



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Via Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service’s Microsoft Teams Meeting license

President: Mickey Dufilho called 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.) | | |
| Chapter Advisor(s) | | | Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.) | | ✓ |
| John O’Connell (AgriLIFE Extension) | | ✓ | Connie Stolte (State Rep.) | | ✓ |
| Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas) | | | Rose Wagner (Chapter Host) | | ✓ |
| Guests/Other | | | Daveyon Edwards (Class of 2020 Rep.) | | |
| | | | Kristine Rivers (Speakers Bureau) | | |
| | | | Quorum | | Yes |

Approve Previous Board Minutes—The April Board and General Meeting minutes were 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 April Board and General Meeting minutes | Oron Atkins | Don Sabathier | Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote of Board members present |

Motions—

| Motion | Motion to Approve | Motion Seconded | Vote |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|------|
| None | | | |

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

| Completed Action Items | Who | Comments |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Distribution of 2020 recertification and milestone pins (Dec 2020) | John Boettiger, John O’Connell | All pins have been distributed to pick-up sites or mailed to those outside of those sites |
| GCBO Spring Fling | Mickey Dufilho | Ends first week of May |
| Schedule Trash Collection Project dates; submit Preparedness Plan (Apr 2021) | John O’Connell/Salinases | Project has resumed and preparedness plan submitted; contact Jimmy/Luanne Salinas |

BOARD REPORTS and OTHER TOPICS

President’s Report—Mickey Dufilho reported on the following:

- **Presidents Meeting**—
 - **Pins Update:** Some milestone pins are backordered
 - **COVID guidelines:** Unchanged
 - **#TMNTuesdays:** May 11, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; topic is wildfires
 - **Be the Change:** Third Tuesdays at 12 noon; committee on diversity/equality/ inclusion
 - **Nature Reflections:** One year later; upload short videos or other content by May 31
 - **TMN License Plate:** Hopefully available starting in June
 - **2021 Annual Meeting:** October 21-24 will be a hybrid event with both live and virtual formats
 - **Virtual Volunteer Fair:** Possibly in August/September
 - **Archiving:** State is considering offering a central archive
 - **Chapter insurance:** Do we offer accidental injury insurance to volunteers? (No, we rely on our partners for coverage; Connie understands that we are covered by TPW for any activity logged in VMS. We do have directors and officers insurance)
 - **Do we offer help for dues:** State surveyed presidents; we help others informally

Past President—**Bill Ahlstrom** asked whether Don had located Daveyon Edwards, who is not answering emails. His Angleton Parks email address is not active, and Bill Ahlstrom says Megan Maynard indicated that he no longer worked at the department. Mickey will get nominee(s) from Mary Schwartz for board position replacement, if/when needed.

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

- **May**—Kristine Rivers, COT and Birding for Fun, “A Bird’s Eye View on Behavior”; Nature Note, Chris Kneupper, “Some Old Maps of Texas, 1727-1822”
- **June**—tentative, John O’Connell and Dana Arnold on rainwater harvesting

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the April 2021 financial information, below. A few people have still not paid dues; Don has contacted them.

April 1-30, 2021, COT Treasurer Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Beginning Balance</u> | \$ 11,970.80 |
| Revenue Summary | \$ 149.07 |
| Expense Summary | \$ 0.00 |
| <u>Ending Balance</u> | \$ 12,119.87 |

Membership—Mickey Dufilho presented, on behalf of John Boettiger, Data Manager Dave Brandes’ April impact and recertification data for inclusion in the minutes. Mickey noted that

milestone and other pins have been distributed to pick-up points or mailed to those outside the pick-up area.

| Impact Data | # Adults | # Youth | Total |
|---------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| YTD Totals—April 30 | 1708 | 2504 | 4212 |

| Period | VT Hours | AT Hours |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| YTD Totals—April 30* | 4246 | 998 |

* April only: 1177 VT and 192 AT Hours

| 2021 Recertifications | | 250 Hours Milestones | 500 Hours Milestone | 1000 Hours Milestone |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| James Calvert | Don Sabathier | Barbera Yoder Rose Wagner | Debbie Nance | Regina Tippett |
| Jerry Eppner | Jimmy Salinas | | | |
| Jackie Hicks | Luanne Salinas | | | |
| Phil Huxford | Mary Schwartz | | | |
| Karen Mosis | Chip Sweet | | | |
| Malcolm Mosis | Anna Tobias | | | |

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins reported on and/or updated the following opportunities:

- **Harvest for the Hungry (update)**—Susan Conaty will look at the targeted coastal prairie area (much of the 200 x 50 yards is sandy lake bank) but thinks that the plantings will need a lot of oversight by volunteers; perhaps do a test planting of grass seed to see if it holds; Susan needs to meet with the director

Upcoming:

- **Adopt-a-Loop**—TPWD’s Great Texas Wildlife Trails program; still looking for more volunteers; initial list of entries should be done by late May; Deb Nance coordinating
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed; May 10, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Pier; contact Jimmy and Luanne Salinas
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—(upcoming) self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead.
- **Apple Snail Removal at Hudson Woods**—Contact is David Heinicke, but contact Oron first if interested
- **Sea Turtle Patrol**—(training required and has occurred) contact Roland Davis; so far, the turtles are very late in nesting this year; juvenile green turtles may have been impacted by the cold snap, but Kemp’s ridley would not have been impacted
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2021**—(training/testing required); self-directed
- **Exploration Green Nursery, Volunteer Workdays**—May 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (must RSVP, screening form and face mask required); contact Christie Taylor.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis reported attendance on the following recent events:

- **Sea Center Texas Nature Day**—April 17; attendance 949
- **Surfside World Migratory Bird Day**—April 24; attendance 50

- **City of Clute Earth Day**—April 24; attendance 50

Upcoming:

- **Kids Reel Big Fish Event**—May 8
- **Summer Fest** in Pearland—July 3
- **Brazos Mall** event—August ?
- **GCBO Xtreme Hummingbird Extravaganza**—September 18 and 25
- **Brazoria County Bird Bash** (Angleton)—October 9

Chapter Advisor—Paul Cason, who could not attend this meeting, sent Sea Center’s thanks for COT’s attendance at Nature Day. He also reported that Sea Center tours have resumed and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities; and Kid Fish Day will be this Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

| 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 (Feb 2019) | Ruby Lewis | October | Tabled | To share information with the public and for COT PR purposes March 2019: 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 (Aug 2019) (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 Feb2020: Agreements being worked on Apr: Agreements being worked on May: No update; Bill said Angleton Parks & Recreation Department wants to be a VPAR Apr/May2021: No update |
| Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019) | 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 |



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|--|--------------------------------------|------|----------|---|
| | | | | <p>agreement contact information will be updated every two years</p> <p>Oct: Oron working with Pete and Peggy; there was some discussion about putting the planetarium and museum under one VPAR</p> <p>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</p> <p>May: Bill said Angleton Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) is applying to be a new partner</p> <p>Jun: Bill said that APRD is requesting changes to its VPAR that Bill will send to the board; Oron will follow up</p> <p>Jul: Bill said APRD will respond on/about August 1</p> <p>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</p> <p>Sep: Bill has been contacted by City of Angleton attorney; he is to meet with him about Angleton Parks and Recreation Dept</p> <p>Apr/May2021: No update</p> |
| Executive Committee to meet and draft wording for harassment and accommodations for disability policies (May 2020) | Kristine Rivers | | Ongoing | <p>State suggested that chapters provide a “welcoming atmosphere”; Peggy Romfh requested that accommodations for impairments be included</p> <p>Feb 2020: The Executive Board has not yet met</p> <p>Apr: Not discussed</p> <p>May: Connie has collected some wording; John O’Connell will provide the 4H volunteer policy</p> <p>Jan2021: Paul Cason will provide Sea Center Texas’ policy (received)</p> <p>Apr/May2021: No update</p> |
| Hold a brief training session on entering hours in VMS via Smart Phone (Mch 2020) | ? | TBD | Tabled | <p>To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours</p> <p>Apr2020: Not discussed</p> <p>May: No update</p> <p>Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings</p> <p>Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Annual Meeting</p> |
| COT 20 th Anniversary Celebration Committee (Jan 2021) | Rose, Mickey, Lisa, Daveyon, John B. | TBD | On-going | <p>Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate</p> <p>Feb: Committee met 2/1; the committee suggested that the anniversary celebration and Hog Wild be combined on Dec.8, and Ed Barrios agreed to offer his house as the venue; however, no alcohol allowed if this is an official TMN event; caterer for appetizers TBD</p> <p>Mch: Meeting today</p> <p>Apr/May: Ongoing</p> |
| Adopt-a-Loop | Mickey Dufilho | ASAP | On-going | <p>Mch2021: Mickey will contact Deb Nance for more information and to present at next week’s general meeting</p> <p>Apr: Deb has contacted interested people; plans proceeding; likely starting in May</p> <p>May: Volunteers have started looking at the loops</p> |
| Survey members regarding their position on resuming in-person meetings (Apr 2021) | Mickey Dufilho, John O’Connell | ASAP | May 7 | <p>John will verify how many can fit in auditorium with social distancing; Mickey recommended July as the first in-person meeting; the board will discuss at the May Board Meeting</p> <p>May: Mickey will finish drafting this week</p> |
| Determine whether a Co-Director of training should be a board position and if | Board, Connie Stolte, Mary Schwartz | ASAP | Ongoing | <p>Mary is also considering moving the training day from Wednesday, and possibly at night, and field trips on Saturday. Mary has a couple of candidates in mind for the Co-Director</p> <p>May: Connie says handbook says there is one chair and committee</p> |



| | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|---|--|
| there is any constraint in the Operating Handbook (Apr 2021) | | | | members; we can amend by vote of membership; we can also have a non-voting vice-chair. Tabled until June meeting |
| NEW Action Item(s) Added at May Meeting | Who? | Due date? | Comments | |
| Set up committee (or action plan) on diversity/equality/inclusion per State (May 2021) | Mickey Dufilho | On-going | We need to review information/guidelines from State | |

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



| Attendance 2021 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Elected Board Members | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mickey Dufilho | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Kathy Pittman | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Sabathier, Don | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Myers, Lisa | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Advisors | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O'Connell, John | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Cason, Paul | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Immediate Past President | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bill Ahlstrom | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Appointed Board Members | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atkins, Oron | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Boettiger, John | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Edwards, Daveyon | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewis, Ruby | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Peterson, Larry | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Schwartz, Mary | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Stolte, Connie | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Wagner, Rose | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| Whitmarsh, Bob | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Rivers, Kristine (non-voting) | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guests | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crystal Andalbo | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Neal McLain | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |