

NM TWS Board Meeting Notes 4/2/2014

Meeting attendees: Jimmy Cain; Brian Hanson; Quentin Hays; Dakota Lovelace; William Lubenau; Ginny Seamster; Krysten Zummo

1. Introduce William Lubenau as NMSU and Dakota Lovelace as ENMU student chapter reps

- Two student chapter representatives present on the call.
- William Lubenau- NMSU student; Thomas Lubenau (William's brother) is president of the student chapter.
- Dakota Lovelace- president of ENMU student chapter.

2. Terri is moving out of state and needs someone to take over sending out emails to the NM TWS membership

- Ginny will do this.

3. Pam Herrera-Olivas status---fill vacancy

- Pam decided to resign as a board member.
- If someone leaves midterm, the executive board appoints someone to fill in- we do not have to do another election.
- Quentin contacted some people with the USFS about this.
- Jack Williams expressed interest/would be willing to serve on the board. Jack is the district wildlife biologist for the Sacramento District of the Lincoln NF.
- The board can vote via email on appointing Jack to the board once we get a short biography from him; we do not have to wait for the next board meeting.

4. JAM meeting

- Currently getting bids in Las Cruces at the convention center, Hotel Encanto, and Ramada Palms and in Albuquerque at Sheraton Uptown, Hyatt Tamaya, Embassy Suites Downtown, Hotel Albuquerque and others.
- The Las Cruces Convention center is right across the street from the Ramada Palms; there are several hotels within walking distance.
- Hotel Encanto and Ramada Palms have their own conference facilities.
- Jimmy and Bob will visit the hotels that provide competitive bids.
- Some of the things that we'll require from any facility we choose: capacity to host a 300 person banquet; 4-6 concurrent sessions. Hotel Encanto and Ramada Palms are the only hotels in Las Cruces with bigger rooms that fit more people for the sessions.
- Want to get a facility comparable to the Sheraton (i.e., the venue for the 2013 JAM).

- Embassy Suites- give government rate for the rooms; includes breakfast- have good breakfast buffet.
- Think about the theme- get the word out in late spring/summer so that people can start thinking about the papers that they want to submit; get theme out fairly soon.
- Quentin suggested focusing on NEPA as a theme.

5. JAM committee membership status

- i. Annual Meeting Coordinator -- Overall responsibility for the Annual Meeting. **Jimmy Cain & Quentin Hays**
- ii. Program ??
 1. Program Layout and Printing
- iii. Facility Arrangement: **Jimmy Cain & Bob Osborn**
- iv. Announcement ??
 1. Publicity
- v. Registration—**Elise Goldstein and Ginny Seamster**
 - Elise has volunteered to deal with the registration website, printing up name tags, organizing registration packets. She can probably use some help with all of that.
- vi. Plenary/General Session **Kristin Madden?**
- vii. Technical Session **Ginny Seamster**
 1. Fisheries Session – AFS Chapter
 2. Wildlife Session – TWS Chapter
- viii. Poster Session ??
- ix. Photo Contest **Jim Stuart (Mark Watson?)**
- x. Audio-Visual Equipment ??
- xi. Commercial Exhibits & Vendor Sales ??
- xii. Raffle/Auction ??
- xiii. Student Paper Judging **Ginny Seamster**
 1. Fisheries Papers – AFS Chapter
 2. Wildlife Papers – TWS Chapter
 - Ginny volunteering to get a list of volunteers to be judges and assign judges to sessions, making sure there are no conflicts of interest in terms of student presentation co-authors also being judges.
- xiv. Student Volunteer??
- xv. Awards??
 1. Photo Contest – Host Chapter
 2. Fisheries Posters & Papers – AFS Chapter
 3. Wildlife Posters & Papers – TWS Chapter
- xvi. Job Board & Message Board??
- xvii. Quiz Bowl **Krysten Zummo, Quentin Hays**
- xviii. Workshops **Kristin Madden?**
- ??

6. Newsletter—send in your stuff ASAP!

- Agency reports: a synopsis of major projects (e.g., trapping efforts, habitat projects) currently underway or to be undertaken shortly.
- Information on the search for a new Director for NMDGF and on research being done—especially by graduate students— is also of interest.
- Add an announcement about submitting nominations for awards (student and professional) that will be handed out at the 2015 JAM to the Newsletter.

7. Student and professional awards—do we want to add them and if so, what should we call them?

- Add a student award? Jimmy is strongly in favor of adding such an award. The chapter currently has scholarships and a professional award.
- Add a lifetime achievement award? Current professional award can be for long term contribution or contribution in a shorter period of time.
- Arizona has a lot of awards- named awards. In that vein, we could have discipline-specific awards...E.g. Charlie Painter award for herpetologists.
- The chapter has had an issue getting nominations for the professional awards in the past; we don't want to add a lot of awards for which we won't be able to get nominations. If we add more awards- the board will have to be aggressive to get nominations.
- Why has getting nominations been such a problem? Is it due to our small chapter membership? National has trouble getting nominations for things too! Not just a problem in New Mexico! Most of the actions of the chapter coincide with board meetings and the annual meeting. The members of the chapter that aren't on the board just don't participate much!
- Could probably generate nominations for a student award fairly easily.
- Need to send out notices for award nominations earlier and more frequently! Historically we've seen notices in the Fall Newsletter and gotten an email on it in Oct/Nov...
- Making the nomination process simpler might also help with getting more nominations- e.g., ask for 250 word summary of why the person deserves the award (making sure that the summary ties back to the description for the award/what the person is being nominated for- highlights the person's accomplishments in the context of the award).
- Quentin will look at nomination criteria for the professional award and come up with suggested revisions. He'll also draft up criteria for a student award (both for undergrads and graduate students).
- The board can discuss and vote on criteria for student and professional awards at the next board meeting.

8. Appoint Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) chair

- Looking for someone to chair the committee.
- The committee will be responsible for coming up with position statements; reviewing management plans and environmental statements.
- National – gave more structure to the conservation committees. If there is something that is an issue of regional significance (or something that is too controversial for the chapter board members to handle) - the chapters can contact the section and have them deal with the issue; or contact National to deal with national issues.
- One goal of these committees is to help with coordination among the chapters and make sure there isn't duplication of effort in terms of providing comments on different management plans, etc.
- Chapter CACs deal with local issues; section CACs include chairs/vice chairs of the chapter CACs.
- We will have to change the bylaws to explicitly address this committee (it corresponds roughly to the conservation review and resolutions and public statements committees in the current chapter bylaws). If we need to we can change the bylaws so conservation affairs committee members do not have to be board members (but it doesn't look like it is a requirement for the committee members to also be board members based on the chapter bylaws; documentation from National regarding the CAC indicates that the CAC chair can be made a member of the board- but it isn't necessary).
- Krysten- happy to help out with the committee but not interested in being the chair.
- Jimmy- can't do lobbying, which would include writing position statements. He can make comments in the background but can't be the public face of the committee/directly associated with the public statements that the CAC makes.
- Quentin- can help out with the committee. He has been chastised for being involved with semi-political wildlife stuff; has to check out higher up.
- Ginny- also interested in being involved. Maybe those of us interested in being involved (but not being the chair) could break things out by topics? Many of us are located in southern NM- so breaking it out regionally may not make as much sense.
- Who usually makes up the committees? Non-government person is the one who sends out the results/is the public face (agency people contribute but not send out the announcements).
- Brian- interested in being the chair of the committee (especially since the chair doesn't have to be a member of the board).

9. Other business

- Annual reports- what would those look like? They are mentioned in the chapter bylaws as something that needs to be submitted to National by the secretary-treasurer. Student

chapters submit reports semi-annually- they include things that they are working on/want to be doing and that they want to bring up to council.

Action Items

- **All:** Think about ideas for a theme for the JAM and volunteer for different committees associated with planning the JAM. Email ideas and volunteer for the committees by emailing Jimmy.
- **All:** Email Jimmy if you want to be involved with the CAC (would be ideal to have more than 3 members besides the chair).
- **All:** Submit agency reports or information on research that you are doing (including graduate student research) to Ryan Walker for the Newsletter. Contact people with agencies – especially agencies not currently represented by the board (e.g., USFS/BLM) - to get agency reports for the Newsletter.
- **Student chapter reps:** Take agenda to NMSU student chapter meeting (or otherwise contact the student chapter members) - see if students want to get more involved with planning the JAM. Students should contact Jimmy if they want to be involved.
- **Student chapter reps:** Provide information on student chapter activities for the Newsletter.
- **Brian:** Take Pam's contact information off the NM TWS website.
- **Ginny:** Email information on JAM committees and the CAC to the membership and see about getting volunteers for either.
- **Jimmy:** Talk with Ryan- identify a deadline for the Newsletter and inform the board/membership. Suggest that Ryan puts together a write-up of the search for a new director for NM Dept of Game and Fish for the Newsletter.
- **Quentin:** Contact Jack Williams to get a short bio to share with the board and for posting on the chapter website.
- **Quentin:** Contact Lincoln NF to get a report for the Newsletter; send modified form of Quiz Bowl summary to Ryan for the Newsletter.
- **Quentin:** Look at criteria for professional award for NM TWS- figure out how to streamline them. Come up with criteria for student awards (undergrad and grad students).