**The Wildlife Society®**

**Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group**

**MINUTES**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016**

**ATTENDEES**

 Tracy Rosenberg Michelle Ford Heather Jensen

 Ben Wishnek Paul Santavy Sandra Patrick

 Rachel Williams Bryan Kluever Gordon Long

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1. Call to Order

Paul Santavy called the meeting to order at 09:00 MT/11:00 EST

1. Accept Meeting Minutes from 03/09/2016 call.
	1. Motion to accept by Ben, seconded by Heather. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Call for new agenda items:
	1. No new agenda items.
3. Vacant Board Seats
	1. No responses to call to fill vacant positions.
4. Update - National Conference
	1. 2016 Rachel and Sandy are attending the conference. Sandy will be doing a poster presentation. Rachel is planning to attend the business meeting and Sandy will attend if she’s able.
	2. Travel Grants: Brian advocated for having a committee to help organize and implement the grant process. Michelle stated that we have roughly $3,000 in the account. Group decided that it wasn’t too late and, after some discussion, the following was decided that the grant should:
		1. Be all inclusive and open to students and professionals alike.
		2. Be advertised as one or more grants and dispersal will depend on applications and award amount.
		3. Brian will draft an announcement within the week for the group to review.
		4. Ben, Heather, Sandy and Rachel offered to help with the grant process.
	3. 2017, Ideas for symposium: Paul reiterated interest in prairie bison restoration symposium and has been working on finding sponsorships. Discussion on selection of prairie bison and their restoration versus other topics such as horses and burros and forest mortality. Decided for now to continue with the symposium focused on prairie bison restoration. Tree mortality is a good potential topic for a 2018 symposium. Also, Ben will be leading an effort to explore doing a field trip to Bosque del Apache NWR during the 2017 conference.
5. Treasurer/Secretary Report – Michelle Ford
	1. Bank Account update: Account is established at Wells Fargo with approximately $750. Expecting an additional $80 from TWS in mid-July and Jessie should be mailing the check with the roll-over amount shortly for $2,261.49
	2. Tax reporting experience: Positive experience and all documents filed successfully
6. Contact from the Forestry and Wildlife Work Group for shared symposia
	1. Paul has been in touch with a representative from the Forestry Working Group and is interested in partnering with the WHRWG and another WG for a symposium centered around forest ecosystems. The soonest we could likely take this on is 2018 and Gordon and Sandy will keep in contact with the rep. from the Forestry WG. Paul will forward his contact information along.
7. Website/Social medial:
	1. Website looks good.
	2. Email: Issues centered around the email list and how to easily set up a WG email list that can handle the mass mailing. Rachel explained that the gmail account kept kicking the email back as spam due to the number of addresses on the list. Bryan will discuss with Mariah if there’s a way to email the list through TWS or otherwise through gmail. Paul to assist and give access to the account.
8. The Wildlife Professional cover story: Paul submitted the idea for Bison Restoration as a cover story and TWS already had that as a cover story but was excited that the WG was interested in supporting those efforts.
9. Update – Member Spotlight: No changes. Anyone interested in reinvigorating the member spotlight which would go on the website, Facebook and email. Rachel stated that the idea was to engage members regularly without having to do a full newsletter. Rachel advocates for some form of regular engagement with members whether its member spotlight or otherwise and Sandy asked that it be added to the next agenda. No member wants to take on the member spotlight at this time. The current ones will remain on the website and we can revive this in the future. Rachel stated that they are not too time consuming but it’s difficult to find someone to stick with it. Paul asks for the board members to go to the website and check out the existing member spotlights and see if anyone is interested in reinvigorating this effort.
10. Ideas for other value-added projects and services for the workgroup: Members to think about for next meeting.
11. Additional items: Ben asked the date for the next conference call. Rachel stated there are no requirements but in the past had done quarterly. Next call to be set up for August and Paul will set up a doodle poll after July 4.