**METWS Annual Spring Meeting**

**April 3, 2015 Viles Arboretum, Augusta ME**

**Executive Board Members:**

President – Mao Lin

President Elect – Kara Moody

Past President – Lauren Gilpatrick

Secretary/Treasurer – Laura Berube

Board Member at Large – Steve Pelletier

Action Items:

To be reviewed at next executive board or membership meeting

* **Laura Berube** will draft the meeting minutes and the **Executive Board** will vote to accept or reject them.
* **Lauren Gilpatrick** or **Rodney Kelshaw** will create an email to send out to the membership about current issues.
* **Jerry Longcore** will draft membership position statement about the current threats to the Land for Maine Future’s Program.
* **Steve Pelletier** will work with Joe Wiley and members of the Forest Guild as appropriate to draft a position statement regarding concerns over the proposed increase in timber harvest levels on State owned lands.
* The **Executive Board** will review, edit and then vote to accept or reject the position statements.
* The **Executive Board** will publish all accepted position statements in the next chapter newsletter and review the decisions to accept the position statements at the next membership meeting.
* The **Executive Board** will bring name tags to future meetings and allow time in the agenda for all participants to briefly introduce themselves (i.e. name, where they work, etc.).
* The **Executive Board**, with assistance from **Jerry Longcore** and **Steve Pelletier**, will review Robert’s Rules of Order and follow them for future meetings.

Minutes:

Business meeting.

* Outgoing METWS President Lauren Gilpatrick introduced the agenda.
* The development of a new national TWS website, currently in progress, was announced.
* Laura Berube gave the Treasurers report ($823.26 in checking, $1,646.47 in savings, 351.42 in cash, $19,053.10 in our Vanguard account)
* Sarah Spencer provided a membership update. Jerry Longcore agreed to help her reach out to the Certified and Associate Wildlife Biologists in the state to assess why some of them aren’t currently members.
* Marie Martin gave the University of Maine Student Chapter update on behalf of Caitlin Gunn (Student Representative).
* Lauren Gilpatrick gave the Unity Student Chapter update on behalf of Madison Crane (Student Representative).
* Mao Lin provided a Conservation Affairs Committee update on behalf of Rodney Kelshaw.
	+ Lauren G. or Rodney K. will provide an informational email to the membership regarding current legislative issues.
	+ Jerry Longcore prompted a group discussion regarding concerns over the Governor’s hold on voter-approved funds to support the acquisition of select, high value properties under the Lands for Maine Future’s Program. There was widespread agreement as to 1) the importance of the Program to Maine’s natural resources, particularly in terms of conserving high value wildlife habitats, 2) concerns over the Governor’s attempt to thwart a well-established and sanctioned lands selection process, and 3) recognition as to how the loss of funding would jeopardize the acquisition of those lands. Jerry agreed to draft a membership position statement for review by the Executive Board.
	+ Similar concerns were voiced over the Governor’s recent proposal to increase annual timber harvest levels on State-owned (BPL) lands as well as the proposed alternate use of funds generated by the sale of timber. There was acknowledged recognition of the multiple resource values and use of Maine’s state-owned forests, including those supporting high value wildlife habitats. Steve Pelletier will work with Joe Wiley to draft a position statement to address these concerns for Board review.
	+ The Executive Board will review, edit and then vote to accept or reject the position statements.
	+ Sarah Boyden encouraged the membership to become involved with the Committee efforts due to their recognized importance.
* Outgoing President Lauren Gilpatrick introduced Mao Lin as the new METWS President. Thank you Lauren for all you have done to date and welcome to your new role as Past President!
* Lauren Gilpatrick introduced Kara Moody as the new METWS President Elect. Mao was applauded and given a big thank you for all he had done as the past President Elect.
* Lauren Gilpatrick introduced Steve Pelletier as the new METWS Board Member at Large and gave Deb Perkins a big thank you for all she had done in that role.

Program – Following the end of the Business Meeting, a program on the topic of Road Ecology was presented to the members. Presentation titles and presenters included:

* Maine DOT Road Ecology and Wildlife Strategies along Maine Highways – Richard Bostwick; Biologist, Maine Deportment of Transportation
* Turtles Vs. Trains – Steve Pelletier, CWB; Stantec Consulting
* Wildlife Road Watch - Not just Chickens cross Roads - Barbara Charry, Biologist, Maine Audubon Society
* Maine Terrestrial Wildlife Crossing Surveys – Barbara Charry with Maine Audubon Society
* Wildlife Crossings in Plum Creek Forests –Ray Ary, Wildlife Biologist; Plum Creek Timber Company.

Awards Ceremony

* Mao presented Certificates of Appreciation to Laura Berube, Mao Lin, Deb Perkins, Lauren Gilpatrick, and Sarah Boyden for their work on the Executive Board.
* Erik Blomberg presented the Award of Student Recognition (Undergraduate) to Marie Martin from the University of Maine.
* Erik Blomberg presented the Award of Student Recognition (Graduate) to Steve Dunham of the University of Maine.
* Jerry Longcore presented the Award of Recognition – received by Jane Arbuckle for the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.
* Mao presented the Award of Meritorious Service to George Matula, Ph.D., MDIFW (retired), Associate Professor, Unity College
* Mao presented the Award of Professional Achievement to Steve Pelletier, CWB, Stantec Consulting.

Road Ecology Presentations cont.

Meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Following the meeting, Ray Brown, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, provided members with an opportunity to inspect and learn more about woodcock wings. The wings were submitted by woodcock hunters for the annual Woodcock Wingbee. Data collected at the wingbee is analyzed and used to estimate the prior year's nesting productivity and is referenced when woodcock harvest regulations are set the following year.

Also following the meeting, The Maine Bat Working Group – a newly formed working group of METWS - met to discuss the status of bats in Maine, particularly focusing on the recent federal (Threatened) listing of the northern long eared bat. A key topic item was advancing options and opportunities for better assessing the status of bats in the Maine. The meeting was open to all members and was well attended.