

Aransas Pathways Steering Committee

Minutes of August 4, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting at 3:00 P.M. at the Aquarium Education Center located at 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, Texas, 78382

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by Co-Chair Rich Connell.

2. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Members present: Commissioner Pat Rousseau, Rich Connell, Pam Stranahan, Dr. Rebekah Rylander, Shelly Stuart, Jim Farnsworth, Jatin Bhakta, Dr. Steve Ferguson and Councilwoman Mary Ann Pahmiyer

Members absent: Diedra Amaya and Andrea Hattman

Staff: Rene Butler and Leah Medado

Guests: Commissioner Bob Dupnik, Dayna Justice, and Kelly Bryan

A quorum was present.

3. Citizens to Be Heard

4. Approval of July 7, 2026 Minutes

- Approval of July 7, 2026 Minutes
- Minutes were presented and reviewed.
- Motion to approve was made and seconded.
- Approved unanimously.

5. Steering Committee Co-Chair's Welcome – Rich Connell

6. Commissioners Report

- County budget hearings are underway.
- The AgriLife marine-agent vacancy

7. Subcommittee Reports-

7.1 History – Pam Wheat Stranahan

- September 5 History Center exhibits will include “Moments That Made the U.S.,” the Texas Maritime Museum exhibit, and Aransas Pathways at 15.

- Planning continues for Texas Navy Day, the Texas Tropical Trail event, Hummer Bird Breakfast, and the October 17-18 AVA historic walks.

7.2 Kayak- Jim Farnsworth

- The Aransas County Navigation District approved the October 24 Pumpkin Paddle at Little Bay Waterfront.
- TPWD paddling-trail kiosk and smaller wayfinding signs are moving toward production;
- Linda S. Castro entrance improvements remain under review.

7.3 Birding –Rebekah Rylander, PhD

- Aransas Bird Days 2027 planning is underway for May 1-2.
- Public bird banding is planned September 18 at Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary.
- Members discussed initial requirements for a Bird City Texas application, including County support and a Commissioners Court resolution.

7.4 Land Use / Site Planning (Copano Cove Ranch) – Dr. Steve Ferguson

- Triton Environmental began the Copano Cove Ranch Land Use Management and Conservation Plan after the July 22 kickoff meeting.

7.5 Facilities / Site Maintenance – Rene Butler

- Facilities is coordinating paddling-trail sign production and reported continued progress on the Linda S. Castro well project.

7.6 Events-Leah Medado

- Staff is preparing for HummerBird Celebration, AVA walking events, and the October 24 Pumpkin Paddle.
- Pathways at 15 materials have been digitized; marketing, Texan by Nature onboarding, and regional outreach are continuing.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 1 2026, at 3:00 P.M.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:05 P.M.