



TMN-COT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Angleton TX

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.)	✓
Chapter Advisor(s)		Bob Whitmarsh (Advanced Training Dir.)	
John O'Connell (AgriLIFE Extension)	✓	Oron Atkins (Volunteer Service Dir.)	✓
Paul Cason (TPWD: Sea Center Texas)	✓	Connie Stolte (State Rep.)	✓
Guests/Other		Rose Wagner (Chapter Host)	✓
Kristine Rivers (Speakers Bureau, non-board pos.)	✓		
		Quorum	Yes

Approve Previous Board Minutes—The October 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 October Board and General Meeting minutes	Kathy Pittman	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
None		

BOARD REPORTS

President's Report—Mickey Dufilho reported and/or led the discussion on the following:

- **Reminder—November General Meeting** will be on Tuesday, the ninth; social time at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m. The board decided to schedule the evening meetings on the second Wednesday for the foreseeable future
- **State Meeting Recap**—671 registrants of which 456 were virtual
- **State Meeting 2022**—October 20-23 at Omni Houston; COT will be involved Under consideration are: Should meeting start Thursday?; hold leadership luncheon on Thursday or Sunday?; continue hybrid meetings?; TMN Endowment Fundraiser
- **TMN Tuesdays**—Mickey will survey members regarding frequency and topics
- **Virtual Volunteer Fair**—Mickey will survey members regarding necessity of continuing
- **Diversity and Inclusion Workshop**—State will survey members for topics, resource needs, etc.
- **OWLS (conferencing cameras)**—State has cameras for chapters to borrow; details later this month
- **CMOP** has been completely restructured
- State recommends and many chapters hold **board retreats** in January to establish budget, select projects/priorities, review duties, review revised CMOP and review Bylaws. The board discussed what could be accomplished at a retreat. Oron suggested and the board agreed that the 2022 budget would be discussed during the December board meeting. Kathy suggested a longer January board meeting as a “retreat.”

Board Nominating Committee—Bill Ahlstrom reported the following. No one has offered to run as Vice President. Kathy Purvis has expressed interest in running for Secretary. Nominations for open offices will be taken from the floor at the November General Meeting and the vote will take place at the 20th Anniversary Celebration and perhaps electronically as well. Kristine indicated that she would run for Vice President if no one else offers.

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

- **November**—Tony Reisinger of Red Tide Rangers, HAP Monitoring Program; Nature Note: Marty Cornell on SBNWR Bobcat Woods Trail
- **December**—COT 20th Anniversary Celebration (no intern presentations)
- **January 2022**—Deborah Moran, International Dark-Sky Association, on the effects of lighting on animals and what we can do.

Treasurer’s Report—Don Sabathier presented the October 2021 financial information, below. Don noted that he will send out a 2021 budget status later in November. He added that he had to apply for a new TDECU debit card as the old one is not working.

1-31 October 2021, COT Treasurer Report

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$ 12,059.23
Revenue Summary	\$ 24.00
Expense Summary	\$ 0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$ 12,083.23

Membership—On behalf of John Boettiger, Mickey Dufilho presented Data Manager Dave Brandes’ October impact and recertification data.

Impact Data	# Adults	# Youth	Total
YTD Totals—October 31	3747	5473	9220

Period	VT Hours	AT Hours
YTD Totals—October 31	9468	1649

* October only: 792 VT and 147 AT Hours

2021 Recertifications	500 Hours Milestone	4000 Hours Milestone
Cynthia Grandjean Sandy Henderson	Kathy Pittman	Dick Schaffhausen

Training Director—Mary Schwartz

- **Report on current class**—The class now has eight interns; graduation is scheduled for December 11 at 1 p.m. at AgriLIFE (John to confirm date/time); COT members will be invited
- **Training class journals**—Mary is looking at alternatives to the current orange journal
- **Approximately 10 people have expressed interest in the spring class** starting February 3
- **Future Meet and Greets**—Mickey to organize one for January (location TBD); we need to advertise

Volunteer Service Director—Oron Atkins reported on and/or updated the following opportunities (refer to the Calendar):

- **Exploration Green Tree Planting**—November 13 and 20, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Christie Taylor
- **Tree Planting at Resoft Park**—November 17, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **BCPD Trail Day at Hanson Park**—Every third Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; contact Mike Mullenweg
- **GCBO Nursery Garden Workday**—Every Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturday; contact Chris Kneupper
- **Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—self-directed
- **Beach Sweep Trash Collection/Disposal Analysis Project**—November 11, 8 a.m. at Quintana Fishing Pier via 8th Street; contact Jimmy and Luanne Salinas (bring trash grabbers, 5-gallon bucket, gloves, mosquito repellent, comfortable clothing/hat, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, water/refreshments, sunglasses, face mask, Clean Swell app)
- **Nurdle Beach Patrol**—self-directed; contact Jace Turnell
- **Brazoria County Comprehensive Spider Survey**—self-directed; contact Melanie Hollenshead
- **Adopt-a-Loop for TMN**—self-directed; contact Deb Nance
- **Apple Snail Removal at Hudson Woods**—Contact David Heinicke
- **Pollinator Citizen Science Project 2021**—(training/testing required); self-directed; <https://txmg.org/bluebonnet/pollinator-citizen-science-project-opens-again-march-22-2021/#:-:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20project,USA%2C%20namely%20Texas%20and%20Oklahoma>

- **Exploration Green Nursery, Volunteer Workdays**—November ____, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; see their website (must RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploration-green-phase-2-planting-event-tickets-156553115583>; screening form and face mask required); contact Christie Taylor.

Advanced Director—On behalf of Bob Whitmarsh and the Fall Field Day Committee, Kristine Rivers reported that the day at Cannan Bend Recreation Area was a success, with 37 participants and 10 session leaders.

Outreach Director—Ruby Lewis reported the following events:

- **FOBWR Refuge Saturday at Bobcat Woods Trail**—November 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., contact Ed Barrios or Lisa Myers
- **FOBWR Winter Break Open House at BNWR Discovery Center**—December 26 to January 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ruby provided a recap of fall outreach that included eight major events in September and October, six of which were related to partners.

Chapter Host—Rose Wagner reported the following on the 20th Anniversary Celebration

- Only 26 members/guests have registered so far, and 12 commemorative t-shirts ordered
- Connie said that several, invited special guests from the county and our partners are attending; Mary Pearl and Michelle from the State office have been invited
- Rose would like the invitation link sent again
- Oron asked whether setup help was needed, and Rose said yes, at about 10 a.m.
- We have only six volunteers for table decorations; Mickey said she has lots of materials and can decorate “unclaimed” tables
- Milestones reached over the past two years will be recognized at the event
- Kristine asked whether there was something we could do to make the celebration feel “more special, exciting,” for example, a flyer. Rose indicated that anyone is free to put something together; she can resend the current invitation.

Communications Director—Larry Peterson stated that COT had 35 posts in October. Over the course of the past month, there was a 20% increase in reach (1500+ people) and a 35% increase in engagements (comments), approximately 650. The number of followers has been steadily increasing. Website session were up 20% over September (452); page views up 25% (936). No coverage in new media other than the article on Cannan Bend Recreation Area. Larry noted that a VMS entry counts as a “hit” if the member visits the home page to access the VMS link.

Below is the activity ranking by number of hits:

1. Home page
2. Events calendar
3. Intern training links
4. Field day info

2022 Bonus AT Day—Mickey indicated that volunteers are needed to plan the event for January or February. Mickey and Rose volunteered. Bob Whitmarsh has not been able to cover AT Director duties; Mickey will check on his status.

Chapter Advisor—Paul Cason reported the following Sea Center news:

- Trout and red drum production season has ended; five million of each species were released. They are starting flounder production with a “strip spawn,” and eggs are incubating. Contact Paul if you would like to visit
- Spooktacular event was held outside and went well with over 700 participants; they may keep the event outdoors in the future
- Volunteer Advisory Board elections were held recently; they are experiencing the same difficulties as COT in getting volunteers to take leadership roles. They changed their by-laws to allow for appointment of up to two officers a year to help fill roles and manage diversity on the board
- Volunteer Coordinator Position: Interviewing now; hope to fill by Thanksgiving.

Chapter Advisor—John O’Connell reported the following for AgriLIFE/other:

- Family and Community Health Coordinator, Shana Kutak, has been hired
- Horticulture Agent position is open; fast-tracking a replacement
- At the TMN State Leadership Luncheon, it was announced that there will be a cap on the number of chapters due to financial and time support required; there are 48 currently; the cap might be 50
- TMN license plates have brought in approximately \$6,000 to the State Office to date
- State Office wants to hold an Endowment fundraiser to help fund the office and certain expenses; the current endowment is \$60,000
- The Annual Meeting Project Award was \$800; the check was given to Don Sabathier to deposit.

Past President—Bill Ahlstrom said that the Lakeside Park groundbreaking was held on November 2. Expected completion of the Angleton park is late April. There will likely be volunteer opportunities at the park.

For the November General Meeting—

- Kristine asked that the Eco Fund Grant for 2022 be added to the November agenda.

Cradle of Texas Board Action Register				
Open Action Item	Who?	Due Date?	Complete/Ongoing	Comments
Review and update partners webpage (Aug 2019) (see below also)	Oron Atkins, Larry Peterson	ASAP	Ongoing	Apr/May/June/Jul 2021: No update Aug: Oron will provide current info to Larry and he will update webpage (including State’s definition of “partner” Sep: Oron submitted page updates to Larry including deleting Phillips 66, the combined arts organizations at Center for the Arts, and will add Texas Watershed Oct/Nov: No update
Update VPAR agreements (Aug 2019)	Oron Aktins	ASAP	Ongoing	Apr/May/June/Jul/Aug 2021: No update Sep: Oron has created a revised Partnership Agreement template and is reviewing existing VPARs Oct/Nov: No update



Committee to draft wording for harassment and disability accommodation policies (May 2020) and... Committee to form action plan on diversity/equality/inclusion per State (May 2021)	Kristine Rivers (chair), Mickey Dufilho, Bill Ahlstrom, Lou Golish		Ongoing	Jul: Kristine will recruit committee members; Mickey will help with recruitment Aug: Kristine has information provided by Connie and Paul Oct/Nov: No update
Hold a brief training session on entering VMS hours via Smart Phone (Mch 2020)	?	TBD	Tabled	To facilitate the capture of more volunteer hours Apr 2020: Not discussed May: No update Jun: Tabled pending in-person general meetings Aug: Bill says there are two sessions on this at State Meeting
COT 20 th Anniversary Celebration Committee (Jan 2021)	Rose Wagner, Mickey Dufilho, Lisa Myers, Connie Stolte, John Boettiger	TBD	On-going	Rose will also ask members of the host committee if they also wish to participate Feb: Committee met 2/1; 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 Mch/Apr/May/June: Ongoing; Rose will report at the June General Meeting Jul: Budget was raised from \$2k to \$2.5k to cover food costs (but not alcohol) Aug: Plans proceeding; venue is First Presbyterian Church, Angleton; caterers for lunch being examined (free for members, cost for guests); cake to celebrate milestones Sep: On the River selected as caterer; guidelines for table decorations have been sent to membership Oct: Rose working with Crystal on invite/registration; committee to decide on sales tax issue Nov: Only 26 members/guests have registered so far and 12 commemorative t-shirts ordered; several special guests from the county and our partners are attending; Mary Pearl and Michelle from the State office have been invited; Rose would like the invitation link sent again; Oron asked whether setup help was needed, and Rose said yes, at about 10 a.m.; We have only six volunteers for table decorations; Mickey said she has lots of materials and can decorate "unclaimed" tables; milestones for 2020 and 2021 will be recognized; Kristine asked how we could do to make the celebration feel "more special, exciting," for example, a flyer. Rose indicated that anyone is free to put something together; she can resend the current invitation
Begin the process of changing Chapter Operating Handbook to reflect current State guidelines for intern training (Aug 2021)	Connie Stolte		ASAP	Connie will draft wording for Board approval, then announce to membership 30 days in advance of vote to approve Sep: Final wording to be announced at State Meeting; Connie will work with Mary to ensure wording in training documents; Connie will initiate COH revision adoption procedures Oct/Nov: Being worked on
Investigate less expensive option to orange, waterproof journals for interns (Sep 2021)	Mary Schwartz; Don Sabathier	Before spring class		Oct: No update Nov: Mary is considering a couple of options



NEW Action Item(s) Added at November Meeting	Who?	Due date?	Comments
New Training Class Meet-and-Greets (Nov 2021)	Mickey Dufilho	Jan 2022)	Schedule one for January; date, place and time TBD; Other dates?
2022 Bonus AT DAY (Nov 2021)	Mickey Dufilho, Rose Wagner	TBD	Committee will need to be formed to hold the event in January or February

President: Mickey Dufilho adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Ladd Myers, Secretary

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



CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER

AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLDG.
21017 CR 171, Angleton, TX 77515-8903
<https://txmn.org/tmncot/>

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	X	X		X	X	X		
Kathy Pittman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Sabathier, Don	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Myers, Lisa	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Advisors													
O'Connell, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Cason, Paul		X		X			X		X		X		
Immediate Past President													
Bill Ahlstrom	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Appointed Board/Committee Members													
Atkins, Oron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Boettiger, John	X	X	X					X	X				
Edwards, Daveyon	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lewis, Ruby	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
Peterson, Larry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Schwartz, Mary	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		
Stolte, Connie	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Wagner, Rose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Whitmarsh, Bob			X	X		X	X						
Rivers, Kristine (<i>non-voting</i>)	X		X				X	X			X		
Guests													
Crystal Andalbo				X				X					
Neal McLain				X			X						