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| **NPWMWG Annual Meeting** | **8 October 2013****12:15 – 2:15 PM****TWS Annual Conference****Milwaukee, WI****Hyatt, Lakeshore A** |
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| Bozhou,Please join us for the Native Peoples’ Wildlife Management Working Group Annual meeting to be held in conjunction with The Wildlife Society’s Annual Conference in Milwaukee. The meeting is open to all working group members and any interested conference attendees. Attendees are welcome to bring their own refreshments. Members that can’t attend in person are welcome to make comments or contributions to via phone (918. 382. 4509 or email (paige\_schmidt@fws.gov) in advance of the meeting and I will gladly share them with the group. Safe travels!Paige Schmidt, NPWMWG Chair |
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| **Agenda** |
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| Welcome and Introductions | Kohl, All | 10 |
| Induction of new officers and board members | Kohl | 10 |
| Approval of Minutes from 2012 meeting | Hoagland | 5 |
| Working Group Financials | Hoagland | 5 |
| Professional Development Program | Hoagland/All | 30 |
| Grant development for native student internships | Monica Timothy, USFS and Katie Unger, TWS | 30 |
| 2014 Symposium Planning | All | 20 |
| Other topics (Gift for Paige and TWS nominations Committee)  | All | 10 |
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**Welcome and Introductions (missed some attendees due to poor sound)**

* Pat Zollner: Purdue (brought some students from university), worked on symposium that was proposed
* Nathan Weaver: master's student, first time to meeting, very interested in group
* Michel Kohl: Officially the new chair of WG, Fort Peck Indian Reservation
* Heather Stricker: Chair-elect, been with working group for 7 years
* Wini Kessler – Immediate Past President TWS
* Rick Baydack- TWS President Elect, affiliated with Daniel Dupont, Winipeg 2015 conference -- hope to involve our working group.
* James -- works with northern pueblos in the area,
* University of Wisconsin person, looking into grad schools,
* Cherokee Nation, in AZ right now. Going back to school,
* Paige Schmidt (past NPWMWG Chair)
* Serra Hoagland: Sec/Treas of WG, Chair of PD program
* Ken Williams - Director of TWS,

**TWS Council and Administration**

* Very important program to TWS and wildlife profession, deeply committed to program
* Most of the funding came from director in the past for year to year basis
* Put on Dr. Williams list for fundraising, he started 4 March 2013
* Difficulty that fed agencies are having, remains an important priority
* Council decisions –
	+ 1) need perm subcommittee on council for diversity because it's a major core value, 2 days of planning and this committee will help our program;
	+ 2) they are taking a conservative strategy but trying to grow resources to generate funding to support programs,
	+ 3) Talked to Wini last night, how can the working group help with short term -- help or give TWS information to demonstrate how effective this program, where people have gone in their careers, the tribes and agencies they've worked for. Evidence that these people are making a difference. The video helps too. TWS wants a good portfolio to access funding for the program. They are asking the working group to provide information that they can use for accessing funds. Make use of personal stories, knowing how people have been connected, where are they now.
* Get video on TWS website!!!
* Winipeg TWS Conference (Daniel Dupont) wants to see large presence of our working group. WG should do a symposium and a workshop, etc. Plenary session may focus on First Nations individuals. Re-establish travel grant.
* Wini -- plenary from 2013, seek out local tribes, the gentlemen who was supposed to come couldn't come. Regret that they didn't have this.
* Michel Kohl – Stressed the importance of better communication between TWS council and the WG. Ken -- Didn't know what was going on towards the end. TWS needs to inform working groups better.
* Wini -- Ken's made a commitment to having better communication, new sub-committee should be able to help with this.
* Dan Decker (?) structured a solid survey, the right set of questions used as a survey for each class about the impact it's having. Collectively through time see the difference it's making. Get advice on how to structure the data collection.
* Doris Duke Foundation -- retrospective and prospective. What's been done, what could be done with more cash.
* Assistance programs (research opportunities for students, new infrastructure to allow students to do these sorts of opportunities
* Cami's professor (name?) Provided program testimonial including examples for Rebecca Bingham -- just had a baby and Delaine Peterson (going for his masters), very important for students professional development. There is a NEED for this program. Students came back really motivated,
* Cami spoke about her experience and the value of this program.
* They (TWS Council) can help on the funding but our working group is the home base. This is the group that provides that orientation, the home base that keeps students from being lost at TWS conference. Important role for working group to play.
* Wini -- made a comment about how our past student group turned out together, spread out at sessions and then come back to discuss among themselves. She was very impressed with this.
* Is there a way for a distribution list that others can have access to -- combine it with those funds. Program with opportunities, need to combine efforts.
* TWS needs to work with working group to educate us about funding opportunities. Leveraging this funding.

**Introduction of new officers and board members**

* Michel -- new chair
* Heather -- Chair Elect
* Serra -- Sec/Tres
* Ex Board -- consists of incoming chair, current chair, past chair and sec/tres
* 5 board members -- Joe, Aurelia, Nate, Barry, plus one more. WE HAVE A FULL BOARD.
* Newsletter -- Heather
* Brandi -- runs facebook and webpage

**Additional PD program report/comments once Wini and Ken left**

PD program report:

1. Chair transition from Nate to Serra
2. Had $3k for this year from USDA but will roll this over to 2014 fund. Back in April/May 2013 we assumed we weren't going to have a PD program given TWS turnover in Ex Director and gov funding situation.
3. Sent out brief follow-up email to participants
	1. only have 11 responses when I checked last (NEED TO ANALYZE these responses and send out Thank you to those who have responded)
	2. Go over questions and briefly go through results
	3. Use for preliminary report to Council during TWS, use for gauging long term success of program and for report to complete at the end of 2013
	4. About 15 emails bounced back -- need to track down these students
4. Sent Wini "talking points" for TWS Council meeting on last Friday
	1. Only had ~5mins for her to present the material
	2. Go over document and main talking points
	3. No WG members were present
	4. Found out last minute that they had us on the agenda
	5. Heathers Map was AWESOME!!!
5. Other ideas/comments
	1. Improve mentorship program -- potentially one of the most valuable parts of program, have these mentors be in charge of following up on a more personal level, keeping contact with the students, etc. Have templates for mentors/mentees, etc.
	2. Working closely with Nate (serve as Alaska contact for PD program -- he's actively advocating for our program)
	3. Contact past recipients for potential donations??
	4. Video was a big success :) Take video at the conference next year
6. My concerns:
	1. Fundraising and program coordination are enough for 2 people
	2. TWS is having their own funding crisis right now
	3. Goal of starting an endowment is heavy task
	4. Set up list of funders through google docs excel spreadsheet
7. Cami said she could write a letter for the program.
8. Program costs
	1. Want to maintain program from 10-20 students, annual basis of $20-30k per year. Struggling with trade-off between doing short term vs long term endowment. Most towards larger endowment fund.
	2. Have students selected in the fall and have them help out during the summer and it culminates at the TWS conference. They could have work to present at TWS. Expand professional development program.
	3. More feasible to bring them to TWS and expose them first. May be too much to commit too.
	4. Need funds identified a year in advance. Logistical issues from expanding program. Can consider this once we get program running again.

**Approval of Minutes from 2012 meeting**

Approved by Michel and Heather

**Financial Report**

Oct 1, 2012 Balance....................................................................................................... $1,117.68

Oct 8, 2013 Current Balance...........................................................................................$1,188.57

TOTAL INCOME from Oct 1, 2012 to Oct 8, 2013..................................................................$571.95

 Tshirt sales and sticker donations at TWS conference

 Membership fees Q3 2012-Q2 2013

TOTAL EXPENSES from Oct 1, 2012 to Oct 8, 2013 .............................................................. $501.06

 Shipping fee reimbursements thought-out the year

 TWS booth fees

 1000 WG stickers

 Wifi fee for TWS meeting

Consider using Wells Fargo for the next Sec/Treas.

Heather got $4k from their tribe for PD program, don't have the strict rules.

**2014 Symposium planning:**

always have so many ideas about what to do at the conference. Good exposure for working group, excellent opportunity for the students to attend it. Next year in Pittsburgh, if there are suggestions or ideas. May be a more difficult dynamic.

2006 was Heather's first conference and first time seeing the symposium. Expose people outside of Indian Country.

Pat Zollener -- perhaps professional development program is old enough that could focus on PD participants Where are they now? Synthesis opportunity to look back over PD program and look forward. Need a bigger prospective on it. Tribal wildlife from a continental scale. Not place based but program based. Most beneficial symposium for incoming program recipients. Their main goal focuses on diversity.

1. Background and overview of PD program
2. Serra, Melissa, Seafha, Tania, Cami, Lia, Hoku.
3. Other minority groups, what does it mean to be a minority in this field and what does that perspective bring to you as a biologist. What TWS programming can facilitate that? Have KEN speak, what is the society doing to improve diversity?
4. Benefit to increasing diversity, why does diversity benefit them, the society and the natural resources. Find individuals who have made unique contributions who have made large contributions to field,
5. Dana Sanchez (minority grad students) actively involved in recruiting minority students. Bring people like this.

Michel met with Ethnic and Gender Diversity Working Group following our meeting to discuss potential for a symposium collaboration … Was really well received.

Field trip in Winipeg? Local perspective.

**Meeting of the Working Groups.**

Large disconnect between working groups and council. Probably going to be an annual meeting to increase collaboration and communication across working groups. Working group meetings overlap (NPWMWG meeting always overlaps with student WG). Restructure how working groups are organized in TWS. Establish liaison for working groups. Not a lot of membership insights into TWS policy statements. It's a way to improve communication among working groups. 26 working groups and about 14-15 were represented.

**Other**

Suggested that we move our documents to an electronic server (new TWS portal or dropbox), makes it easy for transitioning officers. Probably only open to officers.

Paige: gift for her dedication to the working group

Pat, Michel, Heather closed the meeting.

Serra calling for nominations for new TWS Vice President. Looking for nominations with a keen interest in Native issues, supporting PD program, etc. If you have any potential candidates please send them our way! Thanks!