

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
April 13, 2018
Bastrop, TX – McKinney Roughs Nature Park**

Meeting was called to order at 10:17 am by Henry Mayo, President. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Cindy Freeman, Chip Briscoe, Henry Mayo, John Pruett, John Kisalus, Lynn Young, Maureen Winn, Rebecca Blankenbaker, Tom Byrd, and Sarah Gould.
Others in attendance: Steven Gonzales, Executive Director; Brad Patterson (THC); Aaron Mahr (NPS). Absent: Chris Talbot, Ellen Clark and Nancy Deviney.

Minutes of January's meeting were approved by vote, with a modification relating to a video for which Rebecca has received grant funding: John K (1), Lynn (2).

Committee report: Finance, John Pruett, chair, and Steve. NPS portion of our budget at \$75K was approved by vote: Sarah (1), Maureen (2). Discussion: brief discussion on travel being tight at \$6K, particularly because of large amount of activity at Lobanillo Phase 2 rollout. Line item for Lobanillo will be about \$1K over budget. There was a discussion about ways to raise funds including advertising for memberships and other donations at Lobanillo dedication on 4/16. Additional discussion: Aaron recommended getting NPS budget request done as early as possible: e.g., January meeting. Current priorities at the national level include access to public lands, and leveraging community relations. John P showed a slide with a bar graph of cash flows by month, including income and expenses, going back to last October. The board found this format helpful. He also submitted quarterly financials for approval: Cindy (1), John K (2). Henry reminded us to keep up with reporting board travel time and expenses.

Cost of this weekend's retreat at McKinney Roughs: Tom has donated \$300 to cover facilities rental. Cost of rafting is \$40 per person. Rafting costs have been covered by those participating, and by additional donations.

Executive director report: Steve.

A- Lobanillo Swales. Phase 2 has been completed with significant delays and unexpected costs related to the material used for overlay. It was determined that glauconite is superior to granite for the steep grade on our property, and the final cost for this phase is \$11,980. Steve spent significantly more time than expected at the site dealing with complications. He was quite

complimentary of the local work force who stepped in to get the work done as quickly as possible while doing a high quality job. The board agreed to give Felix Holmes Jr. special recognition as an honorary member of our association. We had a discussion about site maintenance; have decided not to have a trash can onsite for fear that it will encourage dumping. We are looking for a point person in the area to keep a general eye on the property: perhaps someone in Nacogdoches. There is some interest in monitoring traffic to the site, perhaps via a camera. Lobanillo dedication, set for 4/16, 10 am to noon: Rebecca outlined efforts she has made including providing tamales and meat pies, as well as media coverage including radio, TV and print: (AAA magazine and a USA Today affiliate.) Steve says over 100 people have signed up.

B- Story Map (ESRI) being developed by students from UT, Texas State. When fully operational, users will be able to click on a picture and get a text box with more information. Sarah cited positive experience with Story Maps at a nonprofit she's involved with. Cindy will share content from her travels, stored by region, on a spreadsheet. She will forward to Steve.

C- PNTS intern update: due to difficulties working with Texas State, our current UT intern, Maria, will continue until September. Funds available: \$8600, \$10.10/hour. Chip reiterated how important it is for us to have relevant talking points about our efforts as we work with local officials to promote the trail.

D- Viewing parties – board needs to follow up with ideas during this year, the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act. Ideas include local breweries or similar establishments, possibly with film clips of the Trail – e.g. from the recent TV episode of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

E- Los Corralitos: Mecom family is interested in historic documentation, possibly leading to exploratory archaeology. The family has entered a \$15K contract with ELCAT for work with GTI Environmental for a historic resources report. (The association will receive 5%.) It is expected to be finished in several months. Chip volunteered to be a local liaison if needed as the effort proceeds.

F- Outreach opportunities: Sale on the Trail – 1st weekend of May, sponsored by Caddo Region Marketing Group. Volunteers were encouraged to man a table at Lobanillo. National Trails Day- 1st Sat. in June, 9 to 11 am- need volunteers for manual labor at site.

Next meetings: Board meeting, Austin – July 21. Annual meeting San Antonio October 12-14. Annual meeting dates were approved as adjusted: John P (1), Maureen (2).

Meeting was adjourned by Henry at 12:10 pm.