

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
 TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 August 8, 2017

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	√	Camille Gong
√	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	√	Evelyn Penrod
√	Aubrey George		MEMBERS	√	Penelope Boyer
√	Nancy Thoss	√	Liz Robbins		Jeanette Geiman
√	Stan Drezek	√	Pam Ball	√	Gary Poole
	ADVISORS		Jessica Rupke		Joe Gonzales
√	Judit Green	√	Keeley Porter	√	Freya McGregor

Note: **Quorum=10:** 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors, but only 18 “members” as Nancy Thoss holds two positions.

Note: Karen Stevenson and Shelly Abbott are New Class 40 Representatives one of whom will come on the Board January 1, 2018 along with a representative from the Fall class 41.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES The Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT The Treasurer’s Report was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President, reported that Alison Copony of the Heartwood chapter indicated \$9,200 was collected in support of the MN license plate project. After deducting GoFundMe charges, \$8,432 will remain. \$8,000 will allow the project to go forward and \$432 be directed to the TMN Endowment Fund. However, should 800 TMN plates be purchased, the \$8,000 would be refunded and also go to the TMN Endowment Fund.

Martha also read the written report of **Jeanette Geiman, Training Committee.** “Applications for the Fall class remain open through August 17th via the chapter website. To date we have received fewer applications than usual. Many who were initially interested in this class declined applying due to work schedule conflict. Those individuals will receive a follow-up notice for the Spring class. Jeanette is aggressively marketing the class. Brochures for the Spring class (42) will be available at our next board meeting”

Martha mentioned we need a liaison for LHI and Pam Ball was asked to email members for any interest in that role.

Finally, Martha indicated a \$75 TMN stipend for 3-day attendance at the Fall AAMN Annual Meeting was available. Should Penny Boyer decide not to use it, it will be made available to the membership.

Liz Robbins, Past President, reported on her conversation with Michelle Haggerty requesting the AAMN take a lead position in challenging other chapters to match a contribution to the TMN Endowment Fund. After much discussion including Nancy Thoss verifying we had indeed already contributed \$500 toward the TMN Annual Meeting, we decided to have Gary Poole, State Representative, draft an item for an email blast and the newsletter “challenging” our members to make additional contributions to the fund at this time. The result may allow us to challenge other chapters to do the same at the Annual Meeting or another way.

Freya McGregor, Class Representative, reported that her mom in Queensland, Australia, after hearing all about the TMN organization from Freya, has gotten support of Outdoors Victoria to host with possible state government funding a three-year Nature Stewards pilot program. Isn't that amazing! And to top that Freya, who is moving to Boston, gave a heartfelt thanks for all the support she has received from AAMN after relocating here.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Evelyn Penrod, Director of Media and Technology, in her role heading up the relocation of the demonstration garden to Phil Hardberger Park (West) reported seven companies had been sent an RFI for the project including such specifications as an ADA walkway, fencing, site size, etc. . Two declined, two are interested, and three have not responded yet. It is anticipated all of the available \$75,000 being held by SARA for relocation may be needed for this one site. Evelyn assured the Board that cost-saving considerations would be part of any negotiating. Any monies remaining to support any other project would have to be approved by SARA. We do not have any approval to work at San Pedro Springs and that site is effectively tabled.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, reminded everyone about not mixing political advocacy with TMN activities. He referred us to the "Political Advocacy & TMN" piece he presented last month. However, since TMN is in the process of revising the guidelines he asked Gary Poole to report on it when released by TMN. Stan also reported that everyone in the room had turned in their Conflict of Interest forms and he was aggressively pursuing the very few outstanding forms.

NEW BUSINESS

Liz Robbins, Past President, explained how she had been following the reports of George Ozuna on his group's work at MRNA and the accompanying concern expressed by some members of the Board that AAMN had a need to diversify and better serve under-served communities, particularly on the south side. She broached the possibility of supporting George's group's work at MRNA. After discussing such issues as our financial resources, not wanting to become a grant agency, criteria for deciding when to become involved with a project, and what is a AAMN project a consensus was reached. First of all, members were asked to send Evelyn any *criteria* for a project to become an AAMN-sponsored project. Evelyn will compile those criteria along with the ones she has already and send a list of criteria out to the Board in two weeks for review and feedback to her. She would bring a set of final criteria for Board review and use at the September meeting.

Then, George was asked to send to the Board members a copy of his NPSOT-SA proposal detailing the project and any specific funding request for consideration. George also agreed to be the September AT program presenting to the chapter the concepts, planning, and status of the demonstration chaparral, riparian, and grassland "gardens". Stan commented that this was a very special opportunity because it combined a point-person, an in-place team of volunteers, support from the SAPAR Natural Area manager, and unique ecosystems plants not typically covered in other demonstration gardens. [Editorial comment: SABOT South Texas area is an excellent model.]

REPORTS OF ADVISORS, OFFICERS, AND BOARD MEMBERS

Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor, was not present.

Judit Green, TPWD Advisor, announced that Bat Loco was tonight until 9 pm and advised us of the Cities Nature Challenge, dates TBA, wherein MNs among others would be asked to make and post iNaturalist sightings.

Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Liz Robbins, Past President, see New Business.

Aubrey George, Vice President, had no report.

Nancy Thoss, Treasurer & Membership, had emailed the Treasurer's reports prior to the meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, see Unfinished Business.

Gary Poole, State Representative reported:

- On the TMN website you can find information on registering for the October TMN Annual Meeting.
- TMN is looking for volunteers to assist TPWD Staff at the State Fair of Texas introducing youth activities like Archery, Fishing and Camping Skills September 29th to October 1st.
- Texas Outdoors Education Association is looking for educators wanting to learn new ways to teach kids in the outdoors. The workshops will be September 29th to October 1st in Leaky, see their website.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, said she would be sending out a request for activities being held during the second part of the year and encouraged us to send ours in for approval and/or announcement.

Penelope Boyer, Programs, had no report.

Jessica Rupke, Community Outreach, was at Bat Loco and could not attend.

Keeley Porter, Historian, reported on a request from the TMN office regarding a Plant ID survey on a private property located in Boerne. The request was fulfilled by a team consisting of one AAMN (Keeley Porter) and two NPSOT-Boerne Chapter members (Kathy Ward and Veronica Hawk). If more of these property surveys are requested in the future, it would be ideal for AAMN members and NPSOT chapter members to partner for the effort and conduct the survey as a small team. Liz Robbins indicated she often likes to help with these requests

Camille Gong, Director of Hospitality, asked us to consider bringing a covered dish to complement the sandwiches provided September 7th to welcome Class 41.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, see Unfinished Business.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Committee, submitted a written report (See Announcement section).

Freya McGregor, New Class Representative, will be so missed for her enthusiasm and work as she leaves for a new life in Boston.

Joe Gonzales, New Class Representative, was not present.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN stated that the new year will add four ACORN campuses bringing the number to 30. While Project ACORN is focused on Northside ISD other districts are welcome. She also said Saturday September 30th at the BLC there will be training to help teachers see and recognize good pollinators.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership, had no report as AFP does not meet in the summer.

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, was not present. Martha Cray mentioned she was asking FoSANA for a new liaison.

Howard Homan, HIW, was not present and Pam had no announcements.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA, while not present communicated: "I still anticipate having a big announcement regarding a new SARA program at the September board meeting."

George Ozuna, MRNA, reported 898 Chinaberries have been removed recently for a total of about 15,000. The first sweep of the Natural Area has been completed and a new team will initiate a new sweep. He also announced a \$2,000 grant from NPSOT-SA as well as their offer of technical support and propagating help. NPSOT-SA members already showed up to help at MRNA.

Drake White, PHP, while not present, had a report read covering a) an 8-10 10 am to noon workshop at Headwaters for teaching children about nature (see Pam), b) the 8-24 8 am talk/walk by Rachel Cynwinski on Invasives at Phil Hardberger Park UEC, and c) a full slate of Starting Out Wild and Growing Up Wild classes in the fall at both Friedrich and Hardberger Parks.

Jessica Leslie, TWW, was not present.

Vacant, LHI.

Vacant, Green Spaces Alliance. Martha Cray reported she had contacted Gail Gallegos about providing a liaison.

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

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, was not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Keeley Porter reported on the work related to the TMN 20th Anniversary Project in 2018. She and Karen Stevenson have been conducting interviews with various AAMNs and staff from partner organizations. The video and audio recordings will be part of the State and our chapter's oral history project.

Anton Hajek, the first Alamo Area Master Naturalist Chapter President, was among the initial group of interview subjects, as was Jayne Neal, AAMN Class 1 and now a San Antonio Nature Area Naturalist based at Friedrich Park. More interviewees are being sought as Keeley and Karen would like to record as many interviews as possible. They both feel the recordings will be an excellent tool to illustrate to new (and veteran) Master Naturalists what motivates members to join the AAMN chapter, the impact they have in their communities as Master Naturalists, and why they are so passionate about their activities.

Keeley Porter also reported on the AAMN 20th Anniversary Celebration event to be held Sunday, November 5th at the Joshua Springs Park and Preserve. The event will be catered. Several quotes have been requested from catering companies and they will be reviewed before a final selection is made.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to allow some time to meet with each other prior to the General Meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

ATTACHMENTS (none)

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
August 8, 2017

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:59 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom

The AT topic for the evening was **Prairie Conservation and Restoration**, by Pat Merkord the Executive Director of the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT).

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President