



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

President: Mickey Dufilho the meeting to order, presented the agenda and asked for additions or corrections.

Attendance—

Elected Members of Board		Present	Appointed Members of Board/Committees		Present
Mickey Dufilho (President)		✓	Bill Ahlstrom (Immediate Past President)		✓
Kathy Pittman (Vice-President/Programs)		✓	John Boettiger (Membership Dir.)		✓
Lisa Myers (Secretary)		✓	Mary Schwartz (New Class Dir.)		✓
Don Sabathier (Treasurer)		✓	Larry Peterson (Communications Dir.)		✓
			Ruby Lewis (Outreach Dir.)		✓
			Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)		
			Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)		✓
			Connie Stolte (State Rep.)		✓
			Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)		✓
			Daveyon Edwards (Class of 2020 Rep.)		✓
			Kristine Rivers (Speakers Bureau)		✓
			Quorum		Yes

Approve Previous Board Minutes—Lisa Myers stated that the December Board and General Meeting minutes had been sent to the Board for review, and the corrections suggested by board members were made. The minutes were approved.

Minutes Approval—

Motion	Motion to Approve	Motion Seconded	Vote
Approve the December Board- and General-Meeting minutes	Don Sabathier	John Boettiger	Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present

Motions—There were no motions.

Action Register Review—Mickey Dufilho led the review. [see COT Board Action Register at end of minutes.]

Completed Action Items	Who	Comments
Annual Chapter Financial Audit at AgriLIFE, Angleton	Don Sabathier, Mickey Dufilho (chair), Lisa Myers, Paul Cason, Kathy Pittman	Completed on December 4 at AgriLIFE, Angleton
End of year virtual election slate and protocols need to be developed	Past President Kristine Rivers, nominating committee, John O’Connell	Completed
Contact members who have not yet certified or not entered any hours in VMS with guidelines for membership, active membership and certified membership, and encourage them to enter all hours to date for 2020	Connie Stolte	Completed



Decide whether to hold a spring, new member training class	Mary Schwartz; Board	CANCELLED due to COVID increase; will plan on fall class
Kristine will update the EcoFund Grant information, and Larry will post it on the web. At the November General Meeting, Kristine will announce the 2021 EcoFund Grant, with applications due by January 13; committee will select grantee	Kristine and committee	Mickey will announce at the Jan 2021 general meeting that Melanie Hollenshead has been selected and will present training on her spider study at the March General Meeting
Perform line-by-line 2021 budget review at January 2021 board meeting	Don Sabathier	Don sending revisions made at the Jan board meeting and board will vote in February

TMN Tuesday—Mickey Dufilho said that the next meeting (topic is leadership) held by the State office will be on January 12 at 12 p.m. She will send information to the membership.

EcoFund Grant Report—Kristine Rivers stated that Melanie Hollenshead’s proposal was the only one submitted and that the committee approved it and her request for funds. Lisa Myers, as sponsor, will be liaison between Melanie and the board.

Leftover COT Insulated Cups—Don Sabathier said that we could use them for our next anniversary or other event. John O’Connell said that we have 80 cups in inventory.

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the December 2020 financial information, below. Don has begun collecting 2021 dues.

December 1-31, 2020, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 10,062.08
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.14
Expense Summary	\$ 0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 10,086.22

Review of 2021 Budget—Don Sabathier led members through a line-by-line review and discussion of the proposed budget. Adjustments were made, Don will email the revised budget to the board, and a vote will be taken at the February Board Meeting.

Membership Dues—Don Sabathier thanked Larry Peterson for setting up Square dues payment on the web. He has received several payments via various means.

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

General Meeting Programs—Kathy Pittman provided the following status on upcoming, general-meeting speakers:

- **January**—Wizzie Brown, Extension Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLIFE, speaking on “Bed Bug Biology and Management”; Mickey Dufilho, with a photo montage of member activities in the past year
- **February**—Jennifer Wilson, TPWD, “Managing Black Rails and their Environment”; Nature Note TBD
- **March**—Melanie Hollenshead, introducing her project, “Survey of the Spiders of Brazoria County”; Nature Note TBD
- **April**—Steve Lenox, “Forestry and Wildlife Habitat” (tentative); Nature Note TBD

The board discussed possible options for Nature Notes. Oron suggested that Kathy maintain a list of suggested topics.

Membership—Data Manager Dave Brandes sent the following December impact and awards data for inclusion in the minutes. John Boettiger reported 68 recertifications for last year so far. The numbers will be final 45 days after December 31. He plans on about 80 mailings of pins for a cost of about \$1.50 each (~\$150 total); to be mailed in February after final hours are entered.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—December 31	2,473	6,572	9,045
December 1-31	23	15	38

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—December 31	11,347	1,998
December 1-31	615	84

2020 Recertification	250 VT Hours Milestone	500 VT Hours Milestone
Cynthia Grandjean Mike Hampy Larry Kirby	Melanie Hollenshead	Vicki Kirby
Vicki Kirby Catherine Sweet Beverly Walton		

Training Director—Mary Schwartz needs to be advised of training-related State meetings. She does not seem to be on the email list.

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins asked John O’Connell for the new AgriLIFE guidance on sponsored activities, which is due today and may impact what members are able to do. Larry Peterson has a link on our webpage to the latest State guidance document. Kristine said that there are numerous Citizen Science opportunities on iNaturalist; this may be a good topic for a Nature Note. Oron recalled that hours for Citizen Science in support of a partner project do count for VMS, but others have restrictions on hours.

Bonus AT Day—On behalf of Bob Whitmarsh, Kristine Rivers reported that four speakers are lined up plus the virtual field trip film on Flow Hannah and Follett’s Island prairies that we offered at the State Meeting. An email invitation is going out next week; area chapters will be invited a bit later.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis said that Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges board members had met with BISD representatives regarding what remote learning they would like. Lisa Myers asked if FOBRW could use COT’s prairie tour film for BISD and other needs.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Ask local libraries if they are interested in showing the displays prepared for the Bonus AT Day	Ruby Lewis	October	Tabled	To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes March: No update (Ruby absent) April: Ruby contacted the library system and they would like to display them at libraries that have space starting in August. Ruby will coordinate a schedule and transport by a TMN member June: Ruby said libraries said fall would be best; they need a container to hold the presentation boards for transport between libraries or we can transport; Ruby will work out details in September Sept: no update Oct, Nov: Ruby not present Dec: Ruby not present Feb 2020: No action; Ruby will follow up Apr: Not discussed; libraries are closed May: Libraries still closed Jun/Jul/Aug: Libraries opened for limited hours/access; too soon for the displays
Review and update partners webpage (see below also)	Oron Atkins	ASAP	Ongoing	Sept: Oron has updated and will provide Neal with information to post on website Oct: Oron working to finalize changes Nov: Oron said that there will likely be 6 partners: USFWS Texas Mid-Coast Refuge Complex; GCBO; arts center complex at Brazosport College; Brazoria County Library System; Brazos Bend State Park; Brazoria County Parks Department Dave expressed concern that these relationships should be reciprocal Dec: Agreements being worked on Feb 2020: Agreements being worked on Apr: Agreements being worked on May: No update; Bill said Angleton Parks & Recreation Department wants to be a VPAR Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec: No update
Update VPAR agreements	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	Sept: We have 16 partners; some paperwork is missing; Peggy Romfh checking to see if there is VT logged or not; the board agreed that agreements will be auto-renew with a 30-day cancellation clause and agreement contact information will be updated every two years Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR Nov: Oron is working to finalize Dec: Oron continuing to work on Feb 2020: Oron spoke with the Center for Arts and Sciences, which is in the process of consolidating all its entities; Oron will coordinate a meeting with them to discuss our relationship Apr: Oron is working to finalize



				<p>May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner Jun: Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up Jul: Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1 Aug: No update; Larry asked whether we should pursue a partnership agreement with Flo Hannah Prairie, but this is covered as it will be managed by our VPAR with TPWD NWRs Sep: Bill has been contacted by City of Angleton attorney; he is to meet with him about Angleton Parks and Recreation Dept Oct/Nov/Dec: no update</p>
Executive Committee to meet and draft wording for harassment and accommodations for disability policies	Kristine Rivers		Ongoing	<p>State suggested that chapters provide a “welcoming atmosphere”; Peggy Romfh requested that accommodations for impairments be included Feb 2020: The Executive Board has not yet met Apr: Not discussed May: Connie has collected some wording; John O’Connell will provide the 4H volunteer policy Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan2020: No update; Paul Cason will provide Sea Center Texas’ policy (received)</p>
Hold a brief training session on entering hours in VMS via Smart Phone	?	TBD	Tabled	<p>To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours Apr: Not discussed May: No update Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Annual Meeting</p>
Form Exploratory Committee for Bonus AT Day 2021; plan event	Bob Whitmarsh, Kristine Rivers, Rose Wagner, Lisa Myers, Daveyon Edwards, John O’Connell	TBD		<p>Nov: Bob will contact committee members Dec: Committee has met once; tentatively decided on Jan. 30 date; possibly virtual field trips on Jan 31; contacting potential speakers; will have virtual registration Jan 2020: Speakers and agenda are set; registration will begin in ~1 week</p>
Distribution of 2020 recertification and milestone pins	John Boettiger, John O’Connell	ASAP		<p>To be announced at December General Meeting Jan 2020: To be mailed to members per State’s request. Kristine suggested that included in the mailing should be a request for members to update their VMS info. John O’Connell suggested crush-proof mailing materials. Mailing in February after deadline for entry of final VMS hours</p>
NEW Action Item(s) Added at January Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments	
COT 20 th Anniversary Celebration Committee	Mickey, Lisa, Rose, Daveyon, John B.	TBD	Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate	

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

cc: Board Members
 Crystal Andablo, AgriLIFE Secretary Crystal.Andablo@ag.tamu.edu



Attendance 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Elected Board Members													
Mickey Dufilho	X												
Kathy Pittman	X												
Sabathier, Don	X												
Myers, Lisa	X												
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X												
Cason, Paul													
Immediate Past President													
Bill Ahlstrom	X												
Appointed Board Members													
Atkins, Oron	X												
Boettiger, John	X												
Edwards, Daveyon	X												
Lewis, Ruby	X												
Peterson, Larry	X												
Schwartz, Mary	X												
Stolte, Connie	X												
Wagner, Rose	X												
Whitmarsh, Bob													
Rivers, Kristine (non-voting)	X												
Guests													
													1