

TexasPecanBoard

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Texas Pecan Board (TPB) Meeting Minutes
Sunday, July 12, 2026 1:30 P.M. CST
Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center
1001 E McCarty Ln, San Marcos, TX 78666

TPB Members Present: Jake Montz, Zachary Swick, Troy Swift, Dennis Hardman, Mark Friesenhahn, Jeffrey Ivey, Holt Oliver, Benito Fernandez, Winston Millican

Guests: TPGA Staff/TPB Contractor: Blair Krebs; Texas Department of Agriculture: Casey Corely; Texas A&M AgriLife: Kyle Slusher; John Sells, Doug Krebs, James Livergood, Mary Santos, Aimee Byington, Lalo Medina

Texas Pecan Board (TPB) President Jake Montz called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. and called the board roll call, established a quorum, and asked guests to introduce themselves.

The next agenda item was the introductions and swearing in of new TPB board members, Holt Oliver and Benito Fernandez, by Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) representative Casey Corely.

The board of directors then reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting in College Station and the April 13, 2026 virtual meeting. Winston Millican made the motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes. Troy Swift seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the minutes were approved. Blair Krebs will post the final minutes to the website and send them to TDA, in accordance with the regulations.

Casey Corely from TDA then introduced himself as the producer relations representative handling the check-off programs. Corely also gave an update from the department about its work and his transition to the new role.

The board members then moved on to reviewing the TPB financials and activities. TPB contractor Blair Krebs presented the prepared financials from September 1, 2025 through June 30th, 2026 with a budget comparison for the board's review of the current fiscal year. Zachary Swick made the motion to approve the financials as presented. Dennis Hardman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the financials were approved. Krebs also outlined the activities handled by the contracted staff, many of which will be elaborated upon in further agenda items. Some of the activities included planning of the meeting and materials, notices of non-payment, committee work, grants, efforts on weevil, and marketing projects. Krebs also presented the Research and Extension Resources Gains handout provided in the board member packet highlighting all of the work done to provide these resources by TPB and Texas Pecan Growers Association (TPGA). The discussion and handout highlighted the many increases in resources available to Texas growers through Texas A&M, USDA-ARS, and other systems, not only through funding, but increases to personnel and opportunities.

The next discussion focused on this fall's Texas Pecan Board elections. Three positions are up for election, seats currently filled by Jeffrey Ivey, Holt Oliver, and Benito Fernandez. Though each of these are the newest board members, each was appointed to their current positions after the seats were vacated, thus up to election. Blair Krebs and Nichole Hejl are working through the required protocol to

successfully run the elections. A nominations form was provided at the meeting, posted to the TPB website, and will be sent out by September 1st.

The next agenda item was a review of the TPB industry communications protocol provided in the board packet and put together by a working group of Troy Swift, Zachary Swick, and Blair Krebs. The protocol provided to the group needed further input from the board. However, with that input included into the document Winston Millican made the motion to approve the communication protocol. Holt Oliver seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

The Texas Pecan Board marketing projects were then discussed. The working group of Jake Montz, Troy Swift, and Mark Friesenhahn was previously established to outline who is allowed to use the Texas pecan branded materials and how it will be monitored. The group established that any industry members wishing to use the materials must be paid and up-to-date on their TPB assessments, as well as affirm they are supplying Texas pecans, including the farm name as to where the pecans were grown. The working group noted they will bring further details and an application for use to the September board meeting. The discussion then moved to obtaining a legal trademark for the logos and materials. Zachary Swick made the motion to find an attorney to get an estimate on the procedure and costs associated with getting a trademark for the Texas pecan branding materials. It was noted the board can also ask TDA legal questions about any legal references or assistance. Holt Oliver seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

The discussion moved to the activities and studies surrounding the pecan weevil findings in non-quarantined areas and the scouting of pecan weevil being handled in Pecos and Reeves Counties. Kyle Slusher from Texas A&M AgriLife noted that Jonathan Consford with Texas A&M AgriLife in El Paso has already begun setting traps for weevil in the orchard with confirmed cases, as well as nearby areas. In regard to the scouting efforts to possibly work towards removing Pecos and Reeves County from the quarantine, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) has still not provided set protocols to work within for the scouting program, thus giving no guarantee that if met the county's removal from quarantine would be recognized by the state. Winston Millican made the motion to have TDA open discussions with NMDA about the necessary steps to work towards getting a protocol that if met would remove Pecos and Reeves from the weevil quarantine. Jeffrey Ivey seconded the motion, all voted in favor. TDA will reach out to NMDA about the issue and report back to the board, and Kyle Slusher will continue to work to establish possible protocols and documentation.

The next update was from Kyle Slusher about possible funding for a research orchard for his entomology work in Stephenville, where he noted he was waiting to hear back on some bids for the work. The board asked him to come with a formal proposal that includes the reasons, purpose, vendor information, and scope of work for the project and funding needed. A working group of Mark Friesenhahn, Holt Oliver, Zachary Swick, and Dennis Hardman was assigned to work with Slusher on the project.

The Texas Pecan Research and Extension Grant, a joint project funded by both TPB and TPGA was then presented to the board with the working group's recommendations. The group, a mix of TPGA and TPB members chose three grants with some budget adjustments to two of the grants. A handout was included in the board packet with the group's recommendations and the three applications for the grants selected. Troy Swift made the motion to approve the selections. Winston Millican seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed. Group members noted they like the grading criteria sheet created by staff, making it easier to evaluate the grants. Blair Krebs noted Nichole Hejl will be handling the remaining development of the project and the grant in future.

The last agenda item was the confirmation of the TPB board meetings dates for 2026, which were given to the board in October 2025, and the next meeting being held Wednesday, September 16, 2026 starting at 1:00 P.M. at the American Pecan Council/American Pecan Promotion Board office near the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. Blair Krebs noted she will be working on the dates for 2027 and sending them out this winter.

With no further agenda items or business, Winston Millican made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Zachary Swick seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned about 3:14 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Krebs