

**NM TWS Chapter Business Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**NM & AZ TWS/AFS Joint Annual Meeting – Flagstaff, AZ**

**Comments from Quentin Hays – outgoing Chapter President**

- Joint Annual Meeting 2016
- Revised Student Travel and Biodiversity Scholarship Awards
  - The format for these awards was changed slightly this year in an attempt to make it easier to submit applications. Awardees were announced at the 2016 JAM Friday night banquet.
  - Each student chapter can get \$500 to attend the JAM in addition to individual travel awards.
- 2017 Annual Conference Planning
  - The 2017 TWS Annual Conference will be in Albuquerque September 23-27<sup>th</sup> (which is the week before Balloon Fiesta). A big focus of the NM TWS board this year will be to help the parent society plan for this conference.
  - Quentin reviewed the **5 different sub-committees** that will be involved in planning for this conference and a sign-up sheet was passed around for people to sign up to participate in different committees. The 5 sub-committees are: fundraising, local networking and engagement (which we have since determined will be chaired by Leland Pierce with potential for a co-chair), field trips, marketing support, volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about or volunteering for any of these committees, you should contact Quentin Hays ([quentin.hays@enmu.edu](mailto:quentin.hays@enmu.edu)) - Arrangement Committee chair - or Ginny Seamster ([virginia.seamster@state.nm.us](mailto:virginia.seamster@state.nm.us)) – President of NM TWS Chapter. We need your help! Quentin is responsible for helping to recruit sub-committee chairs and members and is the primary contact with the Parent Society.
  - **Fundraising sub-committee:** This committee identifies potential sponsors and puts them in contact with Chuck Shively who closes the deal. This committee will need roughly 10 members and lots of help getting initial ideas. One idea is to identify people to lead fundraising activities, specifically making connections to potential sponsors, in different parts of the state. E.g. have a few people in Las Cruces; a few in Albuquerque; potentially Jim Ramakka in Farmington. The ultimate goal is \$150K or more. For the Raleigh Conference – BLM and USFS and USFWS all donated money through contracts with the Parent Society. Will need to get a packet that can be given to potential sponsors that lays out how much advertising the sponsor gets for a given level of support.
  - We will need to draw a lot of conference attendees – especially from neighboring states. Universities and state agencies may be good potentials for sponsors....though UNM is often not involved with TWS and NMSU may be hard to get since the event will be in Albuquerque and not Las Cruces. ESRI might be another good potential sponsor. Potentially ask Marble Brewery about coming up with a special beer for the event; they did this for the opening of the Valle del Oro.

- **Local networking and engagement sub-committee** – Primary goal of this sub-committee is to increase conference attendance. People who have large networks will be particularly valuable here. Will primarily entail sending out emails notifying people of when the conference will be, requesting response indicating whether they will attend, and notifying of key events that are likely to be of interest during the conference. There was discussion that it would be good to get attendance from Mexico; there are more contacts for some types of wildlife professionals in Mexico than others- e.g., good set of contacts for herpetologists.
- There was discussion regarding **attendance at the annual conference by federal employees**. This consisted of many things, including the idea of fundraising dollars to offset federal costs/enable the Parent Society to waive the fee for federal attendees- need to go back to parent society on this and get data on how many Winnipeg attendees were federal. Others felt money is not the issue- the issue is congress and public perception – Ken Williams would need to go to the assistant secretarial level to get permissions for more employees to attend the annual meeting. This is due to the fact that for the DOI/BOR there is a secretarial level policy that employees need to have secretarial approval to go to conferences, thus permission is a bigger issue than funding. For USFWS, only 15 people got to go to the TWS annual conference in Winnipeg and they had to be presenting at the conference. In election years, agencies are more sensitive about sending people on travel to conferences. Recruiting federal employees to present may help. There will still be an upper limit to how many people federal agencies will send. We should start working on this now – Jim R talked with Washington office about this- trying to increase BLM participation. Ken Williams needs to do work in Washington DC about this. How can we get the most USFS people at the meeting? Maybe have a symposium so federal employees can present work. Gary Potts- engaging state/provincial/federal agencies – is the theme for the year. Since it is important to talk at secretary level, it might be the right time to bring this up.
- Student chapters – not have those sort of upper limits on number of potential attendees students represent a huge market for the conference. Texas is particularly important with 12 chapters- need to get as many students to attend as possible – including from Texas. It was pointed out that the value for students comes from interacting with professionals at the conference- thus we need to get the professionals there in order for it to be useful to the students.
- **Marketing support sub-committee** – liasons with local tourism board. Will involve getting materials on the destination city, including features about what to do in Albuquerque. Cecilia is the contact with tourism board. Having social media saavy is good for this committee. Will need to add the wildlife spin to material that will hopefully be provided by the tourism bureau and deal with social media. There are timelines for what and when we need things- running student chapter Facebook would be good.
- **Field trips sub-committee** - need a chair for this group (we have since identified Kathy Granillo and Dan Shaw as co-chairs) – based on the handbook, we’re looking for destinations within 1 hr drive from ABQ – some ideas include: Bosque del Apache –

Trinity site...though these are further than an hour; **Sevilleta (Kathy); Sandia/LANL - visit one of those; Gary White did pioneering work on radiotelemetry at LANL – good person to contact on that;** will be doing each field trip more than once – need things that need lots of attendees can participate in; not right for timing of migration to go to Bosque del Apache - Jim R thinking on field trip ideas. Committee will have to write up one pager on each field trip/pitch it to the Parent society. - **Sevilleta obvious; BioPark; Sandias/Tramway;** want options going to area where there is a biologist giving the tour- could post breaking bad tour as something else to do- want more biology-oriented trips for the main file trips; tamarisk programs- link to tamarisk programs; **Tres Piedras- Aldo Leopold; Taos Pueblo- new national monument.** Parent Society will narrow a larger list of options down; the committee would work with the Parent Society on busing/logistics; Parent Society deals with busing/transportation stuff. Going to Santa Fe and back on the railrunner might be another trip that we let people know about but not an official field trip.

- Pittsburgh/Milwaukee- not getting attendance at field trips – were incurring extra day of hotels/meals to do field trips. Last year- each field trip sold out – all the main ones sold out – people had a good time – 1 hr driving time – half day- not pay for box lunches. If there is something amazing 2.5 hrs away we can still suggest it to the Parent Society if it is something attendees really need to see.
- **Volunteers sub-committee:** big one – need more than just NM for this- TX and AZ have more students – will have money to pay for shifts for students. Ed gave extra \$3K guaranteed to come back to us to pay for students to volunteer- 60+ 4 hr shifts needed; work with audio visual/other tasks. Someone from student chapter and student liaison will be important for this committee.
- **Key dates:**
  - Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Arrangement Committee chair appointed
  - February 29<sup>th</sup>- Fundraising and field trip chairs appointed
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> – need initial fundraising list submitted – hopefully make contact by then – person talked to/said maybe
  - July 31<sup>st</sup> need initial description of field trips (this has since been revised – site visits will be in May 2016)
- First visit to the site – Sept – do before current year conference- Sept there will be an in person meeting- Ed/Amy/Quentin will all be there (actually this will be in May instead).
- Next year- field trips and volunteers nailed down.
- Post conference reports – Oct 15<sup>th</sup>2017.
- End of the year – get rebate check...have to support travel for committee chairs....
- TWS Raised a lot of money for the Manitoba conference- early government support and started early; there were some unique opportunities- e.g., Green Manitoba- gave \$7,500 if were green for conference.
- Don't stress out about the report if you volunteer to be a committee chair- they do not need to be lengthy; Canada submitted a 55pg report – that was overkill/the reports don't need to be that long.

- Parent society- program committee – this committee is organized by the Parent Society and is what puts together the plenary session/talks/poster sessions, etc.
- Tricia Frey- has been doing program committee for a long time.
- Kathy Granillo was on the committee for the first Albuquerque meeting – which was the first TWS annual conference. They originally planned for 350 people- moved up to 600; 1200 people came first year- swamped the hotel/the venue was packed but it was fun to work on.
- Portland- got ~2K people; first one place for number of people; 1800 people second place for numbers of people
- Winnipeg- one of the most efficiently organized and managed conferences – efficiency is something we need to work on for Albuquerque.
- Some initial fundraising ideas from Bill Dunn: Tribal entities – consulting firm- sundance consulting firm- Idaho- Bill works with them; Outside magazine; West incorporated; Private sector- Bill- help out with fundraising from this side of things.
- Article on host state – need articles on host state in The Wildlife Professional before the conference.
- Bylaw Revisions and Ballot Hand-out
  - Quentin compiled and created a ballot for bylaw revisions which was handed out at the meeting for members to vote on.
- NM TWS Chapter Charter Transfer to Ginny Seamster
  - Transfer of the NM TWS Chapter Charter to Ginny Seamster marked the beginning of Ginny's term as NM TWS Chapter President.

### **Comments from Ginny Seamster – incoming Chapter President**

- Thank yous to Outgoing President Quentin Hays, Board Member Krysten Zummo, Secretary and Newsletter Editor Ryan Walker, and Newsletter Editor James Pitman
- 2016 Board Member Election Results
  - **Incoming President** – Scott Carleton, NMSU
  - **Secretary** – Bill Dunn, Big Picture Conservation
  - **Treasurer** – Dan Collins (also President of the Southwest Section; pending approval from USFWS)
  - **Existing Board Member** – Kristen Madden (pending approval from USFWS)
  - **New Board Member** – Todd Rawlinson, USFS
  - **New Board Member** – Casey Cardinal, NMDGF
  - **Newsletter editor** – Ron Kellermueller, NMDGF
- 2017 Annual Conference Planning – Please sign up!!
  - Planning for the 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque will be the primary task of the NM TWS board and chapter this coming year. Everyone has networks and professional and personal contacts who will be valuable in making this event a success. Even if you don't volunteer to be a chair of a sub-committee, your participation in any of the sub-committees and sharing of relevant information will be incredibly valuable and crucial to the conference planning effort.
- JAM 2017 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JAM to be hosted by NM/AZ AFS Chapter

- The next JAM will be the 50<sup>th</sup> JAM. NM TWS and NM/AZ AFS are turning 50 in 2018 and 2017, respectively. There has been discussion regarding whether it makes sense to combine the 50<sup>th</sup> JAM with the Annual Conference in 2017. The ultimate decision on this will be up to NM/AZ AFS as this is the primary fundraising event for each of the participant chapters in the JAM in the year that they are the host.

**Treasurer's Report – from Treasurer Dan Collins**

- A summary of the following report, prepared by Dan Collins, was presented by Ginny Seamster at the Business Meeting.

**2015 NMTWS Treasurer's Report  
Prepared by: Dan Collins  
February 5, 2015**

**BofA Balance on 1/20/2015**

\$57,475.14

**BofA Balance on 12/31/2015**

\$48,755.72

**BofA Balance on 2/2/2016**

\$48,628.99

**2015 Revenues:**

\$23,800 Transfer (1/20/2015)  
\$ 1,479.70 Investment Interest  
\$4.16 BofA Account Interest  
\$ 768.00 Membership  
\$8,000.00 Paypal registration  
\$3,820.00 Deposit (JAM)  
\$2,616.00 Deposit (JAM)  
\$2,848.00 Deposit (JAM)  
\$2,434.76 Deposit (JAM)  
\$1,294.17 Deposit (JAM)  
\$328.00 Deposit (National)

**TOTAL = 47,392.79**

**2015 Expenditures:**

\$400.00 REI Gift Card  
\$400.00 Sportsman Gift Card  
\$1,677.27 Reimbursement  
\$21,523.04 JAM Hotel  
\$620.00 JAM Lunch  
\$1,500 Scholarships (2)  
\$250.00 Best Paper  
\$206.00 Photos  
\$150.00 Scholarship

\$1,380.25 JAM Audio  
\$1,400 R workshop  
\$500.00 NMSU –Travel Grant  
\$530.00 ENMU –Travel Grant  
\$100.00 Best Poster  
\$375.00 AFS Dues  
\$1200 AFS workshop  
\$210.00 AZTWS JAM  
\$500.00 Travel (Individual – 2016 JAM)

**TOTAL = \$32,921.56**

**Investment Funds:**

PIMCO Investment fund balance as of 1/1/2015:	\$29,051.34
PIMCO balance as of 12/31/2015:	\$27,443.43
Net Decrease:	\$-1,607.91
Neuberger Berman fund balance as of 1/1/2015:	\$18,802.28
Neuberger Berman fund balance as of 12/31/2015:	\$18,725.51
Net Decrease:	\$-76.77

- As is usually the case, the primary expenditures and income for the chapter are associated with hosting the 2015 JAM. Not all expenditures were processed at the time of the Business Meeting.

**Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) – from Brian Hanson**

- There were three main actions taken by the CAC in 2015 which are summarized below per a document prepared by Brian Hanson and summarized by Ginny Seamster at the Business Meeting.

January 30, 2016  
Summary of Conservation Affairs Committee 2015 activities  
Brian Hanson, Chairman  
New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society

**Feral cat neutering email response to an individual, June 9, 2015**

An individual was concerned with the City of Albuquerque paying for the capture, neutering and returning feral cats to the wild in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The committee reviewed available data on this practice, primarily from two websites: American Bird Conservancy and Alleycat. The committee also reviewed the present policy of The Wildlife Society and agreed with the policy. A committee member will coordinate with this person. In summary the policy of The Wildlife Society regarding feral and free-ranging domestic cats is to:

1. Adopt feral cats into indoor-only homes and humane euthanasia of unadoptable cats.
2. Prohibit feeding of feral cats and release of unwanted cats.
3. Oppose local laws legalizing the maintenance of "managed" (trap/neuter/release) free-ranging cat colonies.

4. Provide scientific information on feral cats and call on pet owners to keep cats indoors, in outdoor enclosures, or on a leash.
5. Encourage pet owners to neuter or spay their cats, including pet adoption programs.
6. Disseminate information on what individual cat owners can do to minimize predation by free-ranging cats, and to minimize potential disease transmission.
7. Work with the communities to educate the public about the effects of free-ranging and feral cats on native wildlife, including birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and endangered species.
8. Encourage the agricultural community to keep farm-cat numbers at low, manageable levels and use alternative, environmentally safe rodent control methods.
9. Remove free-ranging cats and elimination of feral cat colonies.
10. Responsible cat owners are encouraged to continue caring for the animals under their control.

**Bear and Cougar letter to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, August 20, 2015  
(this was posted on the Chapter website)**

The 6 page letter provided comments on proposed changes to the Bear and Cougar Rule August 4, 2015. We included and supported the National Wildlife Society standing position statement for - Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management.

Bear suggestions were:

- 1) Use up-to-date technologies and monitoring studies,
- 2) Ensure the survival of bear populations using models,
- 3) Update density estimates in all areas and use different densities for specific areas for management,
- 4) Use a conservative application of new density estimates.

The cougar suggestion was: we are concerned with other animals besides cougars being trapped.

**Mexican Wolf letter to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, November 21, 2015  
(this was posted on the Chapter website)**

The 4 page letter 1st paragraph was –

“The release of captive Mexican wolves (*Canis lupus baileyi*) in New Mexico is crucial to the recovery of the endangered Mexican wolf. We encourage the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) to immediately issue permits to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the release of wolves in New Mexico. In addition, we encourage the Department to issue permits to Ted Turners ranch that supports valuable captive Mexican wolves that will contribute to the recovery of this species.”

The New Mexico Game Commission previously denied permits during a September 29 meeting. Our letter included:

- a) Releasing wolves in New Mexico was needed to maintain genetic diversity of wild populations,
- b) The presence of predators such as the Mexican wolf is an integral part of the ecosystem,
- c) The New Mexico Game Commission has the authority under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act to recover endangered species.

To support our statements we included 23 literature citations.

### **TWS Southwest Section Report – Fidel Hernandez and Mark Wallace**

- Fidel Hernandez is the new Southwest Section representative to council.
- The Southwest Section has a new website and encourages contribution of material to the website from the New Mexico Chapter.
- Communication is a key focus for the Southwest Section. There was more information presented on the Southwest Section at their breakfast on Friday morning before the Plenary Session.

### **TWS Southwest Section Geospatial Advisory Committee – Leland Pierce**

- The goal of the Geospatial Advisory Committee is to provide opportunities for geospatial information sharing among wildlife professionals, and transfer of information regarding relevant applications of GIS and remote sensing technologies, to wildlife professionals.
- The Geospatial Advisory committee hosted two webinars in 2015 and one of the workshops at the 2016 JAM (Incorporating Climate Change Data) came out of one of these webinars.
- There was interest in having a workshop on historic climate data based on the success of the 2016 workshop, which focused on future climatic conditions.
- If you are interested in being involved in or learning more about the committee, please contact Leland Pierce ([leland.pierce@state.nm.us](mailto:leland.pierce@state.nm.us)) or Ginny Seamster ([virginia.seamster@state.nm.us](mailto:virginia.seamster@state.nm.us)).