

TWS Forestry & Wildlife Working Group

Meeting Notes

2/2/2017 3pm ET

866.623.5937

1209142

Action items are in bold.

In attendance:

- Greg Corace (Chair; Applied Sciences Program, Seney NWR)
- Bob Carey (Past chair; USFWS)
- Jenniffer Bakke (Secretary/Treasurer; Hancock Forest Management)
- Justin Vreeland (Board member; Pennsylvania Game Commission)
- Kelly Douglass (E-newsletter editor; NC Wildlife Resources Commission)
- Shelby Weiss (Student Liaison; Ohio State University)

Note: Stephen Castleberry (Board member; UGA) absent, but provided some guidance to Corace before meeting.

1. Action items from last call

- a. Annual Report/Taxes/Report to Council (Corace/Bakke)
 - a. All reports were sent to Mariah and no questions were raised.
- b. SAF article/communication with new TWS President (Corace/All)
 - a. An interview was done with Corace for SAF's February edition of The Forestry Source. This came to together last minute from SAF and was seen as good opportunity to put the WG name out there.
 - b. Corace also reached out to TWS President Bruce Thompson to see why the WG wasn't approached initially- President Thompson responded and seems like it was probably an oversight.
- c. Operating Plan (Corace/Bakke)
 - a. **Each Board Member should provide edits and upload their edited doc to the Google Drive by COB 2/3/17.**
 - b. **Following 2/3/17, each Board Member will revise the section they had responsibility for writing. Edited versions will be sent to GC by the 17th of February COB.**
 - c. Douglass drafted an additional section for e-newsletter procedures. (Will pick up discussion on this later in the call).
- d. Feedback from groups sponsored at TWS NC (Corace)
 - a. Sent an email to groups that FWWG sponsored at TWS NC (Forest Grouse Symposium, grad student from WI, Forestry 101 workshop, Anthropogenic Disturbance group).

- b. Pretty positive feedback from everyone, there were some suggestions for better communication on travel grants in the future. Feedback was received that guidance that now exists on website is quite helpful.
 - c. Grouse Symposium folks said the areas they would ask to be improved (e.g., putting up operating plan on the website) have already been addressed.
- e. TWP article (Bakke)
- a. No updates yet. **Bakke will revisit the timeline. Meanwhile the article is in progress.** Sections have been provided from everyone.
- f. Logo (Vreeland)
- a. 99% done. Received the latest draft from the artist who kept the suggested phrasing and tweaked sizing. Only has to clean up the copyright symbol to be finished. The artist will take care of sending the final to the company he uses to scan it digitally. Following that, we will “own” it.
 - b. Board members agree that **Vreeland has the freedom to finalize the logo.** Hopefully this will be done in ~1 month. —Thank you, Justin!
 - c. **Bakke and Corace will work with Vreeland on final outreach to the WG regarding the final logo once it is completed.**
- g. FB/Website (Weiss/Bakke/Douglass)
- a. Weiss has been posting to FB fairly regularly as folks send her articles, events, etc. – Thanks to those who have been sending items to post! Thanks to Shelby for being diligent!
 - b. A section on the website for meeting notes has been added under “News.”
 - c. Douglass created an E-newsletter template and a proposed timeline for producing 4 e-newsletters a year. This was sent around to the Board prior to the call.
 - i. Purpose of the e-newsletter would be to highlight activities of the WG, meeting notes review, sponsorships/partnerships, travel grants, upcoming events etc
 - ii. Douglass also wrote up an additional chapter on the e-newsletter for the operating manual
 - iii. Douglass proposes to have the Board review the newsletter before it goes out each time, then to have Bakke send it out from the FWWG gmail account (rather than her personal or work email).
 - iv. Discussion:
 1. Douglass’ proposal seems reasonably ambitious. The biggest challenge may be getting enough content
 2. Overall, the template looks nice and the proposal looks good.

3. Agreement that it should come from the FWWG gmail account.
 4. Corace would like to see the outline simplified. He doesn't think the meeting notes need to be rephrased, can just linked to (remind people where they are). We should have the newsletter enhance what we already do, not repeat what we've already done. Corace also proposes that he review and finalize, rather than getting feedback from the whole Board in order to streamline the process.
 - a. Suggested compromise (Vreeland): instead of synthesizing or only posting a link, perhaps post a list of the topics discussed. So more reading highlights than synthesis of the meeting notes.
 - b. Bakke also agrees that the meeting notes and an e-newsletter offer two different things, and doesn't think everyone will naturally seek out reading the meeting notes on our website, so it is still useful to highlight what was discussed in the newsletter
 5. Vreeland: we are setting a precedent for future boards. If the newsletter looks like an onerous task, future folks may not be willing to take over the task.
 - a. Douglass points out that future issues will be more compact as they won't include the annual meeting plus a past board meeting (as her proposed template did).
 6. **GC and Douglass will move forward with finalizing the first e-newsletter and Bakke will send out.** Agreed that Corace will review before sending out to WG members. We will see how this first one goes and adjust from there. This will be an April release date.
 - a. General consensus that this is fine to proceed.
 - b. Douglass will send to Corace ASAP?**
- h. Position statement (Corace)
- a. Nothing to update.
 - i. We asked Council, Corace made a point to TWS President on this issue and hopefully this will be worked on in 2017.
 - ii. Vreeland was contacted by a board member from the NE Section Conservation Affairs Committee. They are interested in drafting a position statement on stand diversity and early successional forests and are interested in seeing our position statement. So, other subunits are interested in having our position statement out there too. Vreeland has sent her our draft and told her that our WG would be the ideal outlet for

review of statements produced by their group. Group all agreed with Vreeland.

- iii. Bakke: What caused our position statement to stall out initially? We had wanted to provide some input so did these affect things or slow the process down?
 - 1. Corace thinks it's a systemic problem across WGs based on feedback at All Working Group Meeting in NC, probably nothing that we did.
 - 2. Carey thinks there was some executive transitions going on at the time the position statement was submitted and that the statement slipped through the cracks.
 - a. An adhoc committee originally drafted the position statement and this was around the same time that the FWWG was getting off the ground.
- iv. **Corace will continue to be the squeaky wheel.**

2. Other items?

- a. Douglass- how should she deal with her draft of operating manual newsletter guidelines?
- b. **The Board will review, so Douglass will send around to be reviewed as well (Send her comments by Feb 15).**

3. 2017 TWS Annual Meeting symposium ideas (Corace/Bakke/All)

- a. Corace exchanged emails with Bakke and Darren Miller re: SFI/ABC symposium
 - i. The only proposal that has come out of the annual meeting that Bakke knows of is "The role of forest management in bird conservation."
 - 1. They've already identified 10 speakers
 - 2. Bakke asked him to send to what they have to the WG to review if they would like to seek sponsorship. When they are ready they will send a proposal to the WG.
 - 3. Was there an SFI focus?
 - a. No. Was decided they weren't going to pursue a certification- focused workshop because these have been poorly attended in the past. There will be a link with SFI and ABC, but won't be a pure certification workshop.
 - ii. Discussion: Should we wait for folks to come to us for ideas or organize something ourselves?
 - 1. Are we just a sponsoring group or would we like to create content?
 - 2. Vreeland: we could send out a survey on what the membership would be interested in learning about to narrow down topics.

3. Corace: We asked at the annual meeting about topics, but folks had mentioned things that they are already doing. We have also already solicited topic suggestions from the membership since our last meeting and received no suggestions.
4. Vreeland: Still thinks a survey would be more effective than an email.
 - a. Weiss agrees that folks would be more likely to provide input through a survey.
5. Several on the board agree that it's a lot of work for us to put something together from the ground up.
 - a. Bakke: what we had decided previously is that we were seeking to find/recruit people to support who already had ideas.
6. Vreeland thinks you can still recruit and work with people to put on a symposium from afar, don't necessarily have to be present. He would be willing to be a part of a committee and help facilitate and recruit people for a symposium.
 - a. Corace: But would need one or a couple present and taking lead. Corace is not willing to take lead.
 - b. Douglass points out deadlines: March 10th so just over one month from now
 - c. Justin: How about advertising with FB and the e-newsletter. Mention that we are seeking to support relevant symposia. If in the next couple months we get solicitations for support from folks already running with something that are relevant we may consider working with folks.
 - i. Douglass will put in the newsletter.**
 - d. Tabled survey of WG member for continued discussion at next conference call.**

b. Elections 2017 (Castleberry/All)

- i. Corace asked Castleberry if he would be interested in leading the effort of putting on elections. Castleberry said yes he would - he will be at the Albuquerque meeting and can spend time on it this summer. Come the fall he won't be as available, however. Corace and Bakke will have to be involved in some capacity. (Charter seems to imply Corace should take very limited role.) Corace would like someone else to help Castleberry with this task.
 1. Vreeland has one person interested in running.
 2. **Douglass offered to help Stephen create a survey monkey and can help further with getting bios from nominees once we have a list.**

3. **Corace will pick up this conversation with Castleberry and Douglass (cc Bakke as needed).**
4. **Carey says he can help if needed, but can't commit too much time.**
5. All positions are open in the fall. At most, Board Members can hold 3 terms of 2 years each per Charter.

(Carey leaves conversation)

4. Additional items (Castleberry/All)
 - a. Bakke received \$500 from the OR SIC. They've committed but haven't sent the funds yet. -Thanks Jenn!
 - b. Corace: USFWS is moving forward with class at NCTC, will roll out in September and is moving forward. Threw out the potential for leading a symposium in East Lansing, MI- will see if that is picked up and if so, there may be a sponsorship opportunity.
5. Concluding thoughts
 - a. Weiss will send meeting notes to Bakke and Corace for review by 5 PM ET on 2/3/17.
 - i. Bakke would like to get notes finalized and sent out to the membership by Monday (2/6/17) 5 PM PST.
 - b. Vreeland: priority list (revised from Oct) - where did we land on raising dues?
 - i. Corace: The membership wants us to show them improvement in our communication before raising dues.
 - ii. **Discussion tabled for the next conference call (after Douglass produces her e-newsletter).**
 1. Douglass will have 3 newsletters out by the time the next annual meeting comes around!