

**TMN GALVESTON BAY AREA CHAPTER
BOARD MARCH MEETING
March 26, 2024**

Attendees via Zoom: Gene Fisseler, Mary Dobberstine, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Pam House, Mike Petitt, Mohammed Nasrullah, Tracy Walpole, Corlis Simmons, Jesse Monzingo, and Lynn Porfirio. Also present was Laura Clark. Absent members were Sharon Tirpak and Diane Humes.

This meeting was called to order by Gene at 6:02.

Lisa established a quorum with 69% of the Board members present.

Gene reviewed the agenda.

Review and approval of minutes:

The minutes of the February Board meeting emailed to Board members were offered for discussion by Lisa. **A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Corlis to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**

Officer Reports:

President (Gene Fisseler)

Gene reported that Brandi Keller has been selected as the new Galveston County Extension Agent, Coastal & Marine Resources, who will also be our chapter's Advisor. She will assume her role on April 1, 2024. Gene is hopeful that she will be able to attend our April chapter meeting. She comes from Harris County Extension Office where she was an agent.

Gene also opened a discussion about providing Class Representatives an opportunity to continue serving the chapter after their one-year term is completed. After discussion, **Pam made a motion that up to three At-Large positions be created and offered to Class Representatives at the end of their term. The term of the new position will be the remainder of the year of their appointment. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Vice President (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary announced that Brett Swezey will present *Movement Behavior of Sharks at the Flower Banks* during the AT portion of our chapter meeting on April 4. She mentioned that the presenter for our June meeting may have in person activities and videos, and that the presentation may present challenges for Zoom attendees. After some discussion, it was suggested that if this is the case, the meeting should be offered as a hybrid meeting, but

with a disclaimer that the Zoom audience may have a dissimilar experience than the in-person audience.

Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)

Lisa reported that all Conflict-of-Interest Attestations have been received and stored electronically. Additionally, she has begun work on compiling login and password information for accounts the chapter uses to conduct business.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade shared the financial report with Board members prior to the meeting. She made a point of directing our attention to “restricted” and “unrestricted” funds in the report and explained how the revenue “moves” between line items as they are used. Meade also reported that Friends of Galveston Island State Park will be paying Stanzie (Camp Wild coordinator) going forward. She also reported that John and Lynn Wright donated their speaker gift (\$100) back to the chapter for the Hawk Watch program. Additionally, Meade presented a draft of proposed reimbursement procedures. Gene suggested that the Board members review it, send comments to Meade and the Board can review the final copy at the next Board meeting.

Immediate Past President (Pam House)

Nothing to report.

Director Reports

Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)

Mike sent an AT Report to Board members prior to the meeting. Mike shared an update to the report, *Is Taxonomy Really That Taxing?* has been rescheduled to May 6. An update will be sent out to chapter members.

Communication (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary will be attending the training class’s Opportunity Showcase on Thursday to provide information on how new members can support the various communication committees. She also reported that the financial review committee has completed its portion of the review. The new Advisor will need to review the draft report and then the committee can make a formal report to the chapter.

Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nasrullah)

The JEDI team will also have a table at the Opportunity Showcase. Upcoming events include Moody Gardens on April 15, Armand Bayou Nature Center on April 27, Juneteenth on June 15, and Moody Gardens on June 23.

Membership (Tracy Walpole)

Tracy shared the membership notes for March prior to the meeting. She was pleased to report as of March 24, 2024, the chapter had 248 active members. Impact information as of the same day included 18 opportunities, 36 volunteers and 253.5 hours. She congratulated Mike Petitt who has reached 5,000 hours. Additionally, the updated directory was sent to members earlier today. A report on the progress of the May 2023 training class indicated that 13 of 22 have certified, and three have dropped out (did not pay dues).

Outreach (Lisa Hardcastle)

Lisa had an outreach meeting earlier today. The team discussed offering a mentor to members who are new to outreach and possibly hesitant to volunteer. An email message will go out to the chapter this week with a list of outreach opportunities. Lisa will also have a table at the Opportunity Showcase this week.

Training Class (Diane Humes)

Although Diane was not in attendance, Gene reported that the class is going well. One class member may need to drop out due to personal reasons but hopes to try again.

Volunteer Service (Sharon Tirpak)

Sharon was absent tonight but shared an updated Volunteer Opportunity list with Board members. She sent this list out to chapter members earlier this week and will give a brief overview of it at the April Chapter meeting.

Other Reports

New Class Representatives (Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio, and Jesse Monzingo)

Corlis had nothing to share, and Jesse was having technical difficulties with Zoom.

Old (unfinished) Business

- **Bat Monitoring Project (Laura Clark)**
Laura provided an overview of the project. We have 59 chapter members who have volunteered to participate (out of 369 state-wide volunteers). Volunteers will place monitors on their properties and data will be collected between April 29 and June 24. Three key components of the project are to (1) collect national data, (2) collect coastal data and (3) collect data on the tricolored bat, which has been proposed to be listed as an endangered species protected under the ESA. She also announced that she and her husband are donating \$500 to the chapter for use on this project.
- **After-school bird club update (Eowyn Johnson)**
Eowyn sent an update regarding the three youth-oriented projects she is working on. Gene encouraged Board members to review the information for discussion

later. Lisa asked about the procedure to follow for spending the money. Gene recommended submitting a proposal for approval at the next Board meeting.

- Scholarship Committee – no new information
- 2024 Big Event (Jesse and Laura)
This chapter event, Give Back Together (GBAC-T) will take place October 5, 2024, from 9 am – 11 am. We will be working with SPLASh to clean up the Texas City Dike which is centrally located to most chapter members. More information to come!
- Big Thicket Trip (Mary)
Nothing to report at this time.

Other

Gene proposed that the Board meet in person quarterly. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea. He will find a location with a private room for our next meeting.

New Business

April Chapter Meeting items – Laura and Eowyn will speak to the chapter. Hopefully, our new Advisor will be able to attend, either in person or via Zoom, but if not a photo and short bio will be shared.

Review Action Items

- Meade to revise the Reimbursement Procedures and share at next Board meeting.
- Eowyn to provide a proposal for After-School Bird Club purchases.

Next meeting

April 30, 6:00 pm. Location TBA.

There being no further business, Gene adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle