**March 29th Chapter Presidents & Advisors Meeting**

Notes by Sharon Hamilton, Cross Timbers

**Agenda**:

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| •        Return to Service Guidelines  •        Regional WebEx Account  •        Pins Update & Ordering  •        VMS Updates  •        Chapter Advisors  •        TMN Tuesdays  •        Be The Change Diversity Series | •        What Nature Means  •        TMN License Plate  •        Annual Meeting  •        Website Changes  •        AgriLife Bookstore Update  •        Looking Ahead |

**Cameron Kelly**, new student assistant; A&M Grad; will help Addison with state website, social media, annual meeting, TMN Tuesdays, etc. Addison will transition out in May.

**Return to service guidelines** Return to Service COVID Guidelines: <https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/>.

Encouraging virtual meetings; strongly encourage mask wearing. 100 sq.ft of space per person indoors. Keep different counties’ guidelines in mind. Local venues may have stricter requirements.

**Regional WebEx Accounts**: please use descriptive labelling when using regional WebEx accounts: Chapter name; type of event; first letter of first name and full last name for person running the WebEx meeting.

Ex: Alamo Area Ch; June monthly meeting (J Smith)

Encourage chapters to **view** and **use** the WebEx Calendar to schedule and post meetings and events in the WebEx accounts! Check the calendars to avoid conflicts!

Renewal period coming up—tell MPM if these accounts are still useful, so they know whether to renew the account.

Q: Training? Yes, Cisco offers training.

**Pins Update**

**Against all odds pin:** All remaining pins will go out tomorrow morning.

Must be sent to business offices of chapters. —shipment costs have tripled.

Business office address is pulled from VMS.

Still waiting for Presidential Volunteer service pin.

**2021 Recertification pins**—shipments go out as Agency reopening plan allows. Office has not been open, but staff is allowed to go to office certain days.

Form for ordering pins is updated: Olivia Schmidt –please email her with approx. number of pins your chapter will need. [olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:olivia.schmidt@tpwd.texas.gov)

**New order form:**  txmn.tamu.edu/chapter-resources/chapter-supplies/#pins

**For 4000 hrs. and above, email Michelle.**

**For certificates and other pins, contact Olivia.**

**Pin supply is limited!** In the past, chapters have ordered pins for all members, but this has often been an over ordered. Funds are no longer available to provide more pins than actually needed. **Be better economical stewards of pins.**

**Send orders quarterly? Use historical averages to estimate totals?**

**If we have old pins from the past five years, send them back to Michelle!**

Discussion: Some chapters give recert pins at the chapter meeting after a person is recertified or attains a milestone or at bi-monthly meeting. State encourages chapters to give members pins as they recertify, if we desire. Other chapters order at the end of the calendar year.

Biggest concern—state re-ordering pins when there are pins at different chapters but unused.

Suggestion that chapters pay for pins. Michelle: providing pins is the least the State Office can do for us.

VMS Updates for Leadership and Committees Contact List:

Please verify our chapter’s VMS Officers and Committees contact lists. Archive 2020 Officers and committees lists in VMS.

Advisors, too! **Please update! Remove old advisors. Have Advisors open a VMS account.**

State Office will send all Presidents’ emails to our VMS user email address. If you want State Office to use Chapter President’s address. Send MPM and email; Subject line: “Presidents Email Address Change”

Final List pulled April 5th. Get changes in by then!

**Chapter Advisors**

Role? To support chapter and program objectives at local level.

Who can be a Chapter Advisor: An appointed TPWD **and** AgriLife Agent. Can be multiple!

How do chapters work with advisors? Share meeting minutes with Advisors; Encourage Advisor to attend **at least** one board meeting per year, hopefully more; as a resource for speaking suggestions; help solve discipline/management issues.

Chapter Leaders have responsibilities: communicate with Advisors; provide opportunities for Advisor interaction; commitment to success of organization as a whole.

**Advisors Info from CMOP**: <https://txmn.org/files/2018/03/Chapter-Management-and-Operations-Protocols-for-2018.pdf>, page 31. List of responsibilities that MP read out loud is available in this document.

Q: is there a time frame for how long the same person should be chapter advisor?

A: No—can be as long as they or the chapter wants.

Nominate your advisor for the annual award! <https://txmn.tamu.edu/2020-annual-meeting-awards-wrap-up/>

**#TMN Tuesdays**

**April 13:**

**Impacts of Winter Storm Uri on Texas Fish and Wildlife**

**Several speakers!**

**12:00-3:00 pm—Longest yet!**

Bigger WebEx 3000 Account—Registration will Open Soon

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays/>

**Overview of Winter Strom Uri**: TAMU State Climatologist: John Nielsen Gammon

**Overview of iNat Winter Strom Uri Project;** Tania Homayoun, TX Nature Trackers

Break, Q and A

**Wildlife/Flora and Fauna**

* Cliff Shackelford, TPWD Ornithologist
* NRW Fuller, TPWD Bat specialists
* Fish-Aquatic species: Dakus Geeslin, TPWD Coastal Fisheries Science and Policy
* Sea Turtles; Tony Reisinger RGV Sea Grant Agent
* Plants and insects; Craig Hensley

Going forward with Conservation

Jonah Evans, TPWD non-game and rare species program leader (interim) and mammologist

Will do Streaming to Facebook Live.

**Be the Change Diversity Series**: April 20.

How to Log TMN Tuesday and Be The Change: BTC is a sub-seminar under TMN Tuesday.

Please be descriptive re: which event and which speaker.

FAQ: How does 45-day rule fit with watching a recorded TMN Tuesday or BTC?

A: Watch event. Note date you watched it. Record in VMS within 45 days.

**UPDATE: What Nature Means?** Video diary.

The Question is : “Reflect upon how nature and specifically—the TMN Program has given you refuge or provided benefits in this global pandemic and year of civil disruptions.

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/nature-reflections/>

MPM will be sending info within the next couple of weeks.

**License Plates:**

What we know: Have design. Will be released soon;

Don’t know exactly when/how to order <https://www.myplates.com/>

Funds are a new revenue stream! $22 of $30 annual fee will go back to TMN Endowed Fund and programs.

**Announcements:**

**Save the Date: Annual Meeting October 21-24, 2021**

**Irving DFW Marriott**

**TMN 2021 Annual Meeting HUB:** [**https://txmn.tamu.edu/2021-annual-meeting/**](https://txmn.tamu.edu/2021-annual-meeting/)

**What are they doing:**

Formal survey closed March 21.

Hosted informational meeting with Hotel

Hosted informational meeting with Cross Timbers Chapter

**Upcoming tasks**

April: State office budget and agenda analysis

End of April: Open call for proposals

May: HOPE to have format decision announced

June: official decision deadline for Annual Meeting Format

August 1st: Open Registration and Awards Nominations

**National Volunteer Week and Earth Day Events**:

What are chapters doing?

National Volunteer Week April 18-24

Earth Day April 22

AgriLife would like to highlight earth day events—send your info to ----

TMN Website Event Calendar-- Add your Earth Day events here: https://txmn.tamu.edu/events/

**TMN Chapter Websites**: Staffing has gone through a serious of transitions.

Questions: [first-call@tamu.edu](mailto:first-call@tamu.edu)

Mary Pearl can help by : promoting users to Admins; fix small issues. Contact her **after** contacting first cal.

Video Tutorials still online: https://txmn.tamu.edu/wordpress-trainings-recordings

New Bookstore contact:

Customers service phone 979 803-1372

Customer service email: [learningonline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:learningonline@ag.tamu.edu)

<https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/category-s/1841.htm>

**We voted in Chat re: new T Shirt Logo Options**

**What about fall in-person training?**

No state prohibition of in-person training. (some comments re: 100 sq. ft. per person guideline)

Follow what local restrictions will allow.

**Next Meeting: April 26. 1 pm Central**