

**El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
July 15, 2017  
3710 Cedar St., Suite 161, Austin, TX**

Meeting called to order by Chris Talbot at 10:03am. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Byrd (on phone), Nancy Deviney, Lucinda Freeman, Sarah Gould (on phone), John Kisalus, Henry Mayo (on phone), John Pruett, Elle Riojas Clark (on phone), Chris Talbot, Maureen Winn, and Jeff Wright (on phone), Lynn Young.

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales, Brad Patterson (THC), Aaron Mahr (NPS)

Board Members Absent: Chip Briscoe

Minutes from April 22, 2017 Board meeting were unanimously approved with one spelling correction by motion (Cindy<sup>1</sup>, John P.<sup>2</sup>).

Chris Talbot called for reports from the committees.

**Executive Committee Report** presented by Chris Talbot (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

Chris introduced the notes from the strategic planning meeting and proposed creating a strategic planning task force to help shape the notes into a final strategic plan. This will take 3-4 meetings over the next few months, they can most likely be conducted online. Steven shared a goal to have the strategic plan in place before the annual meeting in October. Cindy Freeman was appointed chair and board members John Kisalus, Tom Byrd, and Henry Mayo also volunteered to serve on the task force.

Chris presented a proposed revised budget based on feedback from NPS.

Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails program and we would like to commemorate that in some way. There are three possible special events to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also possibly raise money for ELCAT. This first is the dedication of the Lobanillo Swales site, which will potentially happen in January, the second is the annual meeting which will be in San Antonio and coincides with San Antonio's Tricentennial, and the third would be an event LBJ National Park.

Steven reported that an ad in Texas Parks and Wildlife's magazine to coincide with their article about ELCAT that will be in their October issue was considered by the Executive Committee, however the cost was prohibitive.

The Executive Committee was unanimously approved by motion (John K<sup>1</sup>, Maureen<sup>2</sup>).

### **Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee Report presented by (written report in Board meeting notebooks). John introduced the quarterly financial report and submitted it to the board for their approval. A few questions were asked about the report and John and Steven addressed them.

The Finance Committee report was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Winn<sup>2</sup>).

The NPS asked us to amend the FY18 budget request to them that we previously approved. Proposed adjustments to make up for the changes include a reduction of the NPS budget request by \$3,450. This was accomplished by reducing funding requests for line item expenses including Supplies, Conference & Meetings, Travel, and Miscellaneous (Insurance, Webhosting, etc.).

The amended budget for FY18 was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Cindy<sup>2</sup>).

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

Steven recently visited the **Lobanillo Swales** site with NPS for a survey that will lead to installing the parking area, trailhead, and hiking path. The survey marked the spatial extent of these features by placing stakes and flagging tape to outline the location of the structures to be developed. NPS will do outreach with area tribes for input, and then bids from contractors will be collected – probably this fall. NPS is providing \$2,499 for site monitoring during the development and Steven asked the board to approve using an additional \$2,500 in funds donated to Lobanillo via our Indiegogo campaign to pay GTI Environmental a total of \$4,999 to conduct the archaeological site monitoring. The site monitoring is to ensure that we stay in compliance with state and federal regulations. Steven will also be present during the development week.

The approval to spend \$2,500 of money raised for Lobanillo to allow GTI to provide site monitoring during the development of the site was unanimously approved by motion. (Maureen<sup>1</sup>, John K.<sup>2</sup>)

There is not yet a cost projection for the total cost of the development of the site, however the construction drawings have been completed.

The excavations for the **Rancheria Grande** project are complete and a report is in progress. The project has uncovered rich materials indicating the high historical value of the area.

Steven presented a few ideas for increasing **revenue**. In particular, our annual **membership drive** began July 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through September. All board members are encouraged to reach out to friends about joining ELCAT. Steven can provide informational

packets. Renewal letters will be going out soon. We average about 100 members and Steven would like to see us increase membership to 150-200.

Cindy compiled a list of museums across the state that could potentially host Chris' photo exhibit of the trail. Chris noted the complications of university contracts which is a burden to the current version of the exhibit. Chris is open to donating a set of his photos to ELCAT so that the exhibit could be rented through ELCAT both to promote the trail and potentially raise revenue for ELCAT. Chris, Steven, and Cindy will continue to work on this initiative.

Steven also reported that Roger Holt and Steven Fullen, both of the Caddo Region have resigned from the board due to other commitments. At this time we do not have a Caddo Region representative and we will need to identify new potential Caddo Region representatives. Steven asked members to nominate anyone they may know in the area who would be a good fit.

----[end of reports]----

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

The Los Adaes site in Louisiana has reopened. There continue to be improvements at the Mission Dolores site. We now have trail signage from Natchitoches to Nacogdoches and additional signage will go up in the Nacogdoches area.

*Brazos Region Report* presented by Maureen Winn, Henry Mayo, and Lynn F, Young Henry stated that most Brazos County signs are up and that he is working with TxDOT and the county to ensure the totality of the project is completed. Maureen reported that all Robertson County signs are accounted for, but she believes signing on the Robertson County side of the OSR remains to be complete. Lynn noted that she is working with Steven on a draft charter for Model Trail Communities and that it will be available for board approval in October.

#### *San Antonio-Goliad Region Report*

Sarah mentioned scheduling a preliminary meeting with Steven, Ellen, and Jeff to discuss ideas for next year's annual meeting in San Antonio.

Steven added that directional signage will be going up in Goliad County, but due to concerns from the manager of Goliad State Park there will not be any directional signs to state park resources in Goliad County.

The annual meeting in Goliad is currently scheduled to be held at Mustang Cantina that is available for free from 8am to 3pm. They have an event that evening so we must be finished by 3pm. Discussed pros and cons of choosing a different venue for the afternoon

board meeting, such as the hotel conference room. Steven will look into a different afternoon venue. Everyone is encouraged to book their hotel room now as they are filling up.

#### *South Texas Region Report*

Steven reported that trail signs are finally being installed in Zapata County. He also stated that he would be filming in the South Texas area with TPWD for their weekly PBS series to air in January 2018.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

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

INAH recently sent their report to NPS from the Dos Caminos workshop and NPS is finalizing their end of it. The report highlights the binational significance of the trail and the potential to promote the trail from a binational perspective.

Following the Dos Caminos workshop the importance of a protocol for sharing information across the border was raised. A data sharing workshop scheduled for next March is being organized with support from THC, NPS, ELCAT, and INAH. The goal is a database of trail resources on both sides of the border.

NPS may also assist with a design charrette at the Mission Dolores site.

#### **Texas Historical Commission Update** presented by Brad Patterson.

THC's operating budget was reduced by the state in a few areas, but they were able to maintain most of their funding. The Texas Heritage Trails program received full funding and the Brazos Trail Region is being revitalized.

The Chisolm Trail brochure is now out, as are WWI and Chisolm Trail app tours. Mission Dolores staffing is secured for the next two years.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjournment at 1:32pm was unanimously approved by motion (John K.<sup>1</sup>, Maureen<sup>2</sup>).

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Sarah Zenaida Gould.