



**Present:**

Ronny Nelson, President Elect	Jesse Neumann, Director	Rachel McGregor, Director
Kirsten Schneider, Vice President	Meaggan Reid, Director	
AJ Thibodeaux, Treasurer	Kenney Shook, Director	Mac Martin, TFS (Visitor)
Rebecca Johnson, Past President	Bill Green, Director	Gene Gehring, ISAT Exec. Dir.
Courtney Blevins, Component Council Liaison	Haywood Morgan, Director	Megan Wood, Program Mgr.
Dr. David Appel, Editor (online)	Amy Heath, Director (online)	
Sarah Campbell, Certification Liaison	Jaime Thibodeaux, Director	

**Absent:**

Gary O'Neil, President  
Garrett Ryerson, Director

**I. Call to order**

- a. B. Green called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:24 AM on July 10, 2024. A quorum was declared present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. **A. Thibodeaux made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2024 meeting with amendment for B. Green showing absent, R. Johnson seconded and the motion passed.**

**III. Executive Director Report**

- a. G. Gehring highlighted the Quick Stats and reviewed the current status to meet or exceed all points of TeAM's responsibilities in the contract with ISAT. Gehring noted that TeAM switched CPAs after J. Giedraitis retired.

**IV. Texas Forest Service Update**

- a. M. Martin shared several updates: (1) TFS assessed damage from Hurricane Beryl and is providing damage teams to assist; (2) TFS has hired a new forester for Edinburgh area; (3) 22 community grants were issued totaling \$15.4 million during this grant cycle; (4) the Urban Wood Flow Study is ongoing with tree companies in Houston and Austin; (5) TTC24 Awards nominations' and Scholarships' deadlines will be extended

**V. Committee Reports**

- a. **Educational events.** K. Schneider reviewed the 2024 Schedule of Events and provided the following summary: TeAM managed promotion, facilities, registration, and payments for ten ISAT events: seven in person partner events, four partnered virtual TRAQ renewals, nine webinars, and six Spanish language webinars. The committee has selected "soils" as the topic for the 2025 Masters Series.
- b. **Texas Tree Conference.** R. Nelson reported that TTC24 planning is well underway with speakers lined up, trade show exhibitors almost full, and about sixty people already registered for the event.
- c. **Texas Tree Climbing Championship.** K. Schneider shared that the combined TTCC and TTCC Workshop revenue was approximately \$2,900. She noted there were some weather hinderances with the workshop and setup as well as low attendance at the workshop, resulting in a lower financial return.
- North American Tree Climbing Championship.** K. Schneider reported that planning committee meetings with ISA have started and a site review is schedule for 7/11 in Austin.
  - 2025 Texas Tree Climbing Championship.** K. Schneider reported that the TTCC committee is looking at options for either an abbreviated TTCC or utilizing some parts of NATCC post-comp as a full comp will not be possible due to the proximity of NATCC.
- d. **Member Services**
- Newsletter.** Dr. Appel presented the topic calendar for 2024 and asked for article submissions.
  - Digital and Social Media.** R. McGregor reported there are regular postings to 1,727 Facebook, 744 Twitter/X, 451 Instagram, and 42 LinkedIn followers.
  - Membership.** J. Thibodeaux submitted reported that there 1,455 ISAT members. She also reported that emailed marketing went to credentialed nonmembers recently and TTC24 registration postcards went to all current members.

- iv. **Outreach.** H. Morgan reported that he has recently stepped into this role and will review past committee documentation and minutes to be prepared to oversee this committee.
- v. **Credentialing.** S. Campbell reported that there are several exams scheduled for 2024 that align with certified arborist prep courses. She also presented that there are 1,488 Certified Arborists, 79 BCMA, 146 Utility Specialists, 76 Municipal Specialists, 20 Certified Tree Climbers, 3 Aerial Specialists, 434 TRAQ, 506 TOWQ, and 186 WRRQ.

**e. Research + Scholarships**

- i. **TREE Fund Liaison.** A. Heath reported that there has been no current information regarding TREE Fund but Heads or Tails game at TTC24 is scheduled.
- ii. **Students & Scholarships.** K. Shook provided a report that student representation at the Tree Conference is in progress and that he attended the SFA banquet where one student was awarded a scholarship from ISAT.
- iii. **Financial Assistance.** K. Shook provided a report that the committee is working through an application and rating matrix and requirements to apply.

**f. Advocacy.** No report provided.

**g. Executive**

- i. **Governance.** R. Nelson provided a report that the Executive Committee is continuing their work and will look forward to continued progress in 2024.
- ii. **Nominations & Elections.** R. Johnson provided a report that nominations and elections for 2024-25 is in progress and deadline to nominate is July 31.
- iii. **Awards.** R. Johnson provided a report that awards process for 2024 is in process with TFS.
- iv. **Treasurer.** A. Thibodeaux provided a report that as of July 3, 2024 the Chapter has \$322,179.80 in Liabilities and Equities and a net income of \$34,459.56. He reported that after thorough discovery, the merchant services that ISAT is utilizing are the most cost effective for the Chapter and recommends continuing these services. He also reported ISAT cash reserves are nearing the FDIC insured limit and provided a solution of a high yield savings account. **R. Johnson made a motion to open one or more High Yield Savings Accounts to deposit Chapter cash reserves into as needed to remain FDIC insured with the Executive Director, Chapter Treasurer, and Chapter President being signatories, K. Shook seconded and the motion passed.** The Finance Committee will research the best financial institution for these accounts.
- v. **Component Council.** C. Blevins reported that ISA is seeking input on the Component Council bylaws language and he will submit ISAT's recommendations.

**VI. Old Business.** The 2024 Work Plan was reviewed.

**VII. New Business**

- a. **ISA Leadership Workshop and Conference Attendance Policy.** A. Thibodeaux made a motion to accept the ISA Leadership Workshop and Conference Attendance Policy, H. Morgan seconded and the motion passed.
- b. **ISA Vision Statement 2040.** C. Blevins reported that ISA is seeking Chapter input and he will provide ISAT's feedback.
- c. **TREE Fund Tour des Trees Rider Support.** A. Heath reported that there is one Texas rider (H. Griego, San Antonio) in the 2024 Tour des Trees and per ISAT policy, ISAT will support with a \$500 donation to rider.

**VIII. Executive Session.** No Executive Session needed.

**IX. Next Board Meeting:** Friday, September 27 at TTC24 in Waco

**X. Adjourn.** R. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:58pm, C. Blevins seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by M. Wood