

**El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board Of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
Annual Meeting, Victoria, TX  
April 19, 2024**

The Board meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by President Dave Regan. Participating were Adam Adams, Tom Byrd, Joyce Conner, Cindy Freeman, John Kisalus, Ambassador Miguel Angel Fernandez de Mazarambroz, Judge Bob Perkins, Dave Regan, Paula Sisco (Chair, Ranchería Grande Chapter), Jesse Treviño, Bob Ward, and Executive Director Steven Gonzales. Also participating were Angelica “Cynthia” Sanchez-Clark (NPS National Trails Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator), Carol Wentler (NPS National Trails Acting Superintendent), Nicholas Myers (NPS National Trails Historian), and Brad Patterson (Texas Historical Commission, Executive Director for Preservation Programs).

A quorum was considered to be present.

**Governance Committee:** Bob Perkins presented the 2024 Slate of Officers. The slate consisted of Bill Doolittle for President, Jesús Trevino for Vice-President, Joyce Conner for Secretary, and John Kisalus for Treasurer. Dave Regan would automatically become Immediate Past-President. John Kisalus motioned to accept the Governance Committee recommendations, Bob Ward seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dave then recognized Cindy Freeman’s tenure as President, Secretary, and Past President.

**Minutes:** Joyce Conner asked for consideration and acceptance of the January 20, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Tom Byrd moved to accept, Judge Perkins seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written.

### **Committee Reports.**

**Finance Committee:** See finance report. John Kisalus reported and noted that the Red Mountain funds had arrived. Joyce Conner made a motion to approve the report, Bob Ward seconded the motion, and it was carried.

**ElCaT Endowment Report:** See endowment report. Cindy Freeman discussed how to continue to feed the endowment in order to allow 5% to be removed each year. One option mentioned is to expect board members to donate a required amount and another is to add it to the membership registration online page.

Steven explained that the office had purchased logo hats and stickers which had cost more than the yearly distribution but that the extra was covered under the budgeted “printing” category. Steven also mentioned that it was his wish that their webpage be redesigned, and Cindy said that there should be a way to add zelle for the purchasing of items, memberships, and/or donations.

**Executive Committee:** Dave Regan reported that the committee was submitting the By-laws change regarding the Executive Director evaluation for vote of all members. Also, there would be a team-building exercise at the dinner.

**Resource Protection Committee:** Steven reported for Bill Doolittle who was unable to attend. Five “No Trespassing” signs have now been installed on Red Mountain property. TAS field school was considering Red Mountain and other areas in Milam County for their summer field school 2025.

The review by archeological stewards was halted due to illness on Jim Neal's property in Nacogdoches. Steven is asking TAS to review the property. There appear to be new swales south of the known trail.

The San Antonio to Austin report has been reviewed by Steven and the Committee. It is planned to go into print June 1<sup>st</sup> to coincide with Trails Day. Press is being notified in San Marcos, San Antonio, and Austin. The report will be released at the Great Springs meeting in San Marcos and Steven will get more contacts with whom to share it from the Executive of Great Springs. The report should also go to every planning commission in each county. John Clegg was brought up as someone already protecting land on which was a mission.

**Community Relations:** See submitted report. Bob Ward gave the report. He added that he is hoping to get on the agenda with commissioners of Travis County to vote for signage installation. Also, that an interpretive panel is being re-envisioned to include El Camino Real at Audubon-Blair Woods.

**Development Committee:** Jesse Treviño is Chair. Discussion ensued regarding mandatory vs. voluntary donations (especially needed to wine and dine contacts), the possible need for a bylaw's amendment, whether extra funds would be dues or contributions, if contributions when would they be expected (upon re-enrollment?) and who was to manage any contributions/dues. Tom Byrd suggested they not be mandatory. Any suggestions should be sent to John and/or Jesse. Dave suggested that 50% of the extra funds could go into the foundation and 50% directly to ElCaT budget items. Judge Perkins suggested that Jesse and John officially submit suggestions to the Board.

**Executive Director's Report:** See submitted report. Regarding the TAS School, Brad Patterson said that typically the school conducts a week-long dig using 200-400 people. There is an orientation for newbies, a field school for kids, a lab for collections, and it is typically surveying, not excavation. An excavation is usually a 10-centimeter x 10-centimeter cut that is carefully returned to its origin. Dr. Tamra Walter of Texas Tech is the current TAS President. Steven has shared possibilities with contacts at Real Places. It was suggested that Tom Byrd give a talk to TAS about El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.

There was discussion regarding the Red Mountain maintenance contract. Brad suggested that if bids must be sought and reviewed by the Tonkawa Tribe, it could take years to resolve. Bob Ward said he could write a letter explaining why it would be better to NOT review three bids. A suggestion was made to check with Tribal Auditor or Indian Affairs Auditor regarding the bid. And Brad emphasized that it was important to hear from the Tribe what it was that they needed.

**Trail de Flores Chapter:** See submitted report. Dave gave the report for Anthony Delgado. He added that they were still working on the virtual hike and hopes that it will be functional by National Trails Day, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Ranchería Grande Chapter:** See submitted report.

At 11:04 AM John Kusalus motioned to adjourn the board meeting, Judge Perkins seconded it, and the motion carried. The board members then broke for lunch and reconvened around noon when the members meeting commenced.

**Members' Meeting:** See the Agenda. After a warm welcome, there were numerous speakers on significant events and locations in the Victoria area.

**Brad Patterson,** THC Executive Director for Preservation Programs, then gave a report. He said that TPWD was likely going to join with the THC to establish a repository for artifacts. THC has 200+

employees working in historical sites with 830,000 visitors. The Fort Martin Scott in Fredericksburg is new to them, they've purchased 30 acres (Good Night Ranch), and they are working on Slatton Harvey Houses.

Regarding El Camino Real, May 18<sup>th</sup> is the opening of the museum and hut in Caddo Mounds, they're reconstructing Mission Delores, St. Augustine, as an "evocation"; protecting Casa Navarro (another Harvey House); and protecting the historic dam on the Mediana River.

There are new exhibits in the museum at Washington on the Brazos. The Friends of the Historical Commission group hosts talks every month.

Brad's report was followed by a few more speakers and the presentation of a public service award to Cherokee County Judge Chris Davis. This was followed by a Question/Answer period with author Stephen Harrigan.

**The National Trails Office:** Last on the agenda was an update from **Carol Wendler, Angélica Sánchez-Clark, and Nicholas Myers**. Their 2022 National Trails Office interpretative plan is 50% completed; their bilingual and binational travel itinerary has 20 new site descriptions along ElCaT and five essays; they have renewed descriptions of sites on a website and translated them to Spanish and reviewed them for accuracy. They are developing partners in Mexico and are developing the binational parts of the Trail by adding photos, GPS for sites in Mexico, and translating all to English. Nick will be working on the Ranchería Grande and the Caddo Mounds Historic Site by expanding its trail system and making it accessible to all. He is working with TXDOT on a light rail project to ensure the integrity of El Camino Real. Audubon Blair Woods has a new Executive Director, and the site id has already been delivered.

**General Membership Business:** Tom Byrd made the motion to approve the slate of ElCaT officers and Mike Conner seconded it. The motion passed.

The Bylaws' change to Article IV, Section 1, regarding annual membership meeting, from "in March or April" to "in April or May." Linda Coker made a motion to accept, Tom Byrd seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Bylaws' change to Article V, Section 3, from "a minimum of four regular meetings" to "a minimum of three regular meetings." Tom Byrd made a motion to accept, Adam Adams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Bylaws' change to Article VII, Section 3, from "will evaluate the performance of the Executive Director at least one month before preparation of the annual budget. The Evaluation will be confidential." To "will complete an annual evaluation of the Executive Director during the month of October. The evaluation will be based primarily on the duties described in the latest documented Executive Director Job Description. Results of the evaluation will be confidential and provided to the Executive Director by the President no later than the end of November." Jesse Trevino made a motion to accept, Tom Byrd seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the members' meeting. There was a motion to adjourn. **Time? 5 pm? Who made and seconded the motion?**

The next Board meeting will be held October 26, 2024, to accommodate El Camino Real Day on Oct. 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Conner, Secretary