

**Minutes**  
**First Annual Texas Prickly Pear Council Business Meeting**  
21 July 1990  
Mesquite Grove  
Texas A&I University

The first annual meeting of the Texas Prickly Pear Council was called to order by Bill Maltsberger, Chairman of the Interim Steering Committee. The following officers were elected:

President	Bill Maltsberger
Vice President	Joe Martinez
Secretary Treasurer	J.T. Garcia

The following members of the Board of Directors were also elected:

Gilbert Hinojosa  
Rich Holverson  
Bruce Kraatz  
Robert Micks  
Lloyd Potts

The first order of business was to establish the next meeting as being 22 August at 5:30 p.m. in Benavides Elementary School.

Our special guests from Mexico, Dr. Barrientos, Dr. Pimenta, Mr. Juan Alfonso Serrano, and Dr. Park Nobel from UCLA were asked to provide input on the strengths and weaknesses of this years meeting.

Dr. Barrientos and Dr. Pimenta felt that we needed some collaborative projects on marketing, shipping, transportation, post harvest physiology and genetic exchange of materials. Of particular interest in the genetic exchange was the need for cold hardy fruit germplasm, and high protein cactus for animal feed. It was suggested that a joint NSF/CONACYT proposal might be a useful vehicle for these efforts. Dr. Barrientos already has strong support from CONACYT for the international conferences in Mexico.

Perhaps one of our overall major goals should be create visibility to market the cactus fruit. It will take awhile for U.S. growers to get into production, but in the meantime we should work hard to assist the Mexican growers with publicity for their production.

Park Nobel stressed the need for a comprehensive, well documented collection of written material on Opuntia's that could serve us all. This would include material in

Spanish and English. Peter Felker offered to see if the Texas A&I library would consider making a special collection to facilitate this need.

Peter suggested that it was time to begin thinking about putting a committee together to work on a recipe book for next years meeting. This was deferred to the first meeting.

Rich Holverson suggested that some of the ranchers were disappointed that more of cattle feeding studies were not done. The primary speaker on the cattle feeding operations had to cancel at the last minute, and this really hurt the program. Since then Peter Felker and Bill Maltzberger have discussed the possibility of having a program just for the ranchers at Bill Maltzbergers Ranch to demonstrate planting, burning, chopping and to discuss supplementing, micronutrient requirements, economics of various feeding regimes.