. Call for Proposals- reports on known submittals- Chris K. was contacted by the state office and he submitted a revised proposal for a virtual format on Fort Velasco.

D. Sponsorships- see action items

E. Promoting Attendance Chapter Member attendance- Communication to members-
Connie will submit information for the newsletter

F. Donations for registration bags- on hold until we here on new format

G. Silent Auction item and Endowment Fundraiser- on hold until we get feedback from
state office

II. Administration items for chapter: Guidelines for volunteer time, advanced training, registration
fees and scholarship opportunities (if any)

TMN State Meeting Action Items

Action	Person Responsible	Action Status
Photo Contest Rules: recommend revisions as needed including entry form	Kim	By Friday, 6/26; send Mary Pearl revised rules for digital contest
Decide on process to put pictures of contest entries into State Meeting App	Bill will get guidance from Mary Pearl	
Assign someone to coordinate and schedule chapter member volunteers needed for photo contest		Waiting for meeting format decision
Send information on state meeting sponsorship opportunities to local organizations	GCBO, Bill REI, _____ Academy, _____ BCPD, Connie	Waiting for meeting format decision
Submit meeting information for chapter newsletter	Connie	
Registration bag donations: contact local organizations about donating items for registration bags	BCPD, Connie FOBWR, Lisa	Need input from State Office
Silent auction item donations: collect ideas		Need input from State Office
Endowment fundraiser		Need input from State Office
Draft Advanced Training guidelines for meeting, if needed		

Attachment B

Notes from Photo Contest Meeting with State Office, 6/29/20

Attendees: Bill A., Kim R., Connie S. M.P. Meuth, and M. Haggerty participated in a ZOOM meeting on June 29 starting at 2:30p.

- Bill reviewed the Draft COT proposal for the Photo Art and Media Contest and asked how the contest entries are uploaded to the app. M.P. said that people could submit entries via a Google form on the state website and Addison, student worker, would upload to the app. M.P. said if we give her the information we want collected on the Google form, she could set it up for us and give COT admin privileges.
- M.P. and Michelle agreed to adding a Digitally Enhanced photo category.
- Voting will be done by a survey in the app. It goes live when the conference starts and ends when M.P. tells it to. We can collect the entries from whatever day we decide to start; we just need to let M.P. know.
- M.P. stated we could use the release for the photos that they used last year and gave input on how to revise our draft. Photos would not be used except to market contest winners and could be labeled with the photographer's name before being used.
- COT will suggest video or pictures for 3D submissions.
- Winners will be announced on Saturday instead of Sunday.
- The committee might want to eliminate some categories. M.P. will talk with Michelle about this item.
- Judges choice will be chosen by the COT committee.
- Best of Show chosen by app.
- M.P. asked that we submit to her sooner rather than later a contest announcement that she will post on the state website.