

NM TWS Chapter Business Meeting
Thursday, February 6th, 2014
NM TWS/AFS Joint Annual Meeting – Pinetop, AZ

Comments from Bob Osborn- outgoing President of the NM Chapter of TWS

- *State board and directors insurance:* National Chapter of TWS wanted state chapters to start carrying board and directors insurance. The purpose of the insurance would be to protect against libel or slander lawsuits (e.g., the Texas chapter experienced threats to sue them). NM Chapter of TWS board debated whether getting insurance would be useful. National Chapter has insurance but it does not extend to sections or chapters and they were trying to figure out which chapters would be interested in getting their own insurance. Essentially no chapters were interested when Bob checked; so this may be a moot point.
- *Bylaw revisions:* the chapter needs to do these. We started the process of revising the bylaws 3 years ago and ran into some difficulties. We are taking this back up in 2014. Some of the bylaws are out of date. National TWS is restructuring; this will affect how the chapter is organized (Leland will talk about this – see his comments below). Have to make changes to bylaws in conjunction with changes at National-level anyway, so it is a good time to get other changes made too.
- Original charter for NM TWS chapter – give to the incoming President Jimmy Cain.

Jimmy Cain – incoming NM TWS President

- Jimmy handed out certificates for departing Board Members – Esther Nelson; Bob Osborn. Renae Held also stepping down as Newsletter Editor (she was not present at the meeting to receive her certificate).
- *Changes to bylaws:* there is supposed to be a spot on the board for a representative from New Mexico State University (NMSU) student chapter. Jimmy will be finding a representative from NMSU when he gets back to Las Cruces. There is a second student chapter in New Mexico now – we need to add a representative from that chapter too!
- *Website:* NM TWS has a pretty basic website. Members of the board recently compared our site to Arizona's website; we need to improve our website! We need to make the site more user friendly and attractive. We will have to decide how to improve the website – hire someone to do it or get a volunteer who could help Brian Hanson.
- *Member participation and the newsletter:* Renae Held stepped down as Newsletter Editor- Ryan Walker is taking over for now. We need to get more participation from the membership at large in general but especially in terms of contributions to the newsletter. Material in the newsletter now often just comes from NM TWS board and sections/National TWS. We need to get contributions from the membership and student chapters. Renae found that it was hard to get enough information to make the newsletter. We need to get information from the different agencies – e.g., USFS/BLM, etc. If there are things to put in the Newsletter then let us know!

- *JAM 2015*: We are doing JAM in 2015 – Jimmy will be looking for help with this. We still have to decide where it will be. 100 mile rule for state agency employees does limit us. Gallup – there hasn't been a lot of interest in going there and there's nothing with a big facility. Silver City also doesn't have a big facility. Albuquerque is really the best bet. Leland has some ideas on this – especially regarding Silver City. Had meetings in Silver City in the 1980's – hotels are the problem. Farmington or Las Cruces could be possibilities - but Las Cruces does not meet the 100 mile rule. Was done twice in ABQ with good attendance – 350 last time.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer (Dan Collins) not here – Bob Osborn did the report in his place

- Balance \$23,127.12 begin 2013; \$34,088.13 end 2013; few days before meeting was \$34,320.48.
- Most revenues come from putting on the JAM...most expenditures went there too.
- Investments- One decreased 2.7%; another one increased 9.2%. Bob sent a copy of the treasurer's report to the chapter Secretary (Ginny Seamster).

Board Member election results

- Incoming President – Quentin Hays
- Secretary – Ginny
- Treasurer – Dan Collins
- Existing Board Member – Pam
- New Board Members – Kristin Madden (not present at JAM); Krysten Zummo
- Brian Hanson- Web Page Master; Ryan Walker Newsletter Editor

Presentations regarding Southwest and National Chapters - Carol Chambers, Misty Summer, Leland Pierce

Southwest Section

- JAM-related announcements: there are lots of students here and we had the first Quiz Bowl held at a JAM on Thursday, after the Chapter Business Meeting. Krysten Zummo (new NM Chapter Board Member) helped run Women Of Wildlife (WOW) lunch on the second day of the JAM. It's a good networking opportunity; please buy students a lunch if you can.
- Southwest Section Board Members: Misty Summer –outgoing President (from Texas); Leland Pierce – incoming section President (from New Mexico); Mark Wallace – incoming President Elect (from Texas); Emily Scoggins – Secretary/Treasurer.
- General announcements: if you enjoyed being an officer in NM Chapter – consider running at the Section level. The section passed their bylaws – bylaws have a more formal structure for Board Members of the section. SW Section meeting in Austin, Texas this year – would be great to have chapter Board Members in particular attend.

Next year Southwest Section meeting will be in NM in conjunction with JAM 2015. Please communicate with the SW Section!

- Communications:
 - Facebook – TWS WOW page has a fair number of likes.
 - SW Section chapter hub – 209 likes. There are jobs posted on the hub; if you have jobs to offer and you want to post them, you will get a few hundred hits per job. They want to get students involved (e.g., through the job postings/facebook).
 - SW Section newsletter – Renae has been editor for past few years. They offer on-line delivery; section and state updates; and Directors of each Game and Fish agency have space where they can contribute to the newsletter.
 - Website has been updated – link to new version from National TWS or Google “southwest section” for updates – Joomla is wrong site!
 - Listserve – Carol wanted to know the chapter’s opinion on having just her send out notifications on the Southwest Section listerv vs. letting anyone send things out. Chapter recommendation was to not make it open to everyone sending things out; keep it hosted rather than open. Otherwise random people start using it. Carol runs the listserv out of NAU and wants to have more than just her decide what is important to send; maybe she can talk with state boards about this.
- Policy:
 - Leland will talk about conservation affairs committee – try to build stronger linkages between National/Sections/State chapters. National can step in on hot/controversial topics as needed. National also needs support for things from chapters – e.g. support for lobbying.
 - Position statements – how many does National TWS have? 45 position statements – this is a lot for National to maintain. Moving to 3 categories – core values (e.g., human rights/diversity in workplace); fact sheets (have more timey/shorter turn around than technical reports do - e.g., cervid breeding fact sheet; border security and wildlife); position statement (climate change; invasive plants, etc – narrow to be around 15).
- Venomous reptile workshop (JAM 2014): SW Section sponsored it. Erika Novak led it; the section covered her costs. Charged \$25 for students; \$45 for professionals. Erika brought in poisonous snakes and presented information on the safe handling of reptiles. Section offered a photo workshop last year –made \$100 to \$200 – split with hosting chapter.
- Section finances/member benefits: Kathy Granillo asked a question regarding what the chapter is doing with its money/for its membership. The Section has money it’s not spending...Section members pay dues and what do they get for it? Section has roughly \$10,000. It covers certification for 10 people each year - \$1000 (e.g., Ryan Walker (NM) and Rachel Williams (AZ) got \$100 each for certification); sponsors WOW at national. The section does try to be conservative and tries to have enough money to have a strong base that it doesn’t go below. Would like to offer more things to members. Maybe it could make continuing education scholarships available? Help people who aren’t students. Get more money to help students and professionals with travel costs.

- Future JAM Workshop ideas: one idea Carol has is to have a workshop regarding communicating to the public and media. Lots of people not know what biologists do- we want to get people excited about what wildlife biologists do without thinking of the serious risk takers in the profession; we need to communicate what we do better! The theme of the workshop would be communicating science to people on the news/working with media spokespeople, etc. In the workshop – people could film you, then you’d review the film and learn how to get your message across. Idea would be to make it less intimidating to communicate to the media. Send other workshop ideas to Carol.
- Webinar series: Carol wants to start a monthly webinar series that would be free to section members. Each webinar would run 45 minutes to 1 hr. Presenters would talk about research or a policy decision or management issue– anything from disease to feral hog control- topics relevant at section level. Carol will send out an email on the listserv about submitting ideas for webinars to her.

National

- General news: National TWS has a new Executive director and chief of staff. Terra Rentz and others stepped down. National had to work on balancing the budget and they now have reduced staff. Please write things for the wildlife professional if you have ideas. Wildlife.org/amazon – if you spend \$ on amazon- TWS gets a benefit and you don’t get charged more!
- Student involvement: Student involvement has been good at the National-level – more about young professionals at conferences at both the state and national level than other societies.
- Upcoming National meetings: Pittsburgh – 2014; Calgary – 2015; Raleigh – 2016; Albuquerque – 2017. 2017 will be the second time in Albuquerque – the very first National meeting was hosted there.
- Leadership Institute: The institute is open for nominations. Krysten Zummo is a graduate of the institute. The institute provides a distance learning opportunity. Krysten thought it was a great experience – allowed her to see things in a different way and helps with getting your ideas out/spreading them. You also meet lots of interesting people.
- Awards: Nominations due by Feb 15th (Fellows program) and March 15th (Distinguished Service/Jim McDonough Award)– send nominations for Distinguished Service award in soon! A meeting attendee recommended nominating Brian Hanson to be a fellow. There are two fellows a year per section; 8 total per year. It is a high honor at the National level. Distinguished Service award is good for individuals who work hard/deserve acknowledgement at the state-level.

Conservation Affairs Committee and future of Southwest Section (short powerpoint presentation and comments by Leland Pierce)

Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC):

- Powerpoint given to Leland by National TWS.

- National wants to engage with policymakers and with biologists – figure out what issues are important.
- Aim of the CAC is to bring together individuals from the national, section, and chapter levels. There will be a committee at the chapter-level that will look at issues important to your state; that information is then given to the chair for the state. The state-level chair is in turn a member of a CAC at the section-level and can pass along the top/key issues at the state-level. The section-level committee looks at regional issues and communicates with national as needed. The committees will divvy up responsibilities among individuals with knowledge about endangered species, wetlands, etc.
- NM Chapter has identified a have chair for our state-level CAC.
- Section officers were the ones who proposed the CAC and recognized that there was a need for better communication in terms of where TWS stands on conservation issues.
- Some subunits engage in policy/issues – some don't; NM Chapters have been more involved with conferences and scholarship funding thus far.
- Hopefully setting up this new structure with the CAC will help with engaging membership more and get people more involved. Hopefully the society can become more proactive and help others.
- CAC restructuring will reduce workload for National but not for the chapters/sections. National has to have good information as fast as possible and will lean heavily on the Southwest Section.
- They are going to be moving forward re: CAC – they need to set up the infrastructure for it.
- Feel free to ask Leland questions about CAC.

Future of Southwest Section:

- Overall aims: Increase revenue and funds for things like scholarships and workshops. Get people really interested in the society at the section-level; increase member awareness of, and participation in, the Southwest Section. Build infrastructure so National can rely on the section to communicate effectively on conservation issues. This includes writing letters; doing position papers; testifying - not just identifying issues but actually doing something about them.
- Will be developing a strategy/plan that is not in conflict with the chapters and offers value to members that is different from what the chapters offer. Leland wants to post ideas that have been vetted and for which there is interest in moving forward/developing a committee and/or product. Ultimately want to develop products that the chapters are interested in and that will get the chapters involved with the Southwest Section. One example is setting up a geospatial committee. Leland will be talking with Chapter presidents about this strategy.
- Will hold conference call in March where they will talk about the strategy for the Southwest Section – what that will look like; how to reach out for and vet ideas; work on some ideas this year and some in 2015. Leland's goal is for members to be able to pull up strategies on the Southwest Section website by the time that Mark is incoming president.

- WOW event at National TWS conference in 2013 had a packed house. This event was organized by former and current presidents of SW section; we are going to do something about women in wildlife in 2014!