

**Minutes for STMN Board of Directors Meeting 3/1/2021  
Conducted VIA ZOOM Platform - 7:00 pm**

Attendees:

Bibi Dalrymple, Kimberly Ogden, Leslie Hoekstra, Randy Bissell, Michelle Alvarez, Phillip Woods, Cynthia Frank, Michele Connolly, Amanda Gabehart, Mary Grace Lopez, Suanne Pyle, Kevin Gibbs, Jeff Brown Not in attendance: Chad Huckabee

**Call to order at 7:03 pm by Bibi Dalrymple**

Board Quorum verified by Randy

**Minutes of the last meeting.**

- Prior minutes posted on website [www.txmn.org/st](http://www.txmn.org/st)
- Any changes? None.
- Minutes accepted as read.

**Officer and director reports**

**Bibi Dalrymple – President**

The state-wide presidents meeting turned into a check-in meeting with admin notes to be emailed early this week – haven't received those yet.

January 19 was the last time COVID-19 guidelines were updated on our state website; these are key points.

As Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service phases out of an established county color coding system for operating, the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program will operate under the following guidelines for engaging with peers and the public:

1. Virtual meeting platform tools should be used whenever possible.
2. For any indoor activity that does occur in-person, both volunteers and public participants must wear masks.
3. The occupancy limit shall not exceed one person per 100 square feet of indoor public space to allow for 10 feet of social distance.

Michele Connolly (New Class Representative) has agreed to help Bibi check the state website for updates to the COVID-19 policy and to also help with interpretation when questions arise.

As you start forming committees and meeting please remember that Bibi, as president, is an ex-officio member of every committee. Please CC Bibi when you schedule meetings and distribute any reports to your committees so that she is aware of your activities.

Our next scheduled board meetings are:

- Monday, May 3

- Monday, August 2
- Monday, October 4

### **Kimberly Ogden – Vice President**

Due to cancellation of February meeting the speaker schedule has changed. Dustin Baker from PINS will be in March and Katie Swanson of the UT Marine Science Institute will be April.

She would like Tawna H? from Texas Nature Trackers to speak at a meeting about the BioBlitz City Nature Challenge. Amanda Gabehart asked could Tawna do a live AT presentation at a different time than the regular meeting? Kim said that Tawna had done a presentation at the State conference and could we get access to it.

Bibi said she would find out from state TMN about access to state convention videos.

There was discussion about whether videos can be watched for AT credit.

This sideboard discussion resulted in the following after-meeting determinations from the TMN and Texas Waters:

- Pre-recorded TMNTuesdays can count towards AT.
- Pre-recorded Texas Master Naturalists Meeting Presentations can count towards AT.
- Pre-recorded Texas Water Specialists Presentations can only be counted as valid AT if they are presented in a forum to allow multiple person discussions.

### **Guest Speaker Jeff Brown – Bird Biologist**

Jeff spoke on the damage to birds due to Winter Storm Uri. He said please document dead wildlife on iNaturalist project. He said there need to be lots of hummingbird feeders put out because of winter storm. He stated seed eaters would probably do okay, while insect eaters may have problems after the storm.

### **AgriLife Advisor Kevin Gibbs – Plant expert**

Kevin stated that 25 to 50% of palms were dead. Almost all tropicals were dead. The storm was very hard on Cactus and Succulents and most were now mush and needed to be dug up. He said the Live Oaks and Mesquite would probably be okay. He stated not to be in a big hurry to clean up the plant matter. He said wait about a month unless it is obviously dead.

Kimberly said where she works orders native grasses, she will find out info about ordering.

### **Leslie Hoekstra – Treasurer**

Leslie reported that 33 members have renewed by credit card, 13 members have renewed by check and 13 members were 2020 interns who paid for 2020 and 2021 for a total of 59 paid members. There is \$1818.39 in Savings account, \$4866.09 in Checking account and \$4324.93 in the 2 year CD for a total of \$11,009.41.

Randy noted that anyone who hasn't paid dues by April 1<sup>st</sup> will no longer be a voting member but will still be a TMN.

### **Randy Bissell – Secretary/Communications**

There are 433 followers on our Facebook page. Randy has asked the following people to add value and content to FB page; Suanne Pyle, Nikki Ikonomopoulos, Amanda Gabehart, Chad Huckabee, Cindy Frank, Mike Wenzel, Chuck and Christi Blend, and Jean Meadors.

Randy said thanks to Amanda Gabehart, Cindy Frank and Phillip Woods for their photos and assistance with article about the cold-stunned turtles.

Randy said he would begin sending a monthly list of emails to officers and directors. Any officer or director can send emails referenced to/from our "stock" email address [stxtmn@att.net](mailto:stxtmn@att.net). When sending emails please use blind copy or undisclosed recipients. Randy can explain how.

### **Michelle Alvarez – Membership**

Michelle will send out Google form to everyone for soliciting activities. She will continue to have quarterly socials, virtual for now.

### **Phillip Woods – Training**

Phil reported the schedule is put together for the next class. The venues have been contacted and all have responded except ANWR and Oso. We may have to find venue for Orientation that complies with COVID 19 restrictions.

Phil suggested the class be notified and assembled in in July. About 40 people have expressed interest so far. A discussion ensued among Phil, Michele C, Cindy, Bibi and Randy on whether people who signed up in 2020 should get preference and what that would look like.

It was decided there would be a two-tier approach with those on the list in 2020 getting first chance to confirm. We would then open up to later interested persons. Ultimately, candidates will pay their money to reserve their spot.

Kimberly stated that we should give them plenty of lead time before payment is due so they can budget the funds for the training fee. We need to order books as soon as we know numbers, Randy said he could store and distribute books if that was needed.

### **Cindy Frank – Volunteer Management**

Cindy stated she received 2021 Recertification pins (Texas Grama Grass) and will distribute as earned. Michele Connolly has earned her 250 hour pin.

### **Michele Connolly – New Class Representative**

Michele stated she is going to subcommittee meetings and is learning a lot. There was a discussion on when to wear TMN nametags among the group.

Bibi said whenever you are doing volunteer work as a TMN you are encouraged to wear pin. Do not wear pin, use the logo, or declare certification when you are self-promoting or for any commercial purposes. Bibi stated we should add this protocol to Intern training.

There is no Old Business

New Business

- Training fees will be \$165 as discussed in reports.
- Michelle Alvarez stated she had been contacted about participating in Earth Day, Bay Day. Due to COVID 19, we will not do it traditionally. Audubon Outdoor Club has approached the Chapter about a joint recognition at Blucher Park on April 17.
- Kevin Gibbs stated we could have a free booth at the upcoming March Home and Garden Show. Bibi stated that due to Covid 19, our Chapter will not participate.
- Jeff Brown says he prepares taxidermy specimens. Jen McCollough has requested from members info on getting birds mounted, we will pass on Jeff's information to her.
- Leslie Hoekstra stated Whooping Cranes did well through the freeze.

**Meeting adjourned by Bibi Dalrymple at 8:36 pm**

**1.5 hrs. Chapter Business**

*Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Suanne Pyle and Randy Bissell  
March 4, 2021*