

**NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL
THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013, 3:00pm – 4:30pm**

Meeting attendees:

Ken Boykin; Dan Collins; Quentin Hays; Brian Hanson; Pam Olivas-Herrera; Bob Osborn; Ginny Seamster

OLD BUSINESS

1. JAM Financial Wrap-up

- See 2013 JAM budget summary (see Appendix 4 in meeting Agenda).
- All post JAM financial transactions are complete.
 - There are a few registrations outstanding- so numbers may go down a little; 16-17K is likely to be the final profit.
 - Elise is still trying to get some of these outstanding registrations.
 - Some expenditures are missing as well.
 - Overall we did well.

2. Bid to host 2017 National TWS submitted

- Submitted bid to host 2017 National TWS conference in Albuquerque (ABQ) . Our bid will be considered with other bids- National TWS will let us know if they need more information from us.
- If we are selected- we do local arrangements; National TWS does hotel negotiations and food; it will still be a major undertaking for NM TWS.
- Brian and Bob are contacts for the submission.
- No deadline/timeline given thus far by National for when they will be making a decision
- ABQ is the best city in NM to support this size of event conveniently. The airport is nearby, there is lots of food and lodging near the conference center, etc.
- First national meeting of TWS was held in ABQ in the 90's.
- National TWS meeting rotates to different regions; 2017 is when it will next be hosted by the SW region.
- Arizona hosted a few years ago; TX hosted 10-12 years ago in Austin. At the JAM, AZ TWS didn't sound like they were really interested in hosting it.

3. Website update

- Update from Brian
 - Website will be similar to how it is now once migration to the new platform is complete- will have boxes on the top and the right side rather than the left side of the page. New website can be viewed here: <http://wildlife.org/nm/>
 - Has buttons that take you to information/centers from National TWS- i.e., news, membership; action; mentorship; career; retirees.
 - JAM NM AZ was added as a new category.
 - Awards- added in information on winners for last year's awards; still have request for nomination submissions for 2014.

- Bylaws- have two categories- one called Bylaws; one called Operations Manual. The manual was listed on the old website; it describes a variety of things, including the duties for all officers in the chapter.
- All things from the old website are on the new website; he asked National to review it before making the new version live; since he didn't hear back from them it sounds like they may have made the new version available without reviewing it first.
- Brian also organized the file system behind the website on his computer.
- Some information on the website/in the file system is likely to be useful to Bob and others- e.g., letter previously sent in support of grants (like State and Tribal Wildlife Grant support letter we sent this year).
- Eventually old Joomla websites will be disabled.

4. NM-TWS Water bottles

- Order is finally complete and bottles have been delivered.
- We have bottles and totes for future events and fund raisers.
- \$7 *might* be what is charged for bottles; get both bottle and tote for \$11; look at JAM notes to be sure.
- Esther would know what the cost was.

5. Request for Funding from Western Bat Working Group

- Sent e-mail to WBWG organizer after last conference call to see if still interested.
- No reply.
- No further action taken.
- By the time our finances were organized after the JAM they likely were no longer interested.
- Quentin was at the working group- they had a successful auction- bat group spent more than JAM did at auction.
- Bat shirts sold well at JAM- covered \$65 vendor fee.
- WBWG has triennial meetings...may not make sense to fund them in near term and this may be why they didn't respond; they are not going to have another meeting for a long while.
- They used our posterboards.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bylaw revisions

- Revise bylaws – primarily in regards to voting.
- Process started in 2011/12- actually in 2009/2010.
 - Renae working on it.
- Revisions sent to membership, but did not pass National TWS review and were rejected.
 - National TWS thought it might have been confusing and that people didn't understand what they were voting on.
- Tabled in 2012/13 to focus on JAM.
- Will work with National TWS this year to get in a format acceptable to National TWS and in place for the next vote.
 - Bob wants to get a copy of the proposed revisions and resend them to the membership and get the process done in a way that is acceptable to National TWS.

- We will have to work hard to get it done by the end of the year.
- There is an on-line process that should streamline things; other chapters have revised things → these things will hopefully help the process on this go round.
- Last revision still on Joomla website under bylaws- 2010/11.

2. Director's and Officer's Insurance

- Letter from National TWS in November 2012 suggesting all Sections and Chapters carry an insurance policy on their Director's and Officer's.
- National TWS carries this insurance.
- Policy would cover against slander, liable, and lawsuits at events and functions (e.g. JAM).
- Rates:
 - annual revenue <50K; liability limit of 1 million = premium of \$500 to \$600.
 - We would be in this category based on our annual revenue.
 - annual revenue 50K to 250K; liability limit of 1 million = premium of \$700 to \$800.
- Thoughts?
- National insurance won't cover us?
- Bob assumes that NM not covered or only covered in a limited way since National sent out the letter.
- Could be helpful in case something went wrong (Ken).
- Slander/liable- always a possibility; if there is a hot topic that is too hot to touch- NM TWS could visit with National and see if they would be willing to pick it up.
- Main concern would be if something happens at JAM or another chapter-sponsored event.
- TX chapter tried to put out a position statement on deer breeding- deer breeders association got together and said they would sue for liable/slander...that is how this got started.
- Is there an attorney we can consult with informally?
- Worth researching this further/getting additional information from National TWS- \$5-600 makes it worthwhile to have/to be covered (Ken).

3. Book reviews in Newsletter

- Last minute request to publish a book review in the NM-TWS Newsletter (Author or publisher).
- Decision to allow member written book reviews to be published.
- Decision to not allow author/publisher written reviews to be published. Don't want to allow free advertising- not unbiased.
- Thoughts?
- If a member – who is not an author or a publisher) who wants to publish a book review that sounds fine (Quentin).
- Brian- does National have a policy on that?
- Didn't allow this particular request because it was self-promoting.
- Objective reviews are fine.
- New Mexico wildlife issues- it would be nice to get information on the book out there; if the review is self-serving, then maybe charge people to put it in newsletter?
- Bob not know about policies for paid advertising- hasn't been done before (Ken, Brian).
- Brian has put information on website related to books/wildlife publications in the past – e.g., Mark Watson had something published.

- We could put information on new books of interest that were published about NM wildlife in the newsletter- list name and title of book/publication citation- this is different/more objective than author/publisher trying to put in ½ page review of the book.
- Such a list would not be an endorsement- just an announcement- and would allow members to look at the publication/judge it for themselves. It would also go along nicely with weekly announcements.

4. One Day Meeting (see Appendix 1 in meeting Agenda)

- Tentative dates (see request to not have single day meeting in October).
- Potential topics for papers..
- Lee had some ideas for things that could be included in a one-day meeting.
- Do we want to do it and when? Have it every year? Or every other year (i.e., years without a JAM in New Mexico)? If we alternated years then for years when JAM is in AZ- NM members would have a local meeting to go to for exchanging ideas.
- Talk about timing issues- when we want to hold it; need to get the ball rolling.
- October: not a good time for people with field seasons; National is in October (5th through 10th this year)- don't want to compete with that; if we want to do it in October we will need to start making preparations soon; end Oct maybe better than early Oct?
- February: fine if we want to alternate between JAM and one day event; not good if we want to do it annually- we don't want to compete with JAM/have people choose between JAM and 1-day meeting and possibly choose the 1-day meeting.
- Pros:
 - Getting students involved/exposed to research and giving them an opportunity to present and meet colleagues.
 - Could do NM climate/fire theme...take hot issue for NM rather than AZ- meeting restricted to NM.
- Cons:
 - We are somewhat constrained in terms of hosting JAM AND a one-day event in one year.
 - Years when we have JAM- would be a competing event- members are likely to go to one and not the other; they may choose the local event over JAM.
 - JAM has bigger perspective...more people...lots of benefits to the JAM.
 - Will be tricky to find a time when doesn't conflict with other meetings.
- Neutral:
 - We may get same info/presentations at one-day as we do at JAM...or get similar presentations that just focus in on information that pertains to NM- is this useful?
 - 1 day meeting- board has to organize it- are we willing to do it every year?
- How could 1-day session be comparable to JAM/what is available at 1 day session...? Last time- theme was "Wildlife in NM"- good to have a different theme/topic each time- likely to get more interest if we focus on a different hot topic for each year.
- Send a doodle poll to the members- would you attend a one day meeting? Should we do one every year? Lee is the contact for this – get his thoughts on doing mass doodle poll.
- Want to get good time for it when get maximum participation from students and not compete with other things.

5. Letter in Support of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

- Letter sent
- See attached PDF (attached to email Bob sent to the board)
- Federal employees had to recuse themselves and not participate

6. Place Guidelines and Timelines for Requesting Support from the NM-TWS on the Website

- Thoughts on appropriate timelines?
- We need clear guidelines for how different groups/individuals should go about requesting support from NM-TWS.
- Ken put together guidelines last year.
- Need to post guidelines on website that give us enough time to think about giving support and to have a discussion within the board, etc.

7. Request from ENMU Student Chapter for Travel Grant to TWS National Conference (see Appendix 2 in meeting Agenda)

- Should we consider travel grants for Student Chapters to attend the TWS National?
- Must be fair to all Student Chapters (ENMU and NMSU)- we don't want to adopt something that will favor one group over another
- Should we develop criteria? A rating scale? Have a process similar to scholarship awards?
- For example, we could have students fill out an application- send it in- fund two of the best proposals- however ENMU would find it hard to be competitive for grants if we follow this route. ENMU is a two year institution- it's really good for its students to get exposure to colleagues.
- For JAM- NM TWS gives travel grants to individual students who have applied...we could take the format for the JAM grants and revise for the National conference.
- Pros:
 - Ken- doing travel grants is a good idea- we did travel scholarships to JAM
 - Would be nice to support student chapters in the state- supporting their going to National meeting would be a good way of doing this
 - We could pay for quite a few registrations- \$250ish
 - Student chapter that asked about funding is doing other things to get funds for the meeting...they are trying to get their on their own...they just want some help
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- Cons:
 - Biggest problem- cost for National is higher...not sure how much help needed to get to Milwaukee...offset registration cost; they fundraise for their own travel?
- Bob would support doing travel grants
- Offer x number registration to National TWS conference to each student chapter in NM every year – the student chapters decide if they want to use it or not. If x number of students in the chapter choose to go- they have to get their own money for travel. This would make it equal/fair to the two student chapters.
- Furthermore we can designate who gets the registration- pay registration fee for chapter president or a delegate of the president's choosing- this way the main representative for the chapter can get the full experience, then come back and report to the chapter

- This way there isn't an application process and we put the onus on student chapter to figure out the right person to go- president or someone else
- This way it is also a reward for the president- might be one way to entice students to be president
- Student chapter president from ENMU did leadership workshop...only ever 1 or 2 students who show inclination to go to National TWS from ENMU...great to offer help from state-level chapters to the students
- Ideally this would be an on-going offer of support to the student chapters- do it every year
- There are two student chapters- \$500 once a year- not too big a burden on NM TWS- we should be able to handle that

8. Request for Support for Rio Grande Gorge Trail Project (Appendix 3 in meeting Agenda)

- March 25th – Obama signed Rio Grande del Norte national monument- Taos plateau is now a national monument
- Pam's office met with Mr. Larry Hersman- talked about proposal for a Rio Grande Gorge Trail project
- NM BLM has to put together a management plan- they are now in discussions with national BLM office
- Proposed trail is now in a national monument- this complicates things and Mr. Hersman's proposal now has to be looked at again because of the monument designation. At the very least- he will have to revisit with national monument managers.
- Table this issue until we see whether he has approval from the national monument.
- Building trails not really in Wildlife Society's purview?

9. New additions to agenda?

- None

Action items:

- **All board members**- let Bob and Brian know if there is anything to add to website or any changes/errors that need to be made/addressed.
- **All board members**- look into including citations for publications in the next newsletter- if there is anything that was published recently on NM wildlife- send information on it to Renae to include in the newsletter.
- **All board members**- think about the idea of a one-day meeting; when would you like to do it?
- **All board members**- meet again in another month (May).
- **Bob** will talk to Elise about outstanding registrations and work with Dan to get an updated list for the next meeting.
- **Bob** will contact National TWS and see if they need more information regarding the bid to host National TWS in 2017.
- **Bob** will get ball rolling on bylaw revision process- contact National TWS about it.

- **Bob** check with National TWS to see if other chapters have gone for the insurance policies on directors/officers and if they offer any coverage at all to the state-level chapters.
- **Bob** ask National if they have policies on publishing book reviews in chapter newsletters.
- **Bob** contact Lee about idea of doing a mass doodle poll regarding the one-day meeting AND email the board to keep the discussion going.
- **Bob and Ken**- find guidelines and form developed last year for requests for support from NM TWS.
- **Bob** - send information out to membership to look at regarding requests for support from NM TWS.
- **Bob** will follow up with email and maybe a doodle poll for a formal vote on offering x number of student registrations to the national conference to each student chapter.
- **Bob** will email Mr. Hersman back regarding the Rio Grande Gorge Trail indicating that this is not the sort of thing that TWS does. Now that the trail is within a national monument, Mr. Hersman will have to start working with them directly.
- **Brian** will make a copy of files behind the website and send it to Bob.
- **Brian** will find out how to change search results (e.g., in Google) so that you get to the new site rather than the old Joomla site.
- **Brian** will put a note on the old Joomla site with a link to new site.
- **Dan** hasn't gotten key for mailbox yet- need to get key for Dan from Elise.
- **Dan** needs access to membership stuff (all individuals who are members of National TWS can download that information for him?).
- **Ginny** send bylaw ballot to Bob (from Renae; DONE).
- **Ken** offered each of the plenary speakers a water bottle; Ken will work with Bob to get addresses/drop water bottles off for the speakers- Jim Brooks/Emily/RJ/Brookshires/Bobbi Berrera.
- **Ken** wants some water bottles and totes- give some to student chapter at NMSU- 10-15 bottles and totes for Ken.
- **Quentin** wants some bottles and totes for ENMU too- 10 or so bottles and totes for him.