

**NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2013, 3:30pm – 5:00pm**

Meeting attendees:

Ken Boykin, Jimmy Cain, Brian Hanson, Quentin Hays, Esther Nelson, Bob Osborn, Ginny Seamster

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bid to host 2017 National TWS submitted

- Albuquerque was selected as the host city for National TWS Conference 2017.
- National Chapter does heavy lifting on logistics for the meeting - NM TWS responsible for local arrangements – fundraising, come up with staffing, things related to field trips and workshops.
- Big meeting – will be a lot of work but NM TWS will be playing a supporting role.
- National very close to being done with organizing things with hotels and the Albuquerque convention center.
- NM TWS help with field trips- need to provide input on that; arrange for transportation; come up with themes; also put together workshops.
- Program is mostly done by National – we can make topic suggestions for the program but they may or may not be adopted by National.
- Probably won't be planning in more detailed fashion until a couple of years out/2015.
- Getting word out/advertising- Darryl said that at this point National is fine with NM TWS letting people know that we will be hosting the National meeting – negotiations with hotels/convention center are far enough along that they won't lose any bargaining power.
- National sent out an email to hotels/convention center- announcing selection of Albuquerque as the host city.

2. Officers and Director's Insurance

- Bob sent information request out- hasn't heard back on it.
- Bring this up at board meeting when have membership there - good time to get additional feedback on it.

3. Bylaw Revisions

- Not many updates.
- May need to make additional changes based on Conservation Affairs Committee activities (see item 4).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Officer Elections

- Identify candidates.
- Twist arms if necessary.
- Now is a good time to identify people and talking to them about serving on the board.
- If you know of anyone who might be interested don't hesitate to ask them!
- Often is hard to come up with people to serve on the board.
- Start on this as soon as you can.

- Supposed to have notice out for 30 days asking for nominees; 45 days to send in ballots with your votes- should send out something for nominations by Nov 21st; send out ballots by Dec 21st.
- If newsletter hasn't been sent out yet can get announcement into the newsletter.
- Can also send out notification via other electronic avenues.

2. JAM 2014

a) Feb 6-8; Hon Dah Resort in Pinetop, AZ

- Had it there 2-3 years ago.
- NM/AZ AFS is hosting.
- First call for papers already out; second one will be sent out soon- probably right around Thanksgiving.
- Registration site is expected to be up and running in a week or two- probably around Thanksgiving/first week of December.

b) Plenary theme is Partnerships

- A few weeks ago AFS was still trying to find examples/willing speakers for the plenary session to talk about a partnership program that worked.
- If there's someone who could give a talk on a partnership – pass an outline of details to Bob and Bob will send to Yvette.

c) Student Quiz Bowl

- Will try to have a Quiz Bowl at the JAM - Quentin sent Bob some information- will send that information out later today.
- Student Quiz Bowl patterned after the ones done at National conference.
- Get students involved in JAM and prepare them for National Quiz Bowl - good activity for the students to be involved in and getting students more involved at JAM is very good.
- Would be nice if we could put together a competitive team for 2017 and have a solid showing at 2017 meeting.
- Heather Batemen and Quentin – nominated to lead quiz bowl.
- Heather sent out emails to Arizona folks.
- Heather and Quentin handle logistics at JAM- getting registrations in; making sure the Quiz Bowl is held concurrent with or just after the social the first night of the meeting.
- Will try to field multiple teams- combine across universities- good for promoting collaboration across universities.
- Looked into resources at Michigan State; Humbolt teaches quiz bowl class; NMSU taught quiz bowl class a few years ago/in the past- sometimes worthwhile, sometimes not- right now not a formal class at NMSU.
- NM did well last year at National.
- NMSU have pool of questions from previous quiz bowls too.
- Quentin- need to get 1-2 teams from NM- can get at least one team from ENMU.
- Quiz bowl has been mentioned to NMSU student chapter president- they were going to think about getting a team together.
- AFS may need some assistance with the JAM as they have a small membership- however, it sounds like they mostly have what they are looking for in terms of committee chairs.
- Bob told Yvette to let him know if she needs anything- NM TWS will provide help as AZ AFS need it.
- 3 years ago- fisheries supposed to have meeting in NM- had in AZ instead.
- Next time fisheries NM has JAM- NM TWS should jump in and help them if we want the JAM to go back and forth between the two states.

3. Travel Grants, Scholarships, Professional award

- See most recent electronic “Announcements” sent out last week.
- Scholarship and professional awards also posted on website.
- If you know of anyone looking for award/travel grants/scholarships- get the word out; send information out to student groups that you’re involved with for scholarships/grants.
- Try to get nominations from professionals.
- Often have hard time getting nominations for professional awards – want 2-3 candidates to choose from.
- How are decisions made on these awards? Elise is the point person – she does initial evaluation/review of applications - board makes final call.

4. Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC)

- National TWS is revising and restructuring its “Government Affairs” section.
- Conservation Affairs Committee is the new concept.
- Create a hierarchy: National – Section – Chapter.
- Goal is to get more active participation from the sections and chapters.
- If it works the way they want- will have Conservation Affairs Committee at national and section and chapter level; this will allow for issues to be worked in a hierarchical fashion.
- Issues can be addressed at the proper level and moved to the next level if appropriate; i.e., state chapter handle things that are of local concern; if something involves several states- section picks up on it.
- NM-TWS has a Conservation Committee. The changes brought about by the CAC restructuring would be easy to implement. Minor changes to bylaws may be necessary.
- What happens if we get a difficult issue to deal with? If we got a tricky issue- would be easy to pass things to section level- provide a buffer between local chapter and controversial issues.
- Would look to us to come up with a conservation committee- we have one; hasn’t been active- but depending on what National decides we may have to do a little restructuring to meet the requirements- but not much.
- Based on the documentation provided thus far- want committee chair to be two year commitment – also want commitment to monthly phone conferences.
- They are working on another draft of the documentation – will be talking about revisions to the initial draft that Bob sent out to the board this Thursday.
- As they make further revisions- Bob will pass them along to the board.
- Want us to be a leader in the group if we can make that happen!
- National is pushing hard for this.
- Committee that currently exists within NM TWS – what has it done in the past? Chapter has sent out letters regarding various current issues- e.g., one on border fence; federal funding- state wildlife grants. Not submit letters on a regular basis. More recently, ban on trapping looked like it might become an issue- ended up becoming a non-issue; coyote killing contest- also looked like an issue- got some local press- was a news item- not rise to level of things that the committee needed to deal with.
- If you have the whole board sign on to a letter- when the issue deals with something addressed by NM Game and Fish/federal agencies - board members affiliated with those organizations have to recuse themselves- one reason that this idea of a hierarchical committee is beneficial.
- Committee wouldn’t be too busy- not much activity in New Mexico- but restructuring the CAC does offer advantages. In particular, allows for moving issues up and down the hierarchy more

easily if get something where local level people have to recuse themselves; or issue too hot to touch/the local chapter is too close to it.

5. Hunger Relief Program

- See file that was sent out with meeting agenda – this is documentation that was passed out at the October meeting for the Hunger Relief Program. Bob hasn't heard any more on this since the October meeting.
- Bob sent out information on this earlier- see if NM TWS wants to participate in the discussions.
- NM Game and Fish looking at ways of using animals harvested by hunters who just wanted a trophy/have more meat than they need and could thus be donated to various charitable institutions.
- Game and Fish and meat processors attended meeting in October, as did the Elk and Mule Deer foundations and Safari Club.
- What they wanted was thoughts/ideas/input on ways to make the process more efficient for people handling the meat.
- Meat processors gave feedback on their concerns. These concerns mostly have to be addressed through NM Department of Agriculture – issues related to donating game meat fall under the Department of Agriculture. The Department will look at/pull together revisions that they could make to address the concerns.
- Looking for donations to help with the program. Processors will process meat at a reduced fee but they will have to charge something - it takes money for labor/equipment. So they will be looking for donations for what the program could use to reimburse the processors.
- Safari Club and other groups expressed interest in doing that/being involved with the donation side of things.
- NM TWS not likely to be able to give a big monetary donation.
- If program gets going- if we want to actively support it- maybe look at having raffle at the JAM and have the proceeds go towards the program.
- Consider how we want to support the program if it gets going: promote it; funding for it...something to think about.

6. Other business?

- Brian prepared a one sheet summary of wildlife agencies in NM. Brian and Bob sent it out- Brian added phone numbers and posted it on the website – look at it for errors/improvements. Brian think's is ready to be distributed to others – tool for students to help in getting employment.
- One day meeting- do in off years when JAM not in NM- try to do in 2014. Brian sent flier to Bob- shows what was done in 2011. Need to start talking about one day meeting- when want to do it and who will take the lead. Keep in mind that we're doing JAM in Feb 2015. Would be in our best interest to do one-day meeting in late spring/early summer- sometime when not busy with JAM.

Action Items:

- **All:** Talk to anyone who you know who might be interested in being on the board – elections are coming up and should be announced soon (on or around November 21st).
- **All:** If anyone knows of partnerships that either did or didn't work and that might be a good fit for the plenary – contact Bob. Bob will pass information to Yvette at the AFS.
- **All:** Send any ideas on quiz bowl to Quentin – ways to make it better and more effective for the students.

- **All:** If you know of anyone looking for professional award or a travel grant/scholarship - get the word out to them/student groups you are associated with about the NM TWS awards (applications due December 15th).
- **All:** Think about how NM TWS might be able to contribute to the NM Department of Game and Fish Hunger Relief Program if that gets going.
- **All:** Look at one-page contact sheet that Brian put together and posted on the NM TWS website- send him recommendations for any revisions.
- **Bob:** Will get back in touch with National regarding officers and director's insurance.
- **Bob:** Check with Renae on newsletter status and adding board election information into the newsletter. Assuming it's not too late to add to the newsletter, send information on nomination from Ken/Brian to Renae (Newsletter) and Ginny (Announcements) to get out to the membership.
- **Bob:** Send information on quiz bowl out to the board.
- **Bob:** Send any updates on the Conservation Affairs Committee documentation to the board.
- **Bob:** Forward flier on one-day NM TWS meeting from Brian to the board.
- **Brian and Ken:** Look for announcement for nominations for elections used last year, forward to Bob so it can be used as a template for this year; Brian will put something together if can't find the template- need to include description of officer positions.