

## **GBAC BOARD MARCH MEETING**

**March 7, 2023**

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Laura Clark, Mary Dobberstine, Gene Fisseler, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Diane Humes, Meade LeBlanc, Jo Monday, Mohammad Nasrullah, Abhi Prasad, and Patty Trimmingham. Also present were Tracy Walpole, Kathy Tamer, and Chuck Snyder.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 6:00 pm.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes of the February meeting that had been emailed previously to the Board were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Gene to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam had circulated the updated draft of the proposed Chapter Operating Handbook prior to the meeting, and she summarized some additions including the creation of a JEDI director position to the Board and the creation of an *ad hoc* Grants, Donations and Contracts Committee. Following some discussion, Diane moved that the draft of the COH, reflecting amendments offered during the discussion, be presented to the Membership for formal approval at the April Chapter meeting. Gene provided the second, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Next, Pam reminded the Board that she, Janet, Jo and Patty had represented the Chapter at the 2023 Meeting of the Southeast Regional Sea Turtle Network in Orange Beach, Alabama from February 28-March 2, 2023. She commented that it had been a positive experience and a privilege to represent the Chapter as a community partner with the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. The Board expressed appreciation to the group for making the journey. Discussion ensued, after which Gene moved that the group's expenses be reimbursed including registration fees, hotel, meals, and mileage. Laura provided the second, and the motion was approved unanimously, except for Pam, Patty and Jo, who abstained from the vote.

Next, Pam mentioned the results of the Chapter-wide survey conducted in February to gauge the preferences of the Membership for meetings conducted in person, by Zoom, or by a hybrid approach. She noted that the Membership was most interested in continuing with hybrid meetings, and she asked Chuck to address the Board with his thoughts on technical requirements going forward. Chuck advised the Board to go back to basics and run the Chapter meetings as if they were two separate meetings, in-Person and by Zoom, with a couple of bridges to connect the two. In Zoom, questions would be posed in Chat, and in person, questions would be posed with a handheld mic in order for everyone to hear. Those on Zoom would not have full access in terms of being seen or being heard, and their experience would more closely resemble what's commonly called live-streaming. Chuck recommended that this approach be implemented for the April Chapter Meeting planned for April 6. Discussion

ensued, and Pam suggested that this strategy be called “Hybrid Light.” Chuck agreed, and he noted that the tandem meeting structure would continue to require at least three or four people to address sound issues, Zoom monitors, in-house questions and chat questions. For the moment, Chuck believed that current equipment was working well enough and did not need to be upgraded. Pam thanked Chuck for attending the meeting, and the Board expressed their appreciation for all he does for the Chapter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

In new business, Meade discussed the condition of the obsolete computer and software used for the Chapter’s financial recordkeeping. She expressed concerns that the aging equipment might fail completely at any time. Meade asked the Board to consider leasing QuickBooks Online for a monthly fee of about \$30 and allowing her to utilize her own desktop computer. Laura moved that the Chapter opt to utilize QuickBooks Online, Lisa provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Meade called the Directors’ attention to the Chapter Store’s need for an upgraded iPad and updated Square device to accept online payments more efficiently. She had identified a 2021 model that offered sufficient memory to function as a simple terminal for about \$270. Some discussion ensued, after which Gene moved that the Chapter purchase the iPad and Square device. Mohammad provided the second, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

##### **President (Pam House)**

Pam reported that she and Julie were brainstorming on ideas of how best to acknowledge Treasures of the Bay recipients from 2020 and 2021. She promised additional details soon that might include a future luncheon and printed certificates of appreciation.

##### **Vice President (Gene Fisseler)**

Gene noted that he was very much looking forward to Kjell N. Lindgren’s presentation on April 6. Looking ahead, he would be exploring the possibility of inviting Lisa Gonzalez to speak at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Gonzalez is Vice President and Executive Director of Audubon, Texas. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Fisheries from Texas A & M University at Galveston. She is a PhD candidate in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A & M University at College Station.

### **Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade provided the financial report. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Mary and seconded by Diane to accept the January financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership (Tracy Walpole)**

Members reported 3,756.75 Volunteer Service hours and 924.25 AT hours for February, 2023. February Impacts totaled 820. The Chapter has 245 active members, while 255 members have paid 2023 Chapter dues. Tracy announced Maureen Nolan-Wilde had achieved 10,000 hours and Tom Solomon had passed 30,000 volunteer service hours. Mary expressed interest in learning more about Tom's history with the Chapter.

### **Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)**

Mike was traveling, and his March notes are attached to these minutes.

### **Spring Class Training (Diane Humes)**

Diane reported that the first day of Spring Class Training would be Thursday, March 30 and would take place each Thursday through May 18. She has eighteen confirmed participants and is expecting at least four more. Diane mentioned that prospective volunteers would meet at a Training Class Volunteer Meeting and Sign-up at Carbide Park on Thursday, March 9 at 2:00 pm.

### **Communications (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary reported that she continued to explore the creation of a Speakers' Bureau/Outreach Committee implementing a three-phased approach, including Review, Rebuild and Relaunch. Mary would also be looking at the Chapter's communication strategy as a whole and looking for opportunities to strengthen what's already there, including the website and Facebook. She would be reaching out to all leads on the newsletter, the website and the social media accounts. Mary expressed her desire to increase publicity, and she mentioned as an example that she would like to interview Lynn and John Wright about their work on Hawk Watch.

### **Class Reps Spring 2022 Class**

Lisa announced that a work day for the Dick Benoit Prairie had been set for Wednesday, April 26. She hoped for beneficial rain, but not so much that would prevent volunteers from accessing the property. Tracy had mentioned earlier that 23 of 26 Spring class members had certified.

### **Class Reps Fall 2022 Class**

Laura and Abhi continue to encourage their fellow class members to become involved and reach their first certification. A third of their class has certified, and given the fact that almost all of them work full time, it is understandable that it will take this class a little longer.

**Other business** Pam mentioned the event called *AgriCabana* set for Wednesday, April 5 at Carbide Park. Four hundred 4<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in fun activities based on the agriculture associated with tacos – water, vegetables, grain and more. Julie is looking for volunteers— please contact her.

Finally, Pam announced that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday, March 28.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes

# **GBAC AT Report - Board Meeting 03/07/23**

## **PROGRAMS COMPLETED**

### **GBAC AT COMMITTEE SPONSORED**

02/21/23 @ 6 PM /1.75 hr /82 attendees/ Zoom / Ellen Gerloff  
Diurnal Raptors of the Galveston Bay – Lynn and John Wright

### **COMMUNITY AT PRESENTATIONS / JEDI LEAD – Mohammed Nasrullah:**

02/07/23 @ 6:00 PM/1 hr/ //Zoom  
A Warm Welcome for All – Lisa Reznicek

### **INDEPENDENT PRESENTATIONS**

02/09/23 6:00 PM/1 hr/24 attendees/Carbide/Rick Becker  
Fishing Line Collection and Recycling

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

### **GBAC AT COMMITTEE SPONSORED**

03/22/23 @ 2:00-4:00 PM/2 hr//Zoom/Mike Pettit  
Wrens: Little Birds with Lots of Energy – Scott Kiester

04/12/23 @ 6:00 PM/1 hr//zoom/Chuck Snyder  
iNaturalist – Scott Buckel

05/17/23 @ 2:00 PM/ 1 hr//zoom/lead?  
Bald Eagles –Mary Schwartz

06/14/23 @ 6:00-7:00 PM/1.0 hr//Zoom/Robin Novak  
Texas Native Cats – Monica Morrison

### **CHAPTER MEETING – Gene Fisseler**

Kjell Lindgren