

**El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
April 22, 2016  
3710 Cedar St., Suite 161, Austin, TX**

Meeting called to order by Chris Talbot at 12:09am. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Chip Briscoe, Tom Byrd, Nancy Diveny, Lucinda Freeman, Steven Fullen, Sarah Gould, Henry Mayo, John Pruett, Chris Talbot, Maureen Winn, Jeff Wright, and Lynn Young.

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales and Aaron Mahr (NPS)

Board Members Absent: Ellen Riojas Clark, Roger Holt, and John Kisalus.

Minutes from January 21, 2017 Board meeting were unanimously approved without changes by motion (Cindy<sup>1</sup>, Lynn<sup>2</sup>).

Chris Talbot called for reports from the committees.

**Executive Committee Report** presented by Chris Talbot.

The Executive Committee has been working on a FY2018 budget. One item of discussion in the budget was a proposed raise for the Executive Director. A special committee on executive compensation previously recommended a raise, and the Executive Committee also supports the idea. A preliminary budget has been submitted to NPS for consideration, and is under review.

The Executive Committee makes a recommendation for a raise for the Executive Director.

The recommendation for a raise for the Executive Director was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Steven<sup>2</sup>).

**Finance Committee Report**

John Pruett presented the finance report (current financial reports were included in the Board meeting notebooks) including the current financial statement and proposed FY18 budget.

Regarding the FY18 proposed budget, John pointed out that to accommodate a \$3,500 executive pay raise, a few line items such as mailing, copying, and telephone, were reduced to more accurately reflect spending needs.

The proposed FY18 Budget was unanimously approved by motion (Maureen<sup>1</sup>, Lynn<sup>2</sup>).

The finance report was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Maureen<sup>2</sup>).

**Executive Director's Report** presented by Steven Gonzales (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

**TPWD PBS Series:** Steven has been working with TPWD to film along the trail for their 27-minute PBS series broadcast across the state. The episode will be part of the season that starts in October and runs through January 2018. There will be a corresponding article in the TPWD Magazine.

**Signage:** Working with Goliad and Dimmit County on signage projects for FY17. Dimmit County approved \$10,000 for signage.

In Nacogdoches County, we issued a \$4,600 check from donated funds to cover the cost of the Advanced Funding Agreement. This will pay for Phase I, there will be a Phase II at a later date.

In Comal County signage should be complete soon.

In the past we've had until September 15<sup>th</sup> to spend our signage money, but this year we had to spend it by May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will spend about \$7,500 in Goliad and Dimmit, not the full \$10,000, but we'll get to it next year.

The **Rancheria Grande Archeological Project** has uncovered some neat things including an extensive swale, several hundred feet long. The swale has been certified and the property owners are allowing guided tours and will be incorporating Camino history.

On an adjacent property evidence of multiple dwellings has been located. Three property owners now have certified trail sites in the study area.

The week of May 1<sup>st</sup> NPS landscape architect team will be at **Lobanillo** to conduct a survey.

The 2017 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be in Goliad, but for the dates we previously selected, October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, there is not enough hotel availability in Goliad due to another event. Other dates available are October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> which coincide with Goliad Market Days or October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. We could keep the original dates if we moved to another location such as Victoria. Day 1 would be a trail tour and day 2 would be the membership meeting and board meeting.

Steven will look into keeping the Annual Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Goliad, but with hotel accommodations in Victoria or Beeville. If that's not possible he will look into rescheduling in Goliad the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Director's report was unanimously approved by motion (John<sup>1</sup>, Steven<sup>2</sup>).

---[end of reports]---

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regional & At-Large Reports**

*South Texas Report* presented by Nancy Diveny.

Directional signage is in process for the area. There will be a good cluster of identified trail sites in the near future. Steven spoke in McAllen earlier this month and received good reviews.

*San Antonio-Goliad Region Report*

Sarah shared that May 6<sup>th</sup> Bexar County will host a day-long symposium on the Camino Real at the Bexar County Courthouse. The symposium is free, but attendees are asked to RSVP online. We continue to make plans for the 2018 annual meeting in San Antonio, and will work on securing a meeting location.

Steven reported that there is excitement in Goliad about the 2017 ELCAT annual meeting.

*Brazos Region Report* presented by Henry Mayo.

Henry has some concerns that some of the signs were not properly placed. He will follow up with TxDOT.

Henry will be speaking about the Camino at a luncheon in July.

John mentioned that Milam County has \$1,000 for signage. Steve Wilson from the Great Plains Museum in Oklahoma came to visit and John took them to see some of the historical resources. Steven noted opportunities for interpretive signage at Apache Pass.

*East Texas - Caddo Region* presented by Chris Talbot.

Nacogdoches should be getting trail ID signs soon. The interpretive signs for Lobanillo have arrived in Austin and Chris will take them back today.

Chris reported that his Camino photos are online at SFA and they get many visitors. In March there were 689 downloads, and 19,610 downloads since they were posted.

Steven F. reported that the Los Adaes site will reopen to the public shortly. There will be advertising and programming to support the site. They hope to increase interpretive signage and accessibility at the site.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

## **National Park Service Update** presented by Aaron Mahr.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails Program is coming up next year. They want to include any 2018 trail events in their promotions. The different divisions of the National Trails will be meeting soon to coordinate plans.

Aaron's office will be reviewing our proposed NPS budget soon and then will get back to us.

As mentioned earlier, the deadline for signage spending was moved to May 15<sup>th</sup>. This was designed to eliminate end of year scrambling.

The sign design has changed so now they will no longer read "original route" and instead read "historic route."

The NPS landscape architecture team will be visiting Lobanillo in May to develop construction drawings and further develop the parking lot design and cultural resource compliance plan.

The Junior Ranger guide, kid friendly interpretation of the trail is going to be printed and posted online.

In May there will be an event in Zacatecas about cultural routes including the Camino that will lead up to a larger event in October. There is a collaborative international database project on Camino resources underway between INAH and NPS.

NPS has identified historical figures on the trail that will be using first person accounts for interpretive materials.

### **Strategic Planning**

Chris thanked the board members for spending the day and a half working on strategic planning exercises. It will be a great guide for the organization moving forward.

### **Lobanillo Archeological Survey**

Aaron's office is paying archeologist Sergio & Melinda Yruegas \$2,499 to survey the parking lot area, but it turns out they need to survey the entire trail area. In July we will vote on whether to match the money to cover the increased survey area. Chris also mentioned that we could do a fundraising push to cover this cost if needed.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjournment at 2:07pm was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Cindy<sup>2</sup>).

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Sarah Gould.