NM TWS Chapter Business Meeting
Thursday, February 5th, 2015
NM & AZ TWS/AFS Joint Annual Meeting – Las Cruces, NM

Comments from Jimmy Cain – outgoing President of the NM Chapter of TWS

- ***Joint Annual Meeting:***
  Planning for the meeting was time consuming, but the time has arrived and everything seems to be going well. Planning for the meeting occupied the majority of Jimmy's time this year, so some of the other tasks, like working on the by-laws revisions didn't receive any focus. The second annual Quiz Bowl will take place this year, in addition to a Women Of Wildlife lunch event and an expanded Student-Mentor Lunch. Jimmy thanked everyone for their help with planning for the event.
- ***Revised Professional and Student Awards:***
  Both the Wildlife Professional and Outstanding Wildlife Student awards processes were revised, and nominees were received by Quentin Hays. Both of these will be awarded during the banquet on Friday.
- ***NMTWS Chapter Charter:***
  Jimmy presented the charter to incoming President Quentin Hays.

Comments from Quentin Hays – incoming President of the NM Chapter of TWS

- ***Outgoing President:***
  Quentin thanked Jimmy for his exhaustive work planning the Joint Annual Meeting, and presented him with certificate for his time as President and a bottle of his favorite libation. Quentin mentioned that because of the nature of hosting JAM, little else received focus, but Jimmy did an excellent job, along with help from other NMTWS officers such as Ginny Seamster and members at large including Brian Hanson and Elise Goldstein.
- ***By-laws Revisions:***
  Quentin indicated that the by-laws revisions process, which has been in the works for several years now, will receive focus early on during his term and vowed that it will be completed, hopefully with help from the outgoing President. Issues continue to arise that need to be addressed, including non-participating board members, and the need to have an option to deal with this possibility through a formal process.
- ***One-day New Mexico Meeting*:**
  Quentin mentioned the one-day meeting that was held in Albuquerque several years ago, and asked if there was interest in holding another one-day meeting at some point this year. This would be a way to engage NM wildlifers who may not normally be participate in TWS events, including law enforcement officers or others from NMDGF and other government agencies, including the USFS and BLM. No dates were discussed, but it was mentioned that it might not be good to have the meeting during the summer as students wouldn't be able to attend. Perhaps a date in the fall, since the Annual Conference (national) is being held in Canada (Winnipeg, Manitoba) this year and many people may not be able to attend, would be best.

- ***Annual Conference 2017 – Albuquerque?:***
  Apparently there are still issues with the Albuquerque Tourism board and Convention Center (and problems with the hotel arrangements, etc.) and the Parent Society, so it's still up in the air as to whether or not Albuquerque will host the event. Although there won't be any discussion of this during the banquet (as directed by the Parent Society and the SW Representative to Council), we should proceed as though we will be hosting the Annual, and Quentin indicated that he will be forming a committee to continue working locally to plan and advocate for hosting the event, etc.
- ***JAM 2016*:**
  AZTWS will host the next JAM, and they've indicated that they are again thinking about Pinetop as a location. Quentin mentioned that this location wasn't very appealing to a number of folks from New Mexico, and that it might not receive a lot of attendance from NM fisheries and wildlife biologists. The most well-attended JAM on record was hosted in Flagstaff a number of years ago, with over 400 biologists and students in attendance. Another issue to consider is that the 50th anniversary of JAM is coming up (2017?), and the NM/AZ AFS Chapter is due to host the event somewhere in New Mexico according to the traditional rotation. This is something to start thinking about now.
- ***JAM 2015 Travel Rule*:**
  There was an issue this year with a number of folks from AZGFD not being able to attend the meeting in Las Cruces because of the "100-mile rule", which requires employees to receive authorization from the governor if they are traveling more than 100 miles from the Arizona border. NMDGF employees actually have a similar rule, but must receive authorization any time they travel out of state. This is something that the folks at AZGFD must address internally, and continue to lobby the director of their agency for permission to change. Quentin mentioned that in his view, when the meeting is being hosted in New Mexico, it's important to first address the needs of NM fisheries and wildlife biologists. The meeting site this year, in Las Cruces, seemed to be well-received by everyone in New Mexico, and Las Cruces should be considered for hosting future events, etc.
- ***Membership Challenge*:**
  The final point of discussion was a challenge issued to the membership to take a larger role in the New Mexico Chapter and to commit to do something during the coming year. Whether this means writing an article for the newsletter – any work being done or anything of interest at any agency, etc. will be happily published and distributed – or working with students or running for an officer position, more people need to actively contribute. Everyone is busy and is short on time, but in order to continue to grow the chapter and make significant contributions to the profession in New Mexico and elsewhere, it's important that everyone do their best to make time to do something.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Dan Collins

- **BofA Balance on 1/1/2014**

$34,320.12

- **BofA Balance on 12/31/2014**

$33,088.14

- **BofA Balance on 2/6/2015**

$56,560.45

- **2014 Revenues:**

$23,800 Transfer (1/20/2015)
$1,084.32 Investment Interest
$3.08 BofA Account Interest
$ 768.00 Membership

- **Investment Funds:**

PIMCO Investment fund balance as of 1/1/2014: $29,133.09
PIMCO balance as of 12/31/2014: $29,051.34
Net Increase: $-81.75
PIMCO Total Return
1.00% decrease from Jan – Dec 2014

Neuberger Berman fund balance as of 1/1/2014: $17,016.21
Neuberger Berman fund balance as of 12/31/2014: $18,802.28
Net Increase: $1,786.07
Neuberger Berman Total Return
1.1% increase from Jan – Sept 2014

- **2014 Expenditures:**

$101.00 P.O. Box
$91.01 Reimbursement
$74.89 Reimbursement
$500.00 NMSU –Travel Grant
$500.00 ENMU –Travel Grant
$1000 Scholarships (2)
$250.00 Borderlands Research Institute

Board Member Election Results

- **Incoming President –** Ginny Seamster
- **Secretary –** Ryan Walker (will continue to handle newsletter responsibilities as well)
- **Treasurer –** Dan Collins (also President-elect of the Southwest Section)
- **Existing Board Member –** Kristen Madden
- **Existing Board Member –** Krysten Zummo
- **New Board Member –** Scott Carleton

Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) – Brian Hanson

- Brian Hanson, the chair person for CAC for the NM chapter, summarized a recent phone conference with the national CAC lead Keith Nichols. Jim Ramakka, the Southwest Section CAC also commented on the February 3 phone conversation.
- The CAC of the Wildlife Society is gaining new participants, thus far 7 of 8 TWS Sections are active along with 21 of 55 states. The SW section last year sent out two letters: one that addressed the wetland review comments to the Corps of Engineers and a support letter for State Tribal Wildlife Grant Program. National will continue to have bimonthly conference calls and will put out newsletters.
- The Southwest CAC lead is Jim Ramakka (Chair) includes Jon Hanna - AZ Chapter; Brian Hanson (Co-chair) - NM Chapter; Justin Dreibelbis - TX Chapter.
- The CAC for the NM Chapter is Brian Hanson NM Chairman (bhtwsnm@comcast.net); James Cain (jwcain@nmsu.edu); Ginny Seamster (seamster@nmsu.edu); Krysten Zummo (zummokm@nmsu.edu); Mark Watson (mark.watson@state.nm.us); Ryan Walker (Ryan.Walker@state.nm.us); Rachel Jankowitz (Rachel.Jankowitz@state.nm.us)

Conservation Affairs Network Bi-Monthly Conference Call, Keith Norris is the TWS lead
Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015, 1:00pm EST

Meeting agenda and notes taken by Brian Hanson Co-Chair of SW Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of CAN as strategic initiative for TWS
    1. Document for Section and Chapter meetings
    2. Staff attendance at meetings
3. Updates from Headquarters
    1. New Intern – Colleen Hartel
    2. Current Status
        1. Sections and Chapters
        2. What defines “engaged” in CAN?
    3. New Resources for Policy Activities
        1. Policy Briefs
        2. Reference Lists
    4. Upcoming: CAN Primer, Policy Library
4. Section CAC Meetings
    1. Guidance on Frequency
    2. Suggested Agenda items
5. Updates from Section CACs
    1. Communication with Chapters
        1. Meetings with Chapter CAC’s

        2. Outreach to Chapters not currently engaged
    2. General Questions/Concerns/Comments
    3. Current activities and issues being addressed
        1. Potential Newsletter items

Notes

- Jim Ramakka (chair SW CAC) and Brian Hanson (co-chair) were on the call for the SW
- The national office TWS is sending out people to attend state and section meetings
- The National TWS has 6 month interns, Colleen Hartel is a new one that may be part of CAC activities
- Of the 8 sections of TWS, 7 are involved in CAC, northcentral is missing
- Of the 55 state chapters, 21 are involved in CAC
- Keith Norris said that involved means he has contact information
- Regarding policies and references to 3c on the agenda, you can get information from the TWS website. Sometimes the information is a list of references, sometimes it is the real document
- Keith reminded everybody that any policies sent out from the CACs should be copied to him
- When asked if anyone had sent out letters, no one responded except for SW section which included wetland review comments to the Corps of Engineers and a support letter for State Tribal Wildlife Grant Program
- Keith Norris is proposing a bimonthly conference call to section CACs
- Keith Norris asked everyone to send him stuff for the next TWS CAC newsletter

The Southwest CAC is Jim Ramakka (Chair)
Jon Hanna - AZ Chapter
Brian Hanson (Co-chair) - NM Chapter
Justin Dreibelbis - TX Chapter

TWS Southwest Section Report – Carol Chambers and Leland Pierce

- Carol talked about TWS getting back on its feet financially.
- Carol and Erin Saunders encouraged meeting attendees to answer questions for the Southwest Section Committee.
- This was Carol Chambers' final NM Business meeting as Southwest representative to the TWS council.
- Leland talked about the Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC; see above notes and comments from Brian Hanson). The CAC is going to become more and more important in future for TWS.