

MAY 14, 2026

BOARD MEETING OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Meeting Location: Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville, Texas

Time: 2:00 pm

Board Members Present in person:

Alice King-President	Randee Thompson-Membership	Carra Milikien-New Class
Rae Raiford-Vice President	Dot Maginot-Projects Director	Sheryl Pender-Past President
Diane DeKerlegand-Treasurer	Kelly Skovbjerg-New Class Rep	
Aimee Tennant-Secretary	Lisa Kolaja-Communication	

Board Members Absent:

Patricia Poore-Advanced Training

President Alice King called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

Approval of April 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Carra and seconded by Sheryl, the Board of Directors approved the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of the HCTMN held on April 23, 2026, by unanimous vote.

Approval of April 2026 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Carra and seconded by Lisa, the minutes of the April Chapter Meeting were approved as written by unanimous vote.

Discussion and Approval of March Financial Reports – Diane DeKerlegand

Diane presented the April financial report.

Beginning Balance (checking + savings):	\$49,328
Total Revenue:	\$10,207
Total Expenditures:	\$ 1,956
Ending Balance:	\$57,580

After subtracting the \$10,000 reserve, \$24,622 in restricted funds, available funds are \$22,958.

Upon a motion by Lisa, and seconded by Carra, the board approved the financial report by unanimous vote.

Further financial topics –

--Merchandise Sales:

Gracie Waggoner has been doing a great job for many years handling our merchandise sales
Some feel the HCTMN merchandise we sell is priced too high
Year-to-date, with sales of \$1,700, our profit is only about \$300, so we are not, nor do we intend,
to make money on merchandise sales

With the 25th anniversary of the chapter next year, perhaps we could explore other options for a commemorative shirt/t-shirt

--Expense Reimbursement Policy:

Diane presented the revised expense reimbursement policy and form

Upon a motion by Kelly and seconded by Carra, the revised expense reimbursement policy and form was approved by the board by unanimous vote

****Diane will see that the policy and form is posted on the chapter website**

--Plant Sale Results:

Our portion (25%) of the profits from the April 18th plant sale totaled \$1,500

New Class Director Report

There was discussion on how best to present the state-required “Volunteers as Interpreters” topic

In current class, this was covered by each presenter – hasn’t worked great

Carra is working on new ideas for the next class and has people in mind to ask to present

Tuition: When the current class is over, Carra will look at budget to determine whether \$200 is still appropriate tuition

The current class will soon vote for the next Class Representative

Since the term is one-year, there will be 2 Class Reps on the board at the same time

Carra has volunteered to continue as New Class Director for the next class.

Upon a motion by Alice, and seconded by Rae, Carra Milikien’s appointment as New Class Director for 2027 was unanimously approved by the board.

Chapter Operating Handbook

The revised Chapter Operating Handbook has been posted to OneDrive and reviewed by board members

Upon a motion by Alice, and seconded by Carra, the revised Chapter Operating Handbook was unanimously approved by the board.

Timeline for presentation of COH to general membership:

June 5 – Notice to membership with draft of COH and posted on website for membership review

June 22 – Membership vote on adoption of COH at June Chapter Meeting

President’s Updates

Visit by Bausen Technology Consultant:

Consultant from Bausen Technology attended new class meeting and advised using a different microphone system (\$128). The new system is not Bluetooth so should work better

Consultant charged for 1 hour of time; he might be a good resource for Frank Garcia but we still need to find substitute if Frank cannot make a meeting

Annual Meeting Support:

The state annual meeting is looking for sponsorships

Upon a motion by Kelly, seconded by Carra, and by unanimous vote of the board, the Hill Country Chapter will make a \$150 donation to the 2026 TMN Annual Meeting

Field trip to Old Tunnel State Park

Izzy Mabry, park superintendent for Old Tunnel State Park has offered to host a chapter field trip

**Dot will contact Izzy and take the lead on this

Reaching out to Outlying Members (in Mason, Kimble, Menard, Edward and others)

We have several outlying counties with only a few chapter members

How can we help include them in the chapter

**Ranee will reach out to members in these counties to determine what might support these members.

Supporting members with physical limitations

Donna Bellis has rated new training class field trips as needing 2 walking sticks, 1 walking stick or no walking sticks depending on the rigor of the hikes

Would she be willing to apply this rating system to volunteer projects?

**Carra and/or Rae will discuss this with Donna

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Alice has booked Fredericksburg Agrilife building for Nov 14 as a back-up

Rae is currently looking for other venues, but has not received a commitment as of now

25th Anniversary of Hill Country Chapter

Next year is our 25th anniversary

**Board is asked to come up with a theme/slogan for the event

Perhaps we can have special t-shirts made up, Pat Lucas can make commemorative stickers

**Randee will contact Devon Hayes, class of 2024, who owns a screen-printing business, on possibilities

Membership Report – Randee Thompson

Form of report: Need to be able to compare present year with past years

VMS entries:

Year to date, 244 of 291 eligible chapter members have entered hours into VMS

It is unclear whether the 47 without entries have not volunteered or are having difficulties entering their hours into VMS

Randee considered pairing members having trouble with the computer entry with “buddies” to enter their hours for them

After consultation with Sandy Leyendecker, VMS Data Manager, this plan was discarded

A possible solution is to contact those without entries halfway through the year to remind members to enter their hours and ask if they need assistance

Survey for Member Directory:

The survey sent out to the 291 members of the chapter elicited 74 responses

Of these responses, only 51 included email addresses and 41 included phone numbers

The survey will remain open for now (\$99/month for survey monkey)

Paper copies of survey will be available at the next 4 chapter meetings

Outreach

Outreach is split between Membership and Communications

Membership is responsible for New Training Class recruitment with info tables set up at community events

Communications is responsible for digital outreach (newsletter, social media, etc.)

Dot distributed HCTMN business cards to all board members

Rack Cards –

Randee and Lisa have revised the rack cards.

**Dot will proofread these

So Fast Printing in Kerrville will print 500 for \$165

Trifold Brochure –

The state has designed these – very little adaptations for each chapter are permitted

So Fast Printing will print 500 for \$350

Upon a motion by Carra, and seconded by Kelly, the board unanimously approved spending \$515 to print new rack cards and trifold info sheets.

May 18th Chapter Meeting

The classroom at UGRA is available for any overflow

**Carra will monitor chat, Rae will handle Q and A, Mark will communicate via text instead of voice

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Tennant, Secretary