

**Galveston Bay Area Chapter TMN Board Meeting
January 24, 2026
Stewart House, Galveston Island State Park**

Attendees: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Karen Garvin, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Robin Novak, Anthony Soliz Rocha, Denise Correll, Tracy Walpole, Sharon Tirpak, Anthony Soliz Rocha, Mary Jean Slazer and Mary McElligott.

Chloe Stifler, Julie Massey, and Brandi Keller were absent.

Mary Dobberstine, President, initially announced the meeting date and time during the November board meeting and reminded members of the meeting date with a proposed agenda via email on January 6, 2026.

Welcome and Call to Order

The board meeting was called to order at 10:25. Karen Garvin, our new chapter Treasurer, was introduced. Mary also welcomed Anthony Soliz Rocha as the new Community Engagement Director, who was elected by a majority vote of the newly elected officers, immediate past president, and chapter advisor via email on December 31, 2025.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 18, 2025, board meeting were sent to board members on January 20, 2026. **Robin made a motion to approve the minutes of the November board meeting as written. Jenny seconded the motion. No further discussion was presented and the motion was passed.**

Old Business

Lisa requested that the board consider a resolution for banking allowing Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, and Karen Garvin to serve as signers on the Amegy Bank account. **Gene made a motion to pass the banking resolution, Sharon seconded the motion and the motion was passed.**

Lisa also presented information on the Chapter *Conflict of Interest Policy* and requested that all board members sign the board attestation document.

New Business

- **25th Anniversary**

The board worked together to create the theme for our upcoming 25th anniversary celebration.

Local People. Local Knowledge. Local Service.

25 years of caring for our natural resources.

Mary shared that our anniversary celebration provides the opportunity to (1) tell our story to the community and (2) build internal chapter community.

- **Governing Documents**

- **Bylaws** – Mary shared the template from the State with board members. The only variance from the State template allowed pertains to the length of term for officers (12-month or 24-month) and for chapters that choose not to be tax-exempt. Therefore, the board will report to chapter members at the February chapter meeting that it has reviewed the changes and recommends the chapter approves the changes. The chapter will then vote on the recommendation.
- **Chapter Management and Operating Protocols (CMOP)** – this document was also shared with the board. Minor changes were noted, including clarification regarding outside board service and volunteer service hours. Sharon and Tracy will share clarification with chapter members. The CMOP has been adopted by the State, and no additional action is required.
- **Operating Handbook** is in effect at the State level. We can revise it for our chapter's needs, but it must be approved by two-thirds vote of the board and then presented to the chapter for approval. Mary would like to complete the process by the April meeting.

- **2026 Action Planning**

After reviewing the 2025 board objectives, Mary led the board members through an activity to create an action plan for the upcoming year:

1. **Governing Documents**

Support the statewide Texas Master Naturalist governing documents process in 2026 by reviewing proposed updates and clearly communicating to members what is changing, why it matters, and how it supports volunteer service and stewardship.

2. **25 Events for 25 Years**

Use a year-long series of 25 events or activities as the anchor for the 25th anniversary, highlighting existing GBAC programs and projects and offering a mix of service events, public programs, partner collaborations, and community presentations.

3. **Volunteer Video Storytelling**

Capture short, informal testimonial videos from members sharing why GBAC matters, favorite projects or places, and proud moments, and use these stories across social media, events, and community outreach. Consider a video to showcase 25 events for 25 years.

4. **25th Anniversary Swag**

Develop a small set of anniversary items (such as a t-shirt, bandana, pin, or cap) to create a shared identity and visible celebration throughout the year.

5. **Recognition / Proclamation**

Explore a county or city proclamation and/or partner recognition to mark the 25th anniversary and help elevate public awareness of GBAC's community impact.

- **Financial/Budget**

- Mary presented the 2025 final financial report, including an Actual vs. Budget review. **Gene moved to approve the 2025 final financials as presented. Jenny seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Mary then presented the proposed 2026 Budget. After discussion, **Jenny made a motion to accept the 2026 budget, with \$200 additional funding towards the educational scholarship. Tracy seconded the motion and passed.**

Closing

- Mary shared dates for the 2026 board and chapter meetings.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM by Mary Dobberstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary