

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 September 12, 2017

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS & CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	√	Camille Gong		CLASS 40 OBSERVERS
√	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	√	Evelyn Penrod	√	Karen Stevenson
√	Aubrey George		MEMBERS	√	Penelope Boyer	√	Shelly Abbot
√	Nancy Thoss	√	Liz Robbins	√	Jeanette Geiman		
√	Stan Drezek	√	Pam Ball	√	Gary Poole		CLASS 41 OBSERVERS
	ADVISORS		Jessica Rupke	√	Joe Gonzales	√	Karen Elyse Matson
	Judit Green	√	Keeley Porter			√	Kimya McIntosh

Note: **Quorum=9**: the 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors are filled by only 17 “members” as Nancy Thoss holds two positions (Treasurer & Membership) and Jessica Rupke holds two (Community Outreach & New Class 39 Representative).

Note: Class 40’s Shelly Abbott (currently alternate but Karen Stevenson is proposed New Class Training Director) and Class 41’s TBD (Kimya McIntosh currently alternate) will be the two New Class Representatives to come on the Board January 1, 2018.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES The emailed Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT The emailed Treasurer’s Reports were approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President, reported that Jessica Rupke will be assuming the position of New Class Representative (Class 39) in place of Freya McGregor who has moved.

Martha Cray, President, also reported the TMN Annual Meeting will go forward as planned this October. [TMN reported the Omni Corpus Christi will be totally serviceable having only minor damage from Hurricane Harvey.]

Bill Woller, TMN member, reported he is beginning to run out of wood! He has limited supplies of Ashe Juniper to make badges (\$25) or letter openers (\$15). Bill pointed out his wood and labor are free so the proceeds benefit our chapter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gary Poole, State Representative, spoke on the background and rationale for AAMN taking the lead in challenging other chapters to raise money for the TMN endowment. He had shared his draft letter (see Attachments) with the Board by email and received numerous positive comments. Discussion centered on the amount (\$,1000 to \$10,000) we should specify in the letter and clarified that the source of the money could include both individual AAMN members and the Chapter itself. Keeley Porter moved that AAMN challenge other chapters to raise money for the TMN endowment fund as per the draft letter. The motion was approved by a vote of 12 to 1.

Evelyn Penrod, Director of Media and Technology, presented “Guidelines for Board Adoption of Chapter Projects.” Evelyn had put together the original document to rave reviews and via an extensive email discussion facilitated many member’s ideas, including the payment process to any funded projects and a required MOU, being incorporated. During the discussion one limitation was pointed out, that projects would have to be in non-fee areas ruling out such venues as State Parks. Jeanette Geiman moved we accept the guidelines The motion was approved by a vote of 12 to 1.

Aubrey George, Vice President, moved we adopt the MRNA Demonstration Garden as a AAMN project based on the just adopted guidelines. The motion was unanimously approved. There was no discussion because of previous meetings discussing the project, George Ozuna's written description [The NPSOT-SA approved grant], and George's monthly updates as liaison to the MRNA.

Liz Robbins, Past President, moved "that the chapter financially support the demonstration garden at MRNA in two parts, phase 1 (chaparral) and phase 2 (riparian): Phase 1 monies in the amount \$2,700 from the 2017 budget and Phase 2 monies in the amount of \$2,000 from the 2018 budget, contingent on satisfactory Phase 1 progress reports to the Board. The funds to be dispersed as checks to vendors or from receipts submitted by the AAMN MRNA project coordinator George Ozuna based on the budget presented in the email by George Ozuna, dated August 9." [The text of the motion was provided in writing to the Board.] The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Committee, reported on the conflict of the August 2018 AAMN meeting date with Bat Loco. A discussion centering on whether to move the August meeting date to Monday August 13 or cancel the August meeting ensued. The consensus was we tentatively change the date and revisit the necessity of a meeting at our May 2018 Board meeting. Jeanette moved we change the date of our August meeting to Monday August 13th to allow members and the Board to participate in Bat Loco. The motion passes unanimously.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, explained that he discovered one of the unwritten Secretary's duties was to keep a list of all committees. He had compiled, sent out, and then revised the list via emails. He further explained the Officer Nominating Committee and the Financial Examination committees explicitly needed Board approval. He suggested it was prudent for the Board to approve all the committees. Liz so moved and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, ADVISORS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND/OR STANDING COMMITTEES

Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor, was not present.

Judit Green, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Martha Cray, President, see announcements.

Liz Robbins, Past President, see Unfinished Business.

Aubrey George, Vice President, see Unfinished Business.

Nancy Thoss, Treasurer, had submitted financial reports to the Board via email.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, see New Business.

Gary Poole, State Representative, see Unfinished Business.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, advised the Board that within the next four weeks she would be asking everyone to submit their recurring projects for approval for 2018.

Penelope Boyer, Programs, was not present for this part of the meeting.

Jessica Rupke, Community Outreach, was not present but Jeanette Geiman mentioned that the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival is scheduled for October 20-22 the same dates as our TMN Annual Meeting. Jeanette also made available brochures for recruiting New Class 42.

Keeley Porter, Historian, see Committee Reports.

Camille Gong, Hospitality, thanked everybody who brought food and helped out at the first session of Class 41.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, see Unfinished Business.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, was present but had no comments to make relating to membership.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Committee, had a very important announcement. Effective with Class 42 Karen Stevenson will become the New Class Training Director [will need Board approval per COH] as, pending November's election, Jeanette would become Treasurer. Jeanette will co-lead Class 42 with Karen with Liz assisting to make this a smooth transition. Furthermore, Jeanette reported that Classes 42 and 43 for 2018 would be held at the UEC in Phil Hardberger Park (West). Jeanette introduced Karen who called our attention to her alternate, Shelley Abbott, and introduced us to Karen Elyse Matson, the new Class 41 Representative and Kimya McIntosh, her alternate. Finally, she mentioned Class 41 has 27 members.

Joe Gonzales, New Class Representative, had no report to make.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN said she had so much to report to save time she would do it in an email. She mentioned Project ACORN is in need of someone knowledgeable about pollinators. She also stated Arbor Day will be celebrated in San Antonio on Saturday November 3rd. The Alamo Forest Partnership is having Lissa develop a list of Tree Books, including ones for children. There will be several tree planting ceremonies including one at Fox Tech.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership, reported the Texas Forest Service is doing an urban forest analysis on some 214 selected sample plots to update the last study. Also, October 22nd is the next Siclovia and there will be a tree give away at Headwaters in conjunction with their month of activities. Finally, Tom said HP 7, according to the City Arborist, will have no effect on San Antonio, but may well effect other municipalities.

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, not present.

Howard Homan, HIW, was not present but Pam Ball reported on a series of events that will be held at Headwaters culminating in a major event Sunday October 8th that will have multiple booth staffed by MNs, food trucks, and a tree give-away.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA, introduced Michael Gramley of SARA and a Class 41 member who is SARA's Parks Coordinator. Michael reminded us that SARA has one of the largest restoration projects in the United States and depends on MNs to lead hikes and help educate. He was very bullish on developing a strong partnership with AAMN. He wants to engage MNs, see more of us doing SARA activities, and develop programming for Helton, Jackson, and Acequia Park.

George Ozuna, MRNA, reported on the continuing work of the Salsa Group of the Balcones Invaders at MRNA. Don Pylant, Manager of MRNA, reported the total trees eliminated stands at about 18,000. Both George and Don commented on the building of a safety fence around the cliff. They already have 2.5 pallets of bricks for the walkways. George encouraged us to see the beauty of MRNA particularly the butterflies and the Snow-on-the-Mountain that are plentiful right now.

Drake White, PHP, was not present but Lissa Martinez reminded us Drake will be doing multiple trainings including one at the BLC on September 30th.

Jessica Leslie, TWW, not present.

Vacant, LHI, was reported by Martha Cray to still be vacant.

Vacant, Green Spaces Alliance, was reported by Martha Cray to now be filled by Tyler Sanderson with Joedy Yglesias graciously volunteering to be Tyler's back-up.

Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program, was not present.

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, was not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Keeley Porter, chair of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Committee, reported that tickets would be via Pay Pal, it was going to be a family style event, a really fun day at Joshua Springs Park on Sunday November 5th.

Liz Robbins, chair of the 2017 Officer Nominating Committee, reported that two current officers had agreed to seek election again for 2018: Martha Cray and Stan Drezek. The Officer Nominating Committee nominates these two and Donald Ewers who agreed to seek the Vice President role, given Aubrey's wish to come off the Board and Jeanette Geiman for Treasurer. This will be communicated both in the next Newsletter and by Pam in an email to the membership inviting any member to seek election to any of the officer positions. The membership needs to be notified 15 days before the meeting, but nominations could occur as late as at the November meeting itself.

Aubrey George, chair of the 2017 Financial Examination Committee, reported he expects to call a meeting of the committee to precede the October Board meeting.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. to allow time for socialization before the General Meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

ATTACHMENTS (3)

(1) A Fundraising Challenge

(2) Guidelines for Board Adoption of Chapter Projects

(3) List of AAMN Committees

ATTACHMENT 1

A Fundraising Challenge

The Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Program will celebrate its twenty-year anniversary next year. Under the leadership of Michelle Haggerty and Mary Pearl Meuth the statewide organization has grown to 48 chapters with over 11,000 trained volunteers. This incredible growth has benefitted our state greatly and has been accomplished with a bare-bones budget of about \$200,000 a year.

Several years ago, the TMN Endowment was created. While the endowment currently has about \$15,000 in it, its fully funded target amount is \$5 million. The interest income on this amount would generate additional funding for the state organization and would enable TMN to do such things as fund Master Naturalist projects across the state, hire additional staff for program support, improve members' access to useful technology, and implement many other improvements statewide in support of the important volunteer work we do. More information about the endowment can be found at <https://masternaturalistendowment.org>.

As you know, the Alamo Area Chapter was the first Master Naturalist chapter in the state. We can be rightly proud of this fact and the role we have played both locally in managing, conserving and restoring our natural resources and regionally in supporting the growth of the Master Naturalist movement in the state. The success of our local organization and our leadership have served to drive the expansion of the Master Naturalist philosophy and program.

And now we are leading once more. Over the next year the Alamo Area Chapter is challenging the other state chapters to raise \$20,000 for the TMN Endowment to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the statewide organization. As a chapter we are committed to raising up to \$1000 of this total! And we are challenging the other 47 Master Naturalist chapters in the state to set their own fundraising targets in this statewide effort.

This fundraising campaign will begin with this year's TMN Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi and run for a year. A final tally of chapters and their respective contributions will be announced at the TMN Annual Meeting in 2018, a fitting celebration for the TMN Program's 20th anniversary!

There are two ways to make donations and have them count towards the Alamo Chapter's goal. The first is to send a check to the AAMN and earmark it for the TMN Endowment. Checks should be made payable to AAMN, mailed to Nancy Thoss, PO Box 160543, SA, 78280, and marked "TMN Endowment" on the memo line. This money will then be forwarded to the endowment.

GOALS: The project must meet these overall goals:

- Must support the purpose and mission of the Texas Master Naturalist:
 - *“Natural Resource Service. To provide, promote and fulfill volunteer service while recognizing and utilizing sound natural resource management, enhancement and conservation practices in accordance with the partners’ and program’s mission.*
 - *Public Understanding. To improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge about natural resource ecology that can be used to enhance education efforts within local communities.*
 - *Enhance Education and Outreach. To enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a supply of dedicated and informed volunteers.*
 - *Volunteer Network. To develop a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer network that can be self-sufficient.”*

SCOPE:

- The project must be public, a community project; not one that is located on private land. Public Projects are defined as those located on public land: parks, natural areas, schools, etc.
- The project site should be free of charge to the public
- The project will be analyzed in terms of time, budget requirements and available resources
- The project should be long-term in nature. Example, it should be created/maintained for a period of no less than three years.

LEADERSHIP: A dedicated Group Leader who

- Is an active member of the Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist
- Provides AAMN Board a least a quarterly written report of progress and an annual, in person, presentation of project status
- Recruits volunteers from AAMN membership
- Sets the work schedule
- Keeps an ongoing record of AAMN volunteer attendance (for auditing purposes)
- Creates annual budget for the project
- Coordinates the development of a Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the AAMN Board, and the venue (landowner, Natural Area, public agency, etc.) setting out the responsibilities of the project

SPONSORSHIP:

- A vote of the AAMN Board is necessary to be considered an official project and to receive funding
- The chapter may support the project financially in part or in whole
- Payment for goods and services will be based on the submitted budget, and will be paid by the Treasurer from either an invoice received or a reimbursement with original receipt. Receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer within two months of purchase in order to be fulfilled by AAMN
- Signage at the site will indicate that the project is supported and maintained by the Alamo Area Master Naturalist Chapter
- The core volunteer staff should belong to the Alamo Area Master Naturalist chapter, but projects can work with members of the public especially in an education or outreach mode

Consideration will be given to projects by people and in places that help the Alamo Area Master Naturalist more fully represent the rich diversity of San Antonio's communities and terrains.

ATTACHEMENT 3 List of AAMN Committees

AAMN New Class Training Committee —Fall 2017

Jeanette Geiman (Director & Chair)	jgeiman@icloud.com	210-454-9243
Martha Cray (Member)	mcray@satx.rr.com	210-415-1535
Camille Gong (Member)	camille.gong@gmail.com	210-862-2168
Joe Gonzales (Member)	jgonzales2050@satx.rr.com	210-260-9979
Barbara Harder (Member)	bdjharder@sbcglobal.net	210-260-8644
Susan McDevitt (Member)	aspencoffey@aol.com	210-887-1326
Hal Manzke (Member)	halbob@hotmail.com	210-413-7557
Liz Robbins (Member)	liz.robbins.44@gmail.com	210-548-8510
Gary Rogers (Member)	gary.rogers@ieee.org	210-834-6899
Jessica Rupke (Member)	jskoog1216@gmail.com	210-887-9765
Karen Stevenson (Member)	karenbstevenson@gmail.com	713-305-2241
Joedy Yglesias (Member)	joedylish@yahoo.com	210-657-9710

Ad Hoc Texas Waters Specialist Committee 2017

Michelle Garza (Liaison & Chair)	megarza@sara-tx.org	210-859-8867
Penelope Boyer (Member)	penelope@penelopeboyer.com	210-224-2518
Stan Drezek (Member)	stanwendre@gmail.com	210-464-1365
Donald Ewers (Member)	dhewers@gmail.com	210-724-8847
Lissa Martinez (Member)	martinezlissa1@me.com	210-7103217

Ad Hoc 20th Anniversary Committee 2017

Keeley Porter (Director & Chair)	keeley.porter@gmail.com	210-391-3143
Jeanette Geiman (Member)	jgeiman@icloud.com	210-454-9243
Camille Gong (Member)	camille.gong@gmail.com	210-862-2168
Karen Stevenson (Member)	karenbstevenson@gmail.com	713-305-2241
Wendy Thornton (Member)	wendymw@hot.mail	210-771-7212
Susan McDevitt (Member)	aspencoffey@aol.com	210-887-1326
Sandy Martinez (Member)	Sandy.redmond@gmail.com	210-872-5390

Ad Hoc Officer Nominating Committee 2017

Liz Robbins (IPP & chair)	liz.robbin.44@gmail.com	210-548-8510
Keeley Porter (Member)	keeley.porter@gmail.com	210-391-3143
Evelyn Penrod (Member)	epenrod58@gmail.com	210-602-4065
Stan Drezek (Member)	stanwendre@gmail.com	210-464-1365

Ad Hoc Annual Financial Examination Committee 2017*

Aubrey George (Director & Chair)	ageorge13@att.net	210-288-7519
Joe Gonzales ** (Member)	Jgonzales2050@satx.rr.com	210-260-9979
Stan Drezek (Member)	stanwendre@gmail.com	210-464-1365

* Nancy Thoss is ex-officio member ** Joe Gonzales will represent Jessica Rupke as well

Ad Hoc Annual COH Review Committee 2018

Liz Robbins (IPP & chair)	liz.robbin.44@gmail.com	210-548-8510
Stan Drezek (Member)	stanwendre@gmail.com	210-464-1365
Gary Poole (Member)	garyapoole@gmail.com	512-773-9144
Karen Stevenson (Member)	karenbstevenson@gmail.com	713-305-2241

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 12, 2017

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom

The AT topic for the evening was **Medina River Natural Area projects**, presented by George Ozuna, liaison to the Medina River Natural Area and point person for invasive removal and the Chaparral, Grasslands, and Riparian gardens being created.

After George did a general introduction to the park he had Park Manager, Don Pylant, and many in his Salsa Group of the Balcones Invaders speak about the uniqueness of the park and the fellowship fostered by Don and the Group leaders and very much appreciated by the volunteers.

The audience gave them an appreciative applause recognizing the very special nature of this volunteer activity at MRNA.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President