

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 13, 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		Spring 2018
✓	Jeanette Geiman	✓	Shelly Abbott	✓	Liz Robbins		Spring 2018
✓	Stan Drezek	✓	Pam Ball	✓	Nancy Thoss		CLASS 43 OBSERVERS
	ADVISORS	✓	Michael Britt (class 41)	✓	Karen Stevenson		Fall 2018
	Judit Green	✓	Camille Gong	✓	Tyler Sanderson (class 40)		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 in the Fall.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, February 13, 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 last month's meeting stand as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT There being no objections the Treasurer's Reports for January 2018 stand as is.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President, announced that the TMN Endowment Fund has about \$22,000, close to the \$25,000 minimum needed to become established. She also mentioned four designs were being considered for our forthcoming TMN license plates.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, reviewed the status of the Demonstration Garden. Evelyn and Patsy Kuentz met with Meredith Tilley and Wendy Leonard. Meredith, a MN and temporarily over our Natural Areas, will be championing the project with the city. We were hoping to achieve some of the hardscaping and trees fairly soon, but were cautioned that approvals might take some time. It looks like planting may not be until the Fall. Also, the Land Bridge grand-opening has been postponed until the summer and the Tricentennial event in the park was also postponed.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee, after praising her committee and being herself thanked by Martha, indicated there is still a week left for the Member Survey. She reported a great response rate: 86 members so far. A report will be forthcoming when the survey is complete. Initial results showed people became MNs to give back to the community. Also Cibolo Nature Center, SAPAR, and HIW were mentioned very frequently as volunteer venues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gary Poole, State Representative, reported on the status of the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH). Basically, until TMN finishes their revision (expected soon), we cannot begin our process. Once we get the new TMN COH our committee will review and involve the Board and members as we have done in the past (as specified in the COH).

Gary Poole, State Representative, in a separate item explained the background to the chapter's \$1000 challenge to other chapters regarding the TMN endowment fund. There was a lengthy discussion (1) clarifying what we actually approved as a Board, (2) pointing out some of the difficulties with tracking money from our chapter, and (3) grappling with the issue of how to go forward. Liz Robbins proposed a motion that we pay the \$1,000 now. With Keeley's second the motion passed with only one negative vote.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, explained the 2018 budget that had been transmitted to members, how the budget was basically in balance, and, with the decision on the \$1,000 was ready for approval. Liz moved acceptance of the budget now that we clarified the TMN contribution, Stan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to accept the 2018 budget.

At this time, Liz also moved that effective with the 2019 dues collection when dues are paid an optional donation to the TMN Endowment Fund will be part of the dues payment process. This motion also passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Stan Drezek, Secretary, presented the list of 2018 Board Committees. There were no objections and the 2018 committees were unanimously accepted by the Board.

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 motions above.

Donald Ewers, Vice President, had no report related to his VP duties.

Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer, had submitted the January financial reports to the Board via email (see above).

Stan Drezek, Secretary, had submitted the minutes to the Board via email (see above).

Gary Poole, State Representative, reported that the TMN organization (1) was looking for an intern in marketing and (2) wanted to know any MNs who had ArcGIS or like mapping experience. He also said Cibolo Nature Center on 2/20 and 2/21 was having a program on attracting birds. Finally, South Llano River State Park from 4-27 to 4-29 was holding a 1st Annual Birding event.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, after explaining all activities have either been approved or were out for review gave a firm directive to submitters to be sure to include address of the venue, contact information, date, and time. It is surprising how such basic information is sometimes missing and we owe it to our volunteers to give clear directions.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, was reported to be in training acquiring his Wildlife and Fisheries certification.

Shelly Abbott, Community Outreach, asked for 3 to 5 MNs to form a committee with her to help staff community events (mainly tabling). She gave as examples the need at Sea World March 3 & 4 and 9-18 and at a Judson ISD elementary school's Outdoor Science Day on April 16th. Several members mentioned that a presentation to the New Class Training Committee could probably garner volunteers.

Keeley Porter, Historian, reported the TMN organization is hoping to finish the Oral History project in April. Keeley felt we had contributed sufficiently but was open to any others who might want to be interviewed.

Camille Gong, Hospitality, asked for folks to come out March 1st the night of the first class with covered dish.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, explained about a new more electronic and visually appealing format for the newsletter. She also is planning on a contest to give the newsletter a name. The new format would be open to any person wanting to subscribe. In the discussion it was determined we did not have to print up those 95 paper copies, just enough for the small number still needing a paper copy.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, reported we had 229 dues-paying members. This has been pretty stable the last few years.

Karen Stevenson, New Class Training Committee, reported we have 53 currently accepted in class 42 with two applications pending. We had received 70 applications, the vast majority of which had excellent credentials. The New Class Training Committee has made great strides getting all of registration electronic, starting a Google Group, utilizing instant messaging, and incorporating now four mentors (see Committee list attached). She even mentioned all the paper materials that were scattered are now all in one handbook and it is even available online.

Tyler Sanderson, New Class 40 Representative, had no report to make.

Michael Britt, New Class 41 Representative, had no report to make.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN, reported on the successful building of turbidity tubes (volunteers) and the lack of success with the weather that has forced cancellations and re-scheduling.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership, reported that 1,700 people showed up at the Pearl for the Jammin' Jam tree give-away. People actually started assembling at 3:30 am. Because the next Siclovia is in May consideration is being given to Tree walks rather than a tree give-away.

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, was not present.

Pam Ball, Headwaters at Incarnate Word, reported Drake White's February Butterfly workshop was full but she had a few slots left for the 2/24 afternoon insect invasives workshop. On March 9th begins a four week long significant Art exhibit with five accompanying programs (lectures/films). Please go to the HIW website for all the details.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA, indicated 3-3-18 is the new Grand Opening date for Confluence Park. He explained how Lee Marlowe really raved about the facility. Pending SARA approval, the class 42 SARA field trip will be at Confluence Park.

George Ozuna, MRNA, continued to regale the Board with all the accomplishments at MRNA. Specifically, he mentioned 9,600 lbs. of boulders and sandstone, 362' of 48" paved walkway, and planting of trees including Mexican Buckeye, Retama, etc. There has been tremendous volunteer engagement and lots of work going on

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, again explained her four-person Board structure for the BLC, the start of Monday workdays on February 19th, and her plans for events and classes as the BLC goes forward. The BLC Mission Statement is Concern, Educate, and Inspire.

Jessica Leslie, Texas Alliance, was not present.

Patsy Kuentz, LHI, updated us on LHI (see Attachment 2 for her report.)

Tyler Sanderson (Joedy Yglesias back-up), Green Spaces Alliance, reminded us of the three thrusts of GSA: Land Conservation and stewardship, Picture Your World, and Urban Land and Water for which he indicated Floyd Woller would be doing a grass walk on 4-21 at the UEC.

Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program, was not present but Lissa Martinez explained that EcoCentro will host the 2/15 and 2/27 Texas Waters Specialist webinars.

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, was not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS none.

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

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) 2018 Committees
- 2) LHI Update

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

3/14/2018 11:05 AM

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
February 13, 2018

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208 and presided over the pin awards conducted by Nancy Thoss. Among the awards we had four persons earning the 2018 Ocelot pin and two 500 hour awards.

Martha then called the program for the evening to begin. This evening's speaker was Donald Ewers, our Vice-President, who spoke on the planning and installation of his personal home rain garden. His talk was well-received.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

ATTACHMENT 1: PROPOSED 2018 AAMN COMMITTEES

AAMN New Class Training Committee –2018		
Karen Stevenson (Director & Chair)	karenbstevenson@gmail.com	713-305-2241
Jeanette Geiman (Treasurer & Co-chair)	jjgeiman@icloud.com	210-454-9243
Jim Baker (Internet/Technology liaison)	jjjandrbaker@yahoo.com	210-265-7751
Michael Britt (Class 41 representative/Mentor)	mbritt@lakeflato.com	415-734-0516
Martha Cray (AAMN President)	mcray@satx.rr.com	210-415-1535
Camille Gong (Hospitality)	camille.gong@gmail.com	210-862-2168
Joe Gonzales (Mentor/Field Trips)	jgonzales2050@satx.rr.com	210-260-9979
Barbara Harder (Videographer)	bdjharder@sbcglobal.net	210-260-8644
Peter Hernandez (Mentor)	hernandez@swbell.net	210-289-5966
Susan McDevitt (Registrar)	aspencoffey@aol.com	210-887-1326
Hal Manzke (Composting/Recycling Coordinator)	halhub@hotmail.com	210-232-5642
Keeley Porter (Hospitality)	keeley.porter@gmail.com	210-391-3143
Liz Robbins (AAMN Immediate Past President)	liz.robbins.44@gmail.com	210-548-8510
Gary Rogers (Scheduler/Photographer)	gary.rogers@ieee.org	210-834-6899
Tyler Sanderson (Class 40 representative/Mentor)	tyler@greensatx.org	319-471-5900
Joedy Yglesias (Mentor)	joedylish@yahoo.com	210-557-9710

Ad Hoc Texas Waters Specialist Committee 2018		
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
Joedy Yglesias (Member)	joedylish@yahoo.com	210-557-9710

Ad Hoc Officer Nominating Committee 2018		
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 2018*		
Donald Ewers (VP & Chair)	dhewers@gmail.com	210-288-7519
Tyler Sanderson (Member)	tyler@greensatx.org	319-471-5900
Michael Britt (Member)	mbritt@lakeflato.com	415-734-0516
Nancy Thoss (Member)	Nancy4gardens@gmail.com	private
Stan Drezek (Member)	stanwendre@gmail.com	210-464-1365
* Jeanette Geiman is ex-officio member		

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

ATTACHMENT 2: Update on Activities at the Land Heritage Institute

As you may know, the Land Heritage Institute (LHI) was created from 1,200 acres of the land originally purchased for the San Antonio Water Board (now called SAWS) failed Applewhite Reservoir project a number of years ago. The City of San Antonio still technically owns the land until LHI meets certain criteria. These criteria include a fundraising goal as well the requirement that one of a list of projects be completed. LHI has now met the fundraising goal and has completed a trail system project with the help of several AmeriCorps groups, so this year it will be asking the City to turn over ownership.

Two other items of interest are currently in progress at LHI:

(1) Over the years, the organization has raised funds and grant money to stabilize the foundation and partially re-roof the historic Presnall-Watson house on the property. LHI has recently obtained a grant from the Texas Historical Foundation to stabilize, repair, and restore the porch on the house. This work should be completed by the end of the summer.

(2) Next year, the plan is to re-structure the Board, with the addition of new board members with fundraising expertise. The intention is that this change will increase operating funds to the point that LHI will be able to hire a manager. With a manager, LHI plans to move several more projects into play, including using the STREAM Center, an educational site, for area school children's field trips. The physical STREAM Center consists of a re-purposed World War II Quonset hut arranged with two shipping containers transformed into bathrooms and storage.

If you have any questions about LHI, please drop me an email at apkuentz@aol.com.