

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 9, 2018

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	✓	Evelyn Penrod	✓	Joedy Yglesias
✓	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson		Gary Poole		CLASS 42 OBSERVERS
✓	Donald Ewers		MEMBERS	✓	Keeley Porter	na	Spring 2018
✓	Jeanette Geiman		Shelly Abbott		Liz Robbins	na	Spring 2018
✓	Stan Drezek		Pam Ball	✓	Nancy Thoss		CLASS 43 OBSERVERS
	ADVISORS	✓	Michael Britt (class 41)	✓	Karen Stevenson	na	Fall 2018
	Judit Green	✓	Camille Gong	✓	Tyler Sanderson (class 40)	na	Fall 2018

Note: **Quorum=10**: there are 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors. New Class 42’s observers will be named with the start of the class in the Spring and New Class 43’s observers in the Fall.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES There being no objections, the corrected emailed Minutes for November’s meeting stand as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT There being no objections, the Treasurer’s Reports for November and December stand as communicated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donald Ewers, Vice President reported on Confluence Park, a project of the SA River Foundation (a separate organization from SARA that can raise and spend money on capital projects). January 17th is the grand opening at 10 am at 300 West Mitchell. Donald indicated this will be a major ecological venue including a 50 seat CR available to non-profits at no charge. He asked any available MNs to come to the grand opening.

Evelyn Penrod, Media & Technology, reported on the Demonstration Garden at Hardberger Park. The design has been finalized. Several groups need to review various aspects of the project including a Design Team and the Conservancy. With paperwork and approvals pending it is uncertain when “planting” can actually begin.

Martha Cray, President, expressed her appreciation for the wonderful tour afforded us at Medina River Natural Area.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee, reported on the Board Retreat’s three planned topics (VMS system, MN retention and engagement, and the budget (not addressed due to time). She explained how pretty much any data put in can be retrieved by Nancy as long as we are clear about our inquiry. She reviewed many aspects of MNs connecting to AAMN and staying as volunteers and elaborated on a survey she, Aubrey George, Gary Poole, and Keeley Porter are developing to query MNs about their experience.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy Thoss, 2017 Treasurer, asked Lissa Martinez to work on clarifying certain aspects of the money and deliverables related to Project ACORN. Lissa is going to get with the new NISD contact to resolve the remaining issues.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, explained to the Board that while the COH revision committee was all set to begin a small revision of the chapter’s COH, TMN is in the process or has just finished their TMN COH which probably means a more major revision may be necessary. Stan is in communication with TMN to clarify exactly what document we have to use

in revising our chapter COH. He indicated a strong desire to keep the process streamlined, given a thorough revision was done 18-months ago.

NEW BUSINESS

Stan Drezek, Secretary, asked Board Members to return a signed Conflict of Interest form to him, this month.

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, explained some preliminary but exciting talks with the Witte Museum whereby a real partnership between our organizations could come about focused initially on the Texas Ecological areas exhibit. The possibilities are huge.

Donald Ewers, Vice President, see below

Liz Robbins, Past President, was not present.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, asked for us to be patient while she learns the intricacies of the position. She wants us to review the budget for any expenses we foresee needing funding in 2018 that are not in the 2017 budget. Nancy Thoss mentioned that we really need to have ALL monetary transactions go through the Treasurer.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, see above.

Gary Poole, State Representative, was not present but called in to Martha that there was nothing to report.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, was reported to be ill.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, stated that Donald Ewers would be presenting on Rain Gardens at the next meeting.

Shelly Abbott, Community Outreach, was not present.

Keeley Porter, Historian, reported it would only cost an additional 20 cents to add the class number to the new badges.

Camille Gong, Hospitality, asked the Board to consider bring a side dish by 6:30 March 1st the night of the first spring class.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, said she had not been able to reach Christine Gonzales and she would take it upon herself to be sure a February newsletter got out. Pending reaching Christine to clarify the future we might re-think the frequency and format of the chapter Newsletter.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, said only a little more than half our members have paid dues and those not paying would very shortly be cut off from VMS.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee, will have the support of Jeanette Geiman as co-director. Applications for Class 42 close 2/8 and already they have received applications from many talented people. Orientation will be 2/22. Both Karen and Jeanette are very excited about this new class.

Tyler Sanderson, New Class 40 Representative, see below.

Michael Britt, New Class 41 Representative advised us regarding the SA Climate Action Plan.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN, showed a sample of the turbidity tubes she and five volunteers will be building to make a supply of 15 to use in the training for Project ACORN. As mentioned above Lissa will be working in resolving some grant-related issues.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership, was not present but Lissa Martinez shared (1) the fourth Saturday in January at the Pearl will be a fruit tree giveaway, (2) on 1/19 at Headwaters there will be a Tree Measuring class, (3) the US Dept. of Agriculture has a monthly webinar series that is now approved for AT, and (4) Lissa has been appointed to the Board of the Texas Urban Forestry Council.

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, was not present.

Howard Homan, HIW, was not present.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA, called to our attention the SA River Foundation FaceBook page which has excellent videos. He also mentioned the work of the SARA Advisory Council and its urging of SARA to consider a volunteer coordinator position

George Ozuna, MRNA, was not present.

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, reported that over the winter holidays she created a Board structure for the maintenance and improvement of the BLC as she can no longer do it alone. While several key positions are filled, she is looking for a Treasurer and Board members. Her goal is the BLC have monthly programs, though this year it will be every other month. She has a vision for an expanded role for the BLC that includes birds, butterflies, insects, plants, etc..

Jessica Leslie, Texas Alliance, was not present.

Vacant, LHI. However, Tyler Sanderson mentioned LHI is looking for MNs to work with their second Saturday program.

Tyler Sanderson (Joedy Yglesias back-up), Green Spaces Alliance described lots of ongoing activities coming up this spring, including now the Bulverde Oaks first Saturday walk is approved for AT, three workshops on replacing turf grasses with native grasses are planned (help needed), and Picture Your World activities.

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

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, had no report to make.

COMMITTEE REPORTS None were made.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 9, 2018

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at about 7 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

This evening's speaker was Sam Coffman, founder and director of The Human Path: Botanical and Austere Medicine who spoke about many Texas native plants with specific medicinal uses. He also explained the process of making tinctures of plants and other ways to maximize the biological impact of the constituent chemicals.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President