

**Minutes for STMN Board of Directors Meeting 8/2/21**  
**Conducted VIA ZOOM Platform**  
**7:00 pm**

Attendees: Bibi Dalrymple, Kimberly Ogden, Leslie Hoekstra, Randy Bissell, Michelle Alvarez, Phillip Woods, Cynthia Frank, Michele Connolly, Suanne Pyle, Amanda Gabehart

Call to order at 7:08 pm by Bibi Dalrymple

Prior minutes posted on website

There were no changes. Minutes accepted as read.

**Officer and Director reports**

**Bibi Dalrymple – President**

Paul Silva is retiring at the end of August and moving to Luling to be near his parents. He suggested Holly Grand as his replacement. She is the Coastal Fisheries Outreach Coordinator for TPWD.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS: Bibi has asked VP Kim Ogden to chair the ad-hoc nominating committee for this year's election of outgoing officers. Cindy Frank and Art Siebert have agreed to serve on the committee. Does the board approve? **Approved by hand vote in New Business.**

Timeline for officer nominating committee to fill president and secretary positions

Publish slate of candidates to chapter membership in writing 15 days prior to last meeting (Nov 16) – so November 1.

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS: The incoming President will chair and appoint the Director Nomination Committee.

The incoming President will present a slate of Director candidates to the newly elected Officers, Past President and Advisor(s) for confirmation by a majority vote of this Executive Committee prior to the end of the calendar year in which they are elected.

Directors: Think about whether you want to continue in your position. If not, hopefully you have an idea of who might replace you. Start talking to them so you can recommend them to the Director Nominating Committee. Please make this decision before our final chapter meeting (Nov 16) so that we can explain the process to chapter members. Either way you will need to notify the incoming president so that he/she can present the slate to the Executive Committee and chapter advisors for their approval.

Presidents' Meeting

Next Monthly Chapter Presidents Meeting is next Monday, Aug 9

Last meeting was June 28 – there was no meeting in July.

Highlights from the last meeting:

1. Return to Service Guidelines

- a. We're open!
- b. No change since last month
- c. Many prefer hybrid meetings
- d. Some concerns about variants

2. CMOP Update 2021

- a. New training/initial certification timeline changes
  - i. Should complete the AT and volunteer service requirements “within 12 months of the start date of initial training.” (New wording designed to be clearer and more standardized.)
- b. Status:
  - i. May/June 2021 – CMOP Team reviews
  - ii. July – State Office & CMOP Team makes final edits
  - iii. October 2021 – Will share updated CMOP at the TMN Annual Meeting
- c. Moving to a three-year review period starting 2022
- d. Guiding documents:  
<https://txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-documents/>

Annual meeting:

Vendors Dropped for this year

Sponsorships requested again this year

[https://txmn.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Sponsorship-Flyer\\_Updated.pdf](https://txmn.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Sponsorship-Flyer_Updated.pdf)

New trainees can attend the Annual Meeting

Non-members are welcome as well

Will recordings be available? Yes, but must register for Annual Meeting.

Virtual Attendee Hub new this year. Probably available for 6 months post event.

Our next scheduled board meeting is: **Monday, October 4**

**Kimberly Ogden – Vice President**

- August speaker will be the Harte Endowed Chair for Conversation and Biodiversity Dr. Dale Gawlik. Kim is trying to get a balanced schedule of AT speakers. Chuck left a list with some options.
- The November meeting is scheduled to be Astronomy with Chuck but may be changed if we are still using Zoom.

**Leslie Hoekstra – Treasurer**

Leslie is working on budget reconciliation.

- Income is increased due to 22 interns instead of the budgeted 12.
- Because we are using Square, membership receipts through credit card are \$23.97 instead of \$25.00.
- Name badges are more expensive than budgeted.
- Balances: Savings \$1819.74, checking \$7374.94, CD \$4,385.09 totaling \$13,587.77.
- Leslie proposed a discussion about taking pictures of checks to deposit (using a phone App) instead of taking the physical check to bank. Several attendees affirmed that there was no difference in methods.
- **Use of Deposit Apps for Chapter Business were endorsed by the Board.**
- There was a discussion about using Square. The consensus was that it was the best processor to use for credit cards because of its transaction tracking detail.

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

- Randy is working with Children In Nature, namely Sara Coles, on getting more exposure to Regional opportunities through their media and calendar.
- Facebook is going well. Randy has asked several people to take leadership roles on the page.
- The webpage is going well. The Nature Corps videos are awesome. Randy received a compliment through Bibi that the site was inviting and looked like we had lots of good stuff going on.

### **Michelle Alvarez – Membership**

- Michelle has been working on the Nature Corps videos. There are five posted, one is being edited and she is looking for more STMN to interview.
- There are 12 interns who have asked for a mentor and 13 STMN who have volunteered to be a mentor.
- There are presently 35 who have RSVP'd for the Chapter party including 11 interns. She asked about a door prize for party and Suanne Pyle said she would bring one.
- *Note: Kickoff party attendance on Aug. 7, was approximately 50.*

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

Cindy said she won't be at orientation so Matt Hendrix filmed a video of her explaining the VMS system. Service recognition will be distributed at Kickoff party.

### **Philip Woods – New Class Director**

- There are concerns about COVID but the orientation room at TAMUCC is large and people can be spread out. They will recommend masks and interns will need to follow safety protocols. They will follow all TMN guidelines.
- All speakers for Orientation meeting on 8/14 are confirmed. All the field sites and agendas are confirmed for the fall, except PINS. The only sites with an indoor component are Oso Bay and Welder Wildlife Refuge and there are options in case of COVID.
- There was a discussion regarding people who cannot become members for some reason such as being disabled. Bibi said TMN is trying to raise disability awareness with the “Be the Change” series.
- Randy suggested that there are categories of membership described in the various chartering documents that allow for continued affiliation with the chapter beyond our current designations.
- Michelle said she would do research.

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

Michele and Michelle will work on matching mentors with new interns.

### **New Business:**

**Motion: Nominating Committee of Kim Ogden for Chairman with Cindy Frank and Art Siebert as members. They were elected unanimously by board members in attendance.**

Accommodations for August meeting at South Texas Botanical Gardens were discussed. It is a small room, should we limit attendees? Does STBG have projectors? The Chapter typically borrows the Garden’s projector. Randy said there was enough bandwidth to do a virtual/in-person hybrid meeting and that he could borrow a projector. Bibi said she would be out of town but presented a recommended agenda.

**Motion: to conduct the August Meeting as virtual by Cindy Frank. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kimberly Ogden.**

Discussion: Cindy suggested that we have our August meeting virtual and that we would have a practice run at STBG with the technology before we try a meeting. Kim seconded. Randy pointed out that this was two separate items.

**Vote was held to have August meeting virtual. There were 7 yes votes and one abstention. Motion passed.**

Randy said if he had time he would do a trial run to test hybrid ideas. We will work toward a hybrid meeting in September.

Upcoming Chapter Social: The party on August 7 was discussed. Randy said everything is outside except the restrooms. The sign-up sheet was discussed. Randy will buy meat and buns on Thursday or Friday. Everyone needs to RSVP.

Meeting adjourned by Bibi Dalrymple at 8.29 pm.

AT – 1.5 hour

*Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Suanne Pyle and Randy Bissell, August 9, 2021*