



Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Annual Spring 2017 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 8th, 2017, 12 PM to 1:30 PM
at the Cross Insurance Center
515 Main Street, Bangor Maine 04401



Executive Board Members

President – Kara Moody
President Elect – Katelin Craven
Past President – Mao Lin
Secretary/Treasurer – Laura Berube
Board Member at Large – Steve Pelletier
University of Maine Student Representative – Valerie Watson

To be added to Executive Board when Bylaws are approved

2nd Board Member at Large – Sarah Boyden
Conservation Affairs Chair – Rodney Kelshaw
Unity College Student Representative – Madison Crane

Business meeting:

- President Kara Moody introduced the agenda.
- Secretary/Treasurer Laura Berube explained the fall 2016 minutes had been distributed after the fall meeting. No discussion over minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by majority.
- Kara Moody provided the Presidents report. Kara gave a big thank you to everyone who helped plan the joint spring meeting with the New England Society of American Forester's (Maine Division) and Northeast Forest Pest Council, in particular, Steve Pelletier, Sarah Boyden, and Dale Knapp. Steve Pelletier thanked Kara for her help and explained that the group meeting had a lot of value but we can use this experience to help make other group meeting planning go smoother in the future. For instance a lesson learned: it would be extremely beneficial to be involved with the planning from the start.
- Kara explained that METWS and IFW members including, Mao Lin, Kara, Sarah Spencer, Judy Camuso, and Jim Connolly, had met to discuss what METWS can offer to IFW and its employees and to discuss ways to engage IFW employees in METWS and encourage them to become active members. Discussed that it may be a good idea to coordinate METWS meetings with IFW meetings. Explained that METWS is a good resource for wildlife position statements. Jim Connolly said they would discuss METWS membership at their next IFW meeting. Discussed that not all wildlife professionals in Maine are members. It is difficult to reach out to people since we only have our Facebook Page, website, and word of mouth. It may be a good idea to generate an email list for wildlife folks who aren't members to send emails to in the hopes that they may want to become members. We could offer Professional Development and Continuing Education Credits for attendance to our meetings. We can continue to explain why becoming a CWB or AWB is beneficial to professionals.
- Kara explained that Mao had updated the bylaws with the changes that METWS had previously voted on. Next steps are for Kara to review and provide the bylaws to National so that they can approve them, then we can vote on them a final time as a Chapter.
- Kara explained that the board had voted on changing the auditing period from June 1 to May 31 to coincide with the calendar year instead.

- Laura Berube provided the Treasurer's report. Adam Vashon asked if our Vanguard accounts were stable. Wende Mahaney said she would review during the next auditing period. The report was voted on and approved.
- Wende Mahaney provided the Audit Report and explained there had been no discrepancies during the auditing report in July. Some receipts were missing but nothing besides that. Wende seconded that the auditing report period would be for the calendar year so they would do a mini auditing report for July 1 –Dec. 31, 2016 for now. Then the next one would be for the 2017 calendar year. Jerry Longcore mentioned again that part of the reason we do the audit in the middle of the year may be because were a new Treasurer to be instated following the Annual meeting (normally held in April) then the books and audit would all be in order before the new Treasurer took office. Laura explained that if we moved the audit so that it occurs in January and covered finances from Jan 1 to Dec 31, then the audit would be in order before the new Treasurer took office. The new Treasurer would then be responsible for approximately 4 months of finances for when they were not in office, opposed to nearly the full 12 months of finances from when the previous Treasurer was in office.
- Cathy Elliot provided the Awards Committee report. She explained the committee could use some younger folks which could help the committee get to know younger candidates. She explained that all their work is completed between January and April and it's all done through conference calls and emails. The committee received 3 nominations for this year's awards, the most ever! She explained that all 4 awards were being presented this year, during the conference on the following day. The Award for Professional Achievement will be presented to Charlie Todd, the Award for Meritorious Service to Lauren Gilpatrick, the Award for Student Recognition to Kyle Shute, and the Award of Recognition to Annie Kassler. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to all board members. Cathy explained that \$1,000 from the student award fund was awarded to the UMaine student chapter for its travel to Halifax for the TWS student conclave this year.
- Rod Kelshaw presented the Conservation Affairs Committee Report. Explained that the goal of the committee was to support TWS objectives. The board voted for a No-Go decision to provide a position statement on LD5 which would exclude wildlife issues from citizen's initiatives (like bear trapping). Though METWS believes IFW biologists are best equipped to make these science based decisions, we also don't want to take rights away from the citizens, which is why the board voted to not move forward with this issue, basically the issue is too political. There was enough feeling from the membership present at the business meeting that we should be involved in this Legislative Decision that we decided to create a doodle poll for the membership to vote on our involvement with LD5. We would also provide information on the issue when we send the email to the membership with the location of the doodle pole.
- Rod said the committee is also keeping its eye on LD399 (updating Maine's Environmental Laws), LDs for Maine's Mining Laws, President Trump's review of the National Waters of the U. S. Rule, and House Rule 861 (to terminate the EPA by 2018!).
- Barry Burgason suggested Rod get on the IFW weekly email list for legislative issues that can affect IFW.
- Sarah Spencer provided the Membership Committee Report. We have 115 members as of March 1st. Thirty-six are just members of METWS and 79 are members of both METWS and National TWS. Sarah will look to see who are members of National TWS but aren't members of METWS. Sarah mentioned we have 27 CWBs in Maine and only 5 are members of METWS. Sarah

welcomes people to join the committee with her, Adam Vashon has voiced before that he may want to join the committee.

- Kara provided the UMaine Student Chapter report on behalf of Val Watson who couldn't make the meeting. Val wanted to give a big thanks to METWS for the student award.
- Madison Crane provided the Unity Student Chapter report and announced that she would be graduating in May (congrats Maddie!) but that someone great was lined up to take over as Unity Student representative.
- Kara talked about unfinished business. Explained that she had read our Strategic Plan but that we would be pushing off deciding what to do with it, for another few months.
- Kara discussed new business. She explained that the Programs Committee now had zero members since Justin Sweitzer has moved out of state, so the committee needs a new Chair. Kara also suggested that it would be good to have student representatives on this committee to have them involved.
- Kara suggested that we should consider occasionally coordinating with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) on meetings and/or special programs. For example, if they were to hold a workshop on a wildlife-related topic, it would be good for METWS to be in the loop and potentially co-host.
- Kara suggested that we discuss the length of the President's term. Currently it feels like you finally get a grasp on things and then your term is up after just 1 year. Kara thinks that it could be in the best interest of the Chapter to consider extending the presidency to a 2-year term. Jerry Longcore suggested that the president-elect should be super involved during their 1 year term so they feel like they already have a good grasp on things when they become president. He also suggested that the past-president should be super involved as well so really it is like a tri-fecta, all 3 should be acting together. He suggested it could be worth creating an ad hoc committee to think about it. Cathy Elliot suggested that the president's term be thought of as three years, pres-elect, acting pres, and past-pres. She suggested we could think about having the President's term be 2 years and have no past-president. Steve Pelletier commented that there are very few meetings and learning opportunities for the pres-elect to be involved in. Kara suggested that the pres-elect (and past president) could be required to be on a committee which would make them more involved. Mark McCollough suggested the Pres-elect be the Programs Committee Chair. Cathy suggested that having the past-president on the awards committee would be beautiful! Since they have been around for two years. Sarah Spencer mentioned that the bylaws say you can be elected a second year.
- Kara introduced our new President, Katelin Craven, and Katelin introduced our new President-elect, Sarah Spencer!