



Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Spring 2018 Business Meeting Minutes

Monday April 2, 2018 at the Fields Pond Audubon Center, Holden ME

Executive Board Members

President – Katelin Craven

President Elect – Sarah Spencer

Past President – Kara Moody

Secretary/Treasurer – Laura Berube

Board Member at Large – Steve Pelletier

University of Maine Student Representative – Valerie Watson (Ridge Osgood taking over after May 2018)

To be added to Ex. Board when Bylaws are approved:

2nd Board Member at Large – Sarah Boyden

3rd Board Member at Large – Mao Lin

Conservation Affairs Chair – Rodney Kelshaw

Unity College Student Representative – Rachel Ryzewicz

- President Katelin opened meeting with welcoming remarks.
- Secretary Laura reviewed the fall 2017 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with no updates.
- Katelin provided the President's Report. She went over the preliminary results of the questionnaire sent out to the membership to help answer questions to update and improve our Strategic Plan. Those who had already sent in answers were put in a raffle for a prize and Joe Wiley won the prize, a Trail Guide.
- Laura provided the Treasurer's Report which was approved. Membership discussed whether we need a savings account, since it earns very little in interest. Laura will look into a checking account that can earn interest and possibly combining our checking and savings accounts. She later mentioned that if anyone was interested in taking over Secretary/Treasurer duties, they are welcome! The new officer would have to be voted on by the membership.
- Wende Mahaney gave the Audit Committee Report. No discrepancies were found. Henning Stabins, also on the Committee, and Wende discussed our Vanguard investment account which currently has ~\$19k, which we use to provide the Student Award Fund each year. Cathy Elliot mentioned that it was established back in the 1980s. We believe it started around \$10K for the purpose of providing student support, and it seems to be doing well. Henning explained it is invested in 60% stocks and 40% bonds, is well diversified, and has a good earning record with 6.5% annual earnings over the past years. Henning explained the Audit Committee has no concerns with the Vanguard account.
- Cathy Elliot gave the Awards Committee Report. She explained more people on the committee would be great and said we received lots of nominations this year. No nominations this year or last for the student award, however. She explained the student award nomination has to come from a professor who knows the student.
- Rod Kelshaw gave the Conservation Affairs Report. He explained that we mailed a letter to Senators Collins & King and Representatives Pingree and Poliquin with our concerns and suggestions regarding the section of the Proposed Budget of the US Government for the fiscal year 2019 detailing the budget for the Department of the Interior. As a result, Rod shared the following quote From Mark Humpert who works at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in DC: "I have some good news to report. In the FY18 omnibus that was released last night, the bill includes a \$1M increase for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program all of which will go to apportionment funding. This is a result of your hard work and partners like NWF and TWS

who helped secure the support of over 200 members of Congress on the House and Senate Dear Colleague Letters last year.” He explained we are watching HR 861 which would terminate the Environmental Protection Agency, which has not happened yet. As Rod will be taking over duties as President-elect then President, he explained that the Conservation Affairs Committee needs new chair.

- Katelin gave the Programs Committee Report. She explained that the Happy Hours are working and attendance is good. Caroline Byrne will be new Programs Committee Chair and Katelin and Kara Moody will be members.
- Ridge Osgood gave the University of Maine Student Chapter Report. There are 32 members. They hosted a Children Wildlife Palooza with 3-10 year olds, 50 children total! The Student Chapter utilized the free fishing day provided by the State for ice fishing and participated in other activities.
- April 2nd was the first day back to school from spring break for Unity so no one was able to attend and no report was given.
- Katelin provided a report on unfinished business. She explained that a group of METWS members are working on updating the Strategic Plan and more people are welcome to help. There will be a second and then third meeting of this group to finalize the updated Plan.
- Sarah Spencer gave the Membership Committee Report. Membership remains at 102. She explained the number of METWS members also joining TWS has been increasing. Jerry Longcore challenged the Chapter and said that if we can get 50 new members by the fall meeting – they will all get free METWS hats!
- New Business: Sarah Spencer wants to send a poll out to figure out a best time and place to host a certification workshop for TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist which Jerry has offered to help with.
- Katelin announced that the new President-Elect, by vote, is Rodney Kelshaw. She then welcomed Sarah Spencer as the new President of METWS.
- Cathy Elliot began the Awards Ceremony:
 - Award of Recognition - Awarded to the Friends of Maine’s Coastal Islands (FOMCI). Linda Welch with the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge delivered the award and it was received by Charlie Walsh on behalf of FOMCI. Cathy suggested we host one of our meetings at FOMCI’s new Visitor Center.
 - Award of Meritorious Service.– Awarded to Dan McAuley with USGS, nominated by Ray Brown. Dan McAuley is a Woodcock specialist and was attending a woodcock conference and will receive his award at the fall meeting.
 - Award of Professional Achievement - which is the highest honor and is not given every year, was awarded to a surprised Beth Swartz (who was kept in the dark about it since she is on the Awards Committee as well). MaryEllen Wickett and Danielle D’Auria nominated her and delivered the award.
 - Each Board Member received a certification of appreciation.
- Adrienne Leppold with IFW explained that IFW just launched the Maine Bird Atlas, which is a 5 year effort. It will record the abundance and distribution of all breeding and over-wintering birds across Maine, and they are looking for volunteers!
- The Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony were followed by the Spring Program, with seven indoor presentations, and five outdoor stations all with a focus on wildlife capture, surveys, and tracking.