

2020 CTA Fall Meeting

October 23, 2020

Zoom opens 8:30 am/ Call to Order at 9:00 am

The CTA will be hosting the meeting virtually on Zoom - additional instructions and a link to the meeting will be distributed to current members via email.

Only members will be able to participate in the meeting so please renew your membership on the CTA website, if you have not done so already.

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President's Forum

As we enter the final quarter of 2020, it seems like eons ago that we met virtually back in April. I had hoped we would be able to meet this month at the TAS meeting; however, we are poised to hold our second virtual meeting to comply with various orders and to maintain the health of our membership. Meeting virtually means we will not be able to hold our annual career social at the TAS meeting. The career social is always a great time and opportunity for younger career archaeologists to meet people who have been around for a while. If you have ideas on how we can have a virtual career social, please let me know and maybe we can do something later this year.

The fall meeting will include a full slate of agency and committee reports and will catch us up on what has been happening over the summer. The Standards and Guideline Committee will update us on the status of the cemetery, reporting, and remote sensing standards, but we do not plan to have a vote on the updated standards. As part of the Treasurer's report, we will have an



update on the activities of the ad hoc Financial Investment Committee led by Eric Schroeder. This is an important opportunity for CTA to invest in our future and I think we all look forward to hearing this update. Speaking of Eric, he has taken a position with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and is stepping down from the Treasurer position at the fall CTA meeting. We will need to vote on a new Treasurer and Tom Barrett has agreed to run for that position. If you would like to throw your name in the hat, please contact Bill Martin (Bill.Martin@thc.texas.gov), chair of the Nominating Committee.

At the request of the Curation Committee, I will appoint a committee to explore adding a curation-related statement to the CTA Ethics Statement. If you wish to be a part of this ad hoc committee, please let me know. We hope to have a statement for review and possibly vote on in our spring 2021 meeting.

Earlier this year, we released a statement on the CTA's commitment to anti-racism and developing a diverse and inclusive archeology in Texas. Statements are fine, but it is time for the CTA and its membership to put action to our words. The Executive Committee has discussed establishing a field school scholarship for minority students who are CTA members and I think this is a good idea. We will discuss the seed money needed for this fund at the fall meeting. Also, I want to discuss other ways the CTA can continue our commitment to diversity and inclusion in Texas archeology.

I am hopeful we will all get to meet in person next spring, but at the same time we must think about holding that meeting virtually as well. At this point in time, the spring meeting looks to be April 9, 2021. We will begin looking for a venue but need to anticipate that the meeting may have to go virtual again. Also, if you have ideas for continuing education opportunities for the day before the spring meeting (April 8) let me know. I think it is important that we plan opportunities that can quickly move to a virtual format if necessary. We will discuss more at the fall meeting.

As I close, I want to thank you all for being flexible and understanding in 2020 as we adjust to a new world. Next year is a legislative session and I am sure there will be extensive discussions on state appropriations that may have an impact on archeology. It is important that we all watch the happenings of this session and stay vigilant in advocating for our industry. Texas archeology remains strong and the CTA will continue to be speak up for our industry.

I look forward to seeing you all virtually on October 23.

Todd Ahlman

Fall 2020 Agenda

Registration – 8:30 am

Call to Order – 9:00 am

Meeting Moderator (Todd Ahlman):

Instructions/Guidelines for meeting participation

Approval of Minutes, Spring 2020 Meeting

Officers' Reports

President (Todd Ahlman)
 Vice President (Erin Phillips)
 Past President (Jon Lohse)
 Secretary (Scotty Moore)
 Treasurer (Eric Schroeder)
 Newsletter Editor (Tina Nielsen)

Agency Reports

Texas Historical Commission (Brad Jones, Brett Cruse)
 Texas Parks and Wildlife (Robin Barnes)
 Texas Department of Transportation (Scott Pletka)
 Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (Jonathan Jarvis)
 Center for Archaeological Studies (Jodi Jacobson)
 Center for Archaeological Research

Standing Committee Reports

Auditing (Mark Denton)
 Budget Committee (Eric Schroeder)
 CTA Communications (Catherine Jalbert)
 Contractors (Catherine Jalbert)
 Curation (Marybeth Tomka)

Governmental Affairs (Nesta Anderson)
 Membership (Katie Canavan)
 Multicultural Relations (Mary Jo Galindo)
 Nominating (Bill Martin)
 Public Education (Todd Ahlman)
 Standards and Guidelines Committee (Jodi Jacobson)

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership (Eric Schroeder)
 Lost Cemeteries Task Force (Andi Burden)
 CTA Financial Investment Search Committee (Eric Schroeder)

Old Business

Update on cemetery standards, reporting standards, and remote sensing standards (non-voting item)

New Business

Officer Elections (nominations from the floor?)

Treasurer: Thomas Barrett

Vote on the slate by acclamation

Ethics Statement Update-Statement on Curation

CTA's investment in diversity and inclusion Spring 2021 meeting

New business from the floor?

Meeting Adjourns – 12:00 pm

Note: Agenda is subject to change prior to the Spring Meeting

Secretary's Report

By: Scotty Moore

I know that this has been a challenging year for everyone, and many organizations like ours have been dealing with the repercussions of cancelled events and meeting via online platforms rather than face-to-face. I would like to thank everyone for their patience, flexibility, and commitment to keep CTA's prominent position as the voice for archeological professionals in the state.

As anticipated, membership is slightly down across most categories compared to this time last year (see table below). The "Student" category showed the largest relative drop, which is not surprising given the mosaic of COVID responses that we've seen from institutions of higher learning and our temporary inability to host in-person networking events.



On a positive note, we've seen some slight growth in the "Contractor" and "Institutional" categories, which I think is partly driven by the ongoing demand for archeological services in the state, but also by a strong desire among the membership to stay involved and connected. Anecdotaly, everyone that I talk to has been very busy this year, which is great news for our industry and for the resources we seek to protect.

Membership Category	October 2019	October 2020
Contractor	48	49
Institutional	6	9
Principal Investigator	48	48
Professional Archeologist	92	76
Retiree	9	7
Student	24	13
Total	227	202

As always, if you have issues or suggestions for how we can make the CTA website, the membership application/renewal process, or any of the communication that you have with CTA better, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Treasurer's Report

By: Eric Schroeder

Hello members. The current account balances as of September 30 are as follows:

Business Checking	\$12,982.23
Investment Savings	\$30,928.61
Scholarship Fund	\$ 9,131.55
<hr/>	
Total	\$53,042.39



We have 202 active members and 49 contractor listings.

Membership Level	Budgeted for 2020	Current Members	Result	Income
PIs	110	97	-11	-\$495
PAs	65	76	11	+\$330
Institutional	5	9	4	+\$60
Student/Retiree	25	20	-5	-\$75
Contractor Listing	50	49	-1	-\$150

If these numbers carry through to the end of the year, we will be looking at a minor income shortfall of \$330 from what was budgeted for 2020. Despite this, our expenses have been much lower this year due to the cancellation of many of our big-ticket item events (i.e., spring social, TAS career social, and TAAM grants), and I fully expect all this to leave us with another budget surplus by the end of the year.

CTA Investment Opportunities

The Investment Committee met last month via Zoom and discussed our investment goals, which include increasing the amount we can offer in

our current student research grant program. We figure that a modest investment from \$10K-20K would be able to generate an additional \$1.2K per year in revenue. After talking it over with folks from the TAS financial committee we have decided to approach a financial advisor with Clear Rock Advisors here in Austin. The TAS currently uses this advisory group for some of their investments, and they have done quite well. We hope to have more to report to the membership regarding this effort at the fall meeting.

In closing, I would like to share with you that I have accepted a position at Texas Parks and Wildlife, as the Cultural Resources Coordinator in the Wildlife Division. Due to potential conflicts of interest that may arise between my state position and as a CTA officer, I have been advised to resign as your treasurer. I am greatly honored by all the trust and confidence you have demonstrated in allowing me to serve in this capacity and am grateful for all of your support in the actions we have taken together over the last two and a half years to propel this organization into the next decade.

Past President's Report

Hi y'all!

This is your Past President, hoping this newsletter finds you all in good health and prosperous times during these challenging days. Like most of you I'm sure, I look forward to the end of Covid times and the return of whatever might pass for normal at that time.

I have spent the past few months trying to support the CTA's new President in whatever ways I can think of or am asked to do. One of the things that I remain actively involved in (for now at least) is representing the CTA on the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) (Todd can take this over whenever he wants). AAB meetings have moved to on-line platforms to help keep everyone safe, but there has been plenty of action in spite of the pandemic.

Most of you are aware of ongoing work at the Alamo, most of it associated with San Antonio's plan to rehabilitate some of the older and more endangered buildings of the complex, and also to build a world-class visitor's center that is worthy of the Alamo and the incredible story this mission has to tell. In our last meeting, the AAB was asked to consider the City's permit request to remove the Cenotaph, the monument commemorating fallen Texian defenders, for the purpose of carrying out badly needed repairs, and also to relocate this monument to what was to have been its original location near the bandstand in front of the Menger Hotel. But for quirky decisions made in the moment, this is where the monument would have been placed when it was ready for installation as part of the 100-year celebration of Texas Independence in 1936. The City has worked on its Alamo Plan for years, enlisting many of the industry's leading experts in monument and building restoration, soliciting and listening to community feedback about what their Plan



should involve, and consulting with diverse stakeholder groups about important details of its Plan (including the proposed Cenotaph location). The Plan has to date focused on a "recaptured" Alamo Plaza that's free of modern installations to help recreate the experience of the original mission layout. During our meeting, we all listened to public input as well as political commentary having to do with just which version of Alamo history should be promoted.

At the conclusion of this 10-hour meeting, the AAB voted 9-3 in favor of granting the permit as requested. This vote recognized the City's hard work and vision in crafting the Alamo Plan, which while not perfect, was nonetheless endorsed by the broader community, by preservation leaders, by San Antonio's business sector, and by the government agency responsible for maintaining the Alamo, the General Land Office. Another entity endorsing the permit application includes the working staff of the THC itself. Unfortunately, the Commissioners of the THC, under Chairman John Nau's guidance, voted not to grant the permit. For me, this outcome was deeply disappointing considering that the role of the AAB is to provide professional input and recommendations on significant issues exactly like this one. It's also disappointing because for many Texans, the outcome represents the exclusionary politicization of a thin (Anglo)

time slice the Alamo's long and significantly multicultural history. In many respects, the THC's decision was like a vote in favor of Cenotaph over the Alamo itself. Hopefully in the future, the THC's leadership can see fit to set politics aside and find ways to elevate our shared historical and cultural heritage in the service of bringing Texans of all stripes and backgrounds together.

Otherwise, I'm occasionally active in helping to support the Texas Freedom Colonies Project, directed by Dr. Andrea Roberts (TAMU). If you haven't yet seen this remarkable project and its resulting Atlas of Freedom Colonies,

settlements established by emancipated Blacks following the Civil War, please visit www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com Many of you remember that Dr. Roberts gave a powerful presentation about her work to the CTA at our last in-person Spring Meeting. The membership should be especially proud of these kinds of interdisciplinary collaborations that put historic resource preservation into action.

Hoping to see you all again in person, sooner than later.

Jon Lohse

Newsletter Editor's Report

By: Tina Nielsen

Hi Everyone-

As you will notice, this is a fairly brief newsletter. This is not unexpected (to me anyway) given we have not been able to hold any in person meetings, trainings, conferences, or other activities for over 7 months now. Regardless, there are some very informative officer and committee reports and updates as well as some new directives from the THC regarding FCC communication tower reviews. In addition, Becky Shelton (THC) has provided us with an update on the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network as well as an invitation to attend the Site Stewardship Workshop that will be held virtually from October 14-15th (see page 11 for more details).

Thank you all for these newsletter contributions. I am always open to new ideas/suggestions, so if you have anything you would like to see in future newsletters, please send me an email and let me know (cnielsen@swca.com)!



I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing many of you (virtually) at the fall meeting in a few weeks!

Cheers,
Tina

Standards and Guidelines Committee Report

By: Jodi A. Jacobson, Committee Chair

The Standards and Guidelines have met virtually a few times since the Spring meeting about various guidelines. After making sure we had gathered all the comments that were noted at the Spring Meeting, we addressed those minor conditional changes of the CTA approved “Standards For Identification of Cemeteries and Unmarked Graves” document and are sending those along to THC for their formal review.

The Reporting Guidelines have been through a further review and revision by both the main Standard and Guidelines committee and the Ad Hoc Reporting Guidelines subcommittee, and continue to move forward.

After noting that the appropriate regulatory framework does not allow for approval of Standards and Guidelines beyond the Survey level developed by CTA as part of the Antiquities Code by THC, yet recognizing a need for more formal guidance beyond survey level, the subcommittee for Cemetery Investigations Standards and Guidelines that was proposed at the Spring meeting has been shifted to a Cemetery Investigations Best Practices subcommittee. Development of a Best Practices document is just getting started and those who noted interest in being part of that committee at the Spring CTA meeting are being reached out to for involvement.

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership Ad Hoc Committee Report

By: Eric Schroeder

TPLHPP got off to a good start in the early months of this year; however, with the cancellation or postponement of all the programmed conferences we wanted to attend, we are hoping that we will be able to roll the unspent funds for 2020 into the 2021 budget year. One good thing we can report is that we were able to convince a private landowner in south Texas to preserve and protect a prehistoric archeological site on his property in Zavala County by rolling it into a conservation easement. Much thanks to Philip Washington for making this happen.

If you know of a landowner that is interested in technical assistance with heritage preservation, please have them reach out to me at eschroeder1@austin.rr.com. We would be more than glad to talk to them.

Texas Historical Commission Updates

Dear CTA Members:

Upon review of the increased volume of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) submissions our agency has received in the last year, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) review staff has identified a variety of issues and inconsistencies in the information submitted with communication tower reviews. To better clarify what is required for Section 106 under the FCC Programmatic Agreement and the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT), we have updated our recommended Guidelines for FCC submissions and have made this available on the THC website.

With this letter we want to draw particular attention to a concern with the occurrence of archeological surveys on public lands without an ACT permit. Relative to the ACT, all FCC submission projects that include ground disturbance on lands controlled by an entity of the state that do not meet the exclusion criteria in Subchapter C., Sec. 191.0525 of the Antiquities Code, may be required to apply for an archeological permit from the THC prior to fieldwork. Coordination with the THC concerning public lands is therefore necessary to determine if a survey or monitoring is warranted and if a permit is required prior to field investigations. Failure to properly acquire a permit may result in a permit violation and/or censure of the Principal Investigator or contracting firm (Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 26, RULE §26.18, Compliance with Rules for Archeological Permits.) Most communication tower projects do not require archeological fieldwork. Exceptions include:

- Projects where the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is situated within or close to a previously recorded eligible or undetermined archeological site; and
- Projects where the APE is situated within an area with very high probability for archeological sites (e.g., downtown San Antonio).

To keep FCC communication tower projects streamlined and prevent regulatory delays, we strongly recommend that applicants adhere to the following process for Form 620 projects located on state public lands.

Step One – Desktop Review:

A qualified archeological consultant (Consultant) performs a desktop review of each proposed tower location, including but not limited to searching the THC's Archeological Sites Atlas, mapped geology and soil units, and relevant historical maps and aerial images. The Consultant carefully and clearly identifies the APE for direct and indirect effects. Additionally, the consultant clearly identifies whether the APE for direct effects is situated on land that is publicly owned or not.

Step Two – ACT Permit:

Based on the desktop review, the Consultant makes a recommendation if archeological field investigations are necessary, and submits an Archeological Permit application for fieldwork, if needed. The Consultant obtains a permit PRIOR to conducting survey or monitoring on public land.

Texas Historical Commission Updates

Step Three – Form 620 Submission:

If the Consultant recommends no archeological fieldwork is necessary, their desktop review report is submitted as part of the Form 620 to this agency for review.

If the Consultant recommends an archeological survey, they complete the fieldwork and write their report. The survey report is included as part of the Form 620 and submitted to this agency for review.

If the Consultant recommends archeological monitoring, their desktop review report is submitted as part of the Form 620 to this agency for review. The desktop review report includes the recommendation for monitoring and notes the permit number that has already been acquired.

Step Four – Form 620 Review:

THC reviews the submitted Form 620 and either concurs with the Consultant's recommendation or requires additional information or archeological work.

Step Five – Post-Review Coordination:

For projects where additional archeological work is required, the Form 620 will need to be resubmitted with the additional information and/or revised draft report.

Please note that failure to properly identify public lands at the outset of the project can result in THC requesting additional work, an after-the-fact permit, and the possibility of censure of the Principal Investigator or contracting firm, so we again strongly urge applicants to coordinate with the THC prior to the initiation of any field investigations.

Please review the recommended process outlined in this letter, the THC guidance document, and the state and federal statutes that are referenced within. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact William Martin in the Archeology Division at bill.martin@thc.texas.gov /512-463-5849 for direct effects, or Caitlin Brashear at caitlin.brashear@thc.texas.gov /512-463-5851 in the History Programs Division for indirect effects. For project specific questions please contact the regional reviewer listed by county on our website.

Thank you,



Bradford Jones
Division Director & State Archeologist
Archeology Division
Texas Historical Commission

Texas Archeological Stewardship Network News

By: Becky Shelton - THC

New Members and Nominations

The members who joined the network in 2020 were interviewed by THC Preservation Scholar and the article is published on the website.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/texas-archeological-stewards/thc-welcomes-nine-archeological-stewards>.

In addition, the 2019 Award recipients were recognized in the recent TAS newsletter and should be published on the THC website soon. The TASN network is always looking for highly motivated volunteers, and we are accepting nominations for 2021 until December 31st. The nomination form is included in the TASN Handbook

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/StewHandBk-2018.pdf>.

Site Stewardship Workshop - October 14-15

The THC and TASN are excited to be part of the first national Site Stewardship Workshop, which will be held virtually via Zoom. There is no fee, but you must pre-register. Johnney Pollan (TASN) and Becky Shelton (THC) will be participating in the talks and roundtables. This will be a great opportunity to share ideas and approaches to site stewardship with program managers and stewards in other states.

To learn more about the organization, see the meeting schedule, abstracts, and participants, go to the main page: <https://www.sitestewardship.org/workshop.html>

To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AdCZIUCmRSKqrATQutbetA

Spring 2020 CTA Meeting Minutes April 17, 2020

Registration - 8:30 am

Call to Order - 8:59 am (total number of participants: 80)

Announcements

Jon Lohse - first thing I will do is mute everyone. If you need to talk, you must manage it yourself. The hosts have the ability to adjust settings. I'll let Todd talk about it. I want to share my screen with you so that you can see the meeting agenda, which is a little more detailed than what was in the newsletter. Please note that we have time slots to keep us on schedule.

Meeting Moderator (Todd Ahlman): Instructions/guidelines for meeting participation

Make sure that you don't have nefarious things in your background. Maintain regular decorum. There is a way to "wave your hand" to get attention or just unmute yourself. If we all talk over each other, we won't be able to hear. There is also a voting function that we can use. If we need to, we can deploy a poll. Let me send an example. If you have questions let me know.

Approval of Minutes, Fall 2019 Meeting

Jon Lohse - my assumption is that everyone has taken time to read and digest the Spring newsletter, and we won't take time to learn about issues in the newsletter during the meeting.

Motion to accept - Eric Schroeder, seconded by multiple people

Approved 9:05 am

Officers' Reports

President (Jon Lohse)

We have lots of people working on many different issues (standards, etc.). This reflects the strength of the Council, which I want to thank everyone for.

CTA has shared a few corporate documents regarding standards for COVID-19 (Terracon, SWCA, AR Consultants). These are available on the CTA website. The idea is to help the professional community be safe during this time. For those of us that work for larger companies, we have a good system in place due to layered bureaucracy. In the meantime, please be safe and practice good hygiene.

I want to thank everyone; this is my last meeting as president. I appreciate all of the people that I have had the pleasure of working with. This has been a source of reward. We have made tremendous advances in addressing membership decline, budget, etc. As I have seen people putting more in on a volunteer basis, I know we are. I want also to thank Raelynn Butler - first tribal representative in CTA meeting.

Vice President (Erin Phillips)

A month ago, I thought things were on track for the TAS meeting in October. However, some groups are considering not meeting in person due to COVID. That is a fluid situation. That's all for now.

Past President (Missi Green)

I just want to say how much of a pleasure it has been to be part of the EC. I am going to miss it. I can drink beer earlier in the day! I am proud to be part of this organization.

Secretary (Scotty Moore)

Membership is at 197 as of this morning. All categories are up except for students. Keep in mind that the website is open 24/7 to access and change your membership information. If you have

any issues or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to Catherine and we can help get things figured out.

One issue that I have encountered, albeit infrequently, is that some folks aren't sure as to whether they belong in the "Professional Archeologist" or "Principal Investigator" category. I completely understand this confusion, especially if your formal work title is something like "Staff Archeologist" or "Director of Laboratory Analysis". As our esteemed Treasurer, Dr. Eric Schroeder, recently and succinctly put it: "if you pull permits, you are a Principal Investigator". Here again, I'm happy to help anyone that needs clarification on any of the membership categories and how to switch your membership between them.

Treasurer (Eric Schroeder)

What I have to report is what was in the newsletter. We are capping over \$55,000 in all of our accounts. We closed out with a \$5,228 surplus for 2019. Everything is looking good financially.

I have more to discuss in the budget and ad hoc committee updates.

Newsletter Editor (Tina Nielsen)

I hope that everyone had a chance to look at the newsletter. I do have a request that all committee chairs submit a report for the newsletter at least once a year.

Agency Reports

Texas Historical Commission (Brad Jones, Brett Cruse)

THC is open for business, but most people are working from home. We have staff in the office getting mail. I don't think that there has been much disruption in service. Please take advantage of eTRAC. If you do send in mail copies, we have staff who are scanning them and submitting them to reviewers electronically. We do have a reduced mail schedule - it only comes/goes 2x

a week. Permits are only signed once per week. Other than that, we are good.

As of yesterday, we have moved into the beta phase to test the online Texas Antiquities Permit application system. We will have to work to make sure it talks to eTRAC.

We tried to hire a new reviewer with a CFCP "twist" but no candidates worked out. We are working on getting more staff in the office.

Nick Barrett left in February, so it has left a hole. Laney Fisher has taken over. We are reorganizing slightly; now all permits are going to go through Laney.

We have a job posting for an Antiquities Code specialist; this is aimed at a younger professional to help us out. If you know of someone who is interested, please let them know.

Mark Denton has decided to retire for a 3rd time (he had been a part-time reviewer) in April. We have also posted that position. It would be a great position for someone with experience but doesn't want to commit to a 40-hour work week.

Atlas update went through in late January. It has not gone as smoothly as hoped. It will be a better service when it is fixed; thank you for your patience.

Texas Archeology Month - we don't have a firm sense of what October will look like. Maggie Moore will be working on it. If anyone has thoughts, please contact her.

We brought on 8 new stewards throughout the state to help the public.

Texas Preservation Fund Grants have gone out. We are here to help you out if you need them.

Texas Parks and Wildlife (Robin Barnes; John Lowe)

Cultural Resources program remains busy. Our coordinators are able to get to the parks while they are closed. Since last fall, our archeological services program has been working on projects including data recovery at multiple locations as well as the ongoing Waco Tanks project.

We also have openings in the Preservation Services program. We have a team lead position open; it was previously posted and taken down, but it will be reposted. Once that position is hired, there will be two more postings for architectural historians and project reviewers. The cultural resources program has taken on collections for Battleship Texas; our director has spent a lot of time with that. John Lowe has left; we will seek a replacement for his position.

John Lowe - I'm now with SWCA; I really don't know when the position (at TPWD) will be ready to be listed. I did recommend that they include an option for a more remote employee. It is a busy job with lots of work to be done.

Texas Department of Transportation (Scott Pletka)

We have not given up here at TxDOT! The governor has included our work as essential; this includes our consultants. We have been trying to be as flexible as we can.

You may be aware that our RFP for the survey contract is out. If you are interested, please contact Summer Chandler - send her a letter of intent and ask her questions if you have them. Please be aware that we are accepting online submissions only. Due May 1.

We have made updates to standard forms on the ENV toolkit. We have updated the template for the archeological survey requirements. It's only required for people working directly for us; others are requested to use it but it's not required. This new template puts it in compliance/coordination

with the ECOS system. If you are working on a district contract and asked to include the project description, you can get access to the ECOS system. Speak to the district point of contact.

We've made some updates to the permit application review checklist in response to some comments from Bill Martin. For example, they have been asking that people commit to trenching if field conditions warrant.

We are going to be hosting webinars more frequently in the future to highlight the work that we are doing.

Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (Jonathan Jarvis)

Be aware that we do not have a trinomial person at the moment; please be patient if you are asking for information on site records. I will try to help. We are hoping to have exciting events for public outreach (TARL Fair) during Archeology Month.

Tom Williams - with the TARL Fair, we are looking at ways to expand it and expand it to deal with all of the different aspects of the archeology we do. We will be printing banners with logos, so if you are interested in being a sponsor, a little money can go a long way.

Center for Archaeological Studies (Todd Ahlman)

We are open for business; Texas State is closed for the most part. This is the best time to come visit, but keep your distance. Amy Reid has sent out some guidelines about drop-offs. We can set up a time for you.

Standing Committee Reports**Auditing (Mark Denton)**

Budget passed with flying colors

Budget Committee (Eric Schroeder)

Let's look at the 2021 budget. Are there any questions?

Jon Lohse- projected deficit of a little over \$300?

Eric- Yes, \$397.50. This is not unprecedented. In the end we have come out with a surplus before.

Pat Mercator-Allinger: Would the deficit zero out our surplus from 2020? ES: We haven't been carrying over surpluses year to year.

Katherine Turner-Pearson: how were the deficits overcome?

Eric: We had income we didn't predict, for example booths at the Fall Social.

Jon Lohse - Is there a motion to accept the budget?

Motion to accept (Doug Boyd)
Seconded (multiple people)
Approved unanimously

CTA Communications (Catherine Jalbert)
No report

Contractors (Catherine Jalbert)
No report

Curation (Marybeth Tomka)
By-laws change - does anyone have questions about why we are making this change?
No discussion

Jon Lohse - Is there a motion to accept?

Motion to accept (Leslie Bush)
Seconded (multiple people)
Approved unanimously

Some background for the standards that will be voted on later. Grateful to Tina and Amy for heavy lifting.

I reached out to CAS and CAR when TARL was putting together a COVID-19 plan. It's a 4-page document - basically we ask that you contact the

point person for agencies.

When can I get a curation ethics statement in the ethics statement for CTA? Jon Lohse - talk to the next president!

Governmental Affairs (Nesta Anderson)

Duane and I had been trading emails. We are paying attention to proposed governmental changes to USACE jurisdictional areas. Some of our BLM partners have been letting them know that the next target is the NHPA. At this point, ACRA and SAA have halted their campaign to address this, but we will let you know the status as we get updates.

Membership (Katie Canavan) via Jon Lohse Committee will be announcing student grant winners in the next couple of weeks

Multicultural Relations (Mary Jo Galindo)

I attended the Austin Pow-Wow and collected over a dozen names of people interested in attending field schools. I'll be sending out a notice that it is cancelled and we'll reach out next year.

Nominating (Bill Martin)

Jon asked me to look for a replacement for president; I contacted Todd Ahlman, who decided that he would serve. All other officers have agreed to continue serving. We can do nominations from the floor or elect by acclamation. We'll do that in new business.

Public Education (Todd Ahlman)

Couple of nominations for E. Mott Davis Award. The winner is Kleb Wood Nature Center Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones, Sharon Menegaz, Bob Sewell, Fred Collins). One thing that stood out to me was a program to teach children and adults archeological excavation techniques and ethics.

Standards and Guidelines Committee (Jodi Jacobson)

At the last meeting, we voted to approve survey

and trenching standards. It has gone to THC for their review and approval. We went back and forth over the summer on their comments. We have collated the different standards into a single document. One of the bigger additions was the field reporting - taking photos, documenting artifacts on no-collect surveys. We are happy with the status.

On the cemetery standards end, we got preliminary feedback that is now in the version for voting. We added cadaver dogs, not just remote sensing. We had a good discussion of how to identify locations with high potential. Going forward, we will be looking to field a committee to take cemeteries to the next level of investigation. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let me know.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership (Eric Schroeder)

We voted on this last Spring and had a planning meeting in November 2019 where we put together a skeleton plan. The first meeting we attended was the American Farm Bureau Conference (Mary Jo and I) in Austin. We engaged 75 attendees directly. We passed out information and took surveys getting opinions from landowners on archaeology. We got good feedback from those individuals. Second event was the Texas Land Conservation Conference, with 291 participants. Philip Washington and I engaged 58 attendees and collected 4 surveys. We were scheduled to go to other meetings, but they have been postponed. A synopsis of our goals and objectives are in the Spring Newsletter. We have identified 4 events for FY 2021.

Maggie Moore: will the landowner survey results be presented to membership?

Eric: yes, I was holding off until we had a little more data.

Lost Cemeteries Task Force (Andi Burden)

Task force has met twice since the Fall meeting. We gave a presentation at the Real Places Conference. We had many attendees from different backgrounds; all were very complimentary. The task force has discussed methods for additional community involvement and closing the loop on the gap between the identification of cemeteries and community knowledge. Focus has been on Waller County. We have been discussing timelines, benchmarks, and THC Atlas updates. You may have noticed that there is a cemetery layer. There is also a cemetery vicinity layer; this is what we have been targeting.

Old Business

Second Presentation of Terrestrial Survey standards

Questions: no questions

Jon Lohse: is there a motion to accept?

Motion to accept: Doug Boyd

Seconded: Eric Schroeder

Approved unanimously

Cemetery Standards (Jodi Jacobson):

We had postponed voting until after THC reviewed and commented. Adding a section on cadaver dogs was something we were excited about, then of course standards for mechanical scraping and cemetery delineation. We've already addressed a lot of people's comments already. We wanted to be consistent with documentation and codes.

Discussion:

Marybeth Tomka: something that is missing is that anyone in South Texas needs to be looking for refugee routes and burials along those routes. We need to keep an eye out for these. A statement should be included. (In chat: Rachel best practices is different from standards)

Doug Boyd at the point where you think you have a cemetery, then public records and oral information must be consulted, not just included

in the list of possibilities. Jodi: the problem with making this a requirement is that the information may not exist. Jon: If the wording was tweaked a little, would that be sufficient? Doug: yes, but once these go to THC, will there be another chance for comment and review. Jodi: We go back and forth a lot. Jon: Now is the best time to address changes to the document and come to an understanding. Doug: there is nothing really wrong with it, it just needs some tweaks and comments could be sent to THC. Jon: What does THC say? Arlo McKee: It would be best for CTA to come up with their best document, then have THC do their review. It's opening Pandora's Box to have continuous open-ended discussion. It keeps these documents in flux.

Doug Boyd - the 25/50 foot distance at which to conduct excavations is arbitrary and may not always be appropriate. Mark Denton: In the part that discusses excavations "at least 25 feet beyond known graves" we should change it to "known and/or newly discovered". It is implied, but should be clear. Doug Boyd: maybe a footnote to the effect that you need to take the landscape into consideration that a greater distance may be necessary. Rachel Feit: Sometimes it is a lesser distance. Jenny McWilliams: Anglo cemeteries are often on high points, African American cemeteries are closer to water.

Doug Boyd: In section 2, only Caddo is called out separately. That word could be taken out to make it more generic. Also, we could add "burned rock middens" as a moderate probability. Jodi: Where would we put that? Doug: just make another bullet point.

Nesta Anderson: Depth of investigation should be dependent on soil. For some soil series, there will not be a clear evidence of grave shafts. Jodi: when we refer to "data" that includes soil data.

Jon: this document is going to be relied upon by people who have never seen them (out-of-state archeologists, for example).

Jenny McWilliams: I would consider adding the definitions (like "unverified") or that a single grave counts as a cemetery. Also, realize that there are some definitions that are different between the ACT and the Health and Safety Code. Jodi: these documents are referenced and hyperlinked. Jon: Maybe we could put a glossary at the back. Katherine Turner-Pearson - clients pull up standards and if things are not spelled out, we have a hard time convincing them that best practices need to be followed.

Jenny McWilliams: I hear reluctance to go look at records. Soils, deeds, and USGS maps must be looked at. Missi Green: We have many new archaeologists that are so used to looking at the internet. People need to be reminded to look at hard copies. Andi Burden: there are a lot of online resources now. County tax records can be very useful. Jodi: one question to ask: has an ESA been conducted on the property? This is a good place to start.

Maggie Moore: is there a way to provide links to some of these resources in the document, especially for outside-of-Texas companies. Arlo: I recommend putting those links on the website, not in the document. Much agreement.

Jon Lohse: can we wrap up and vote; I think most of the comments here can be easily addressed. Please submit info to Jodi and then we can vote.

Motion to accept: Doug Boyd, motion to move guidelines to THC with caveat that some changes will be made;
Andi Burden second
Approved unanimously

Curation standards

Marybeth Tomka: overview - I just want to point out that we have added a section on collections-based research as a separate section. Amy spearheaded putting in project-specific protocols and field suggestions.

Discussion: none

Motion to accept

Motion: Jodi Jacobson
 Mark Denton seconded
 Approved unanimously

Reporting standards, first update

Amy Borgens: progress report on Reporting Guidelines. Committee has worked pretty hard; we've been meeting every week. We've submitted a rough draft to the Standards and Guidelines Committee. Waiting on comments and questions before we finalize the draft. The goal of the updated guidelines is to provide clearer guidance due to changes in technology, increase of new principal investigators, an influx of out-of-state firms, decline of inherited institutional knowledge.

Classes of CRM investigations has been moved to the glossary. The section on different classes of reports has been removed and replaced with a checklist. We've streamlined the report guidance sections into one section. Checklists by report type will be included at the end. Other new content includes: best practice recommendations for photos, maps, eligibility language, etc. If you can think of other sources or information that could be included, then send that information to Emily Dylla. We are suggesting that appendices include staff CVs, site forms, artifact analysis, agency concurrence letters. By putting STP and trench data in appendices, it makes it easy to remove for public versions of reports. For underwater sites, there is more specific information that used to be included.

The next steps: S&G Peer Review this Spring, then CTA member presentation in the summer, then THC review, and CTA voting.

Jodi Jacobson: the guidelines must go to CTA for a vote before THC. Does anyone have comments on the broad strokes/outline? We could shoot for a document to vote on in the Fall? Please let me know if you have comments.

Andi Burden: As consultants, we don't want to deal with revisions. So we did a deep dive with the regulators to see what the common mistakes and issues crop up.

Amy Borgens: we want to reduce the time you spend on these reports too!

Maggie Moore: regarding questions on short reports: we decided to subsume short and long reports into a single report format. We need reports to demonstrate that the investigators know what they are looking for in the field. Cultural context needs to be taken into consideration for NRHP eligibility recommendations.

Update on Remote Sensing standards, non-voting item

No update.

New Business**Officer Elections**

Are there any nominations from the floor? None.

List of officers proposed for election (Vice President not up for election this cycle):

President: Todd Ahlman

Secretary: Scotty Moore

Treasurer: Eric Schroeder

Newsletter Editor: Tina Nielsen

Motion to accept by acclamation: Jodi Jacobson.

Seconded by multiple people.

Approved by acclamation.

Mark Denton Career Achievement Awards**Carolyn Spock**

Mary Beth Tomka: I can speak about Carolyn forever. She was a great mentor. Anyone visiting TARK in the 1980s was amazed by her encyclopedic knowledge. She set a high standard that I am trying to live up to. Because of her mentorship, I joined CTA and TAS. In her shadow I learned how to do lots of things. She taught me how to do lots

of things.

Mark Denton: she was the “Rules Lady”.

Kay Hindes

Mark Denton: she was always self-conscious about the fact that she had a BA, but it’s hard to imagine a more professional archaeologist. She took the lead and inspired fear in those who didn’t want to protect resources. The laws were enforced and backed up by her for the first time. It’s hard to imagine anyone else in the state who could deserve this more besides Carolyn.

Brad Jones: once I came into the regulatory world, I learned what a force of nature she was. She was a powerful ally. When I first met Kay in the mid-1990s, I didn’t think of her as a regulator. I thought of her as a scholar. She is still is very engaged.

Jon Lohse: Carolyn and Kay are outstanding role models for everyone

Mott Davis Award

Jon: Nothing further to add. It would be nice to have more possible applicants next year

New business from the floor

Eric Schroeder: I talked about putting some money into investments. If you look at the rate of inflation and the failure to invest, we’ve lost a lot a money. I laid out in the newsletter some of my thoughts on this. Once the virus situation abates, it might be worth investing. I propose developing an ad hoc committee.

Jon Lohse: can you talk about how you would envision this working?

Eric: based upon on a low-risk investment, like savings bond, the extra funds could bolster student and awareness grants. We might look into hiring a financial consultant.

JL: Please put some people on it.

ES: I’d like to have at least 5.

Mark Denton: maybe solicit some of the former treasurers. Was there something about our non-profit status that stops us?

Rebecca Shelton: THC is non-profit, but we invest money. Non-profits don’t have to pay capital gains taxes.

Marybeth: we are looked at as a union, so be careful. TAS is doing a great job.

Volunteers: Becky Shelton, Maggie Moore, Tom Barrett, Aaron Norment.

Maybe in the fall, we can discuss more.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Missi Green moves to adjourn.

Jon Lohse: done.

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*Indicates a Standing Committee