

Winter Business Meeting – Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society February 11, 2015, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

- I. Welcome by Karen Powers – formally called to order at 8:31
- II. Welcome guest speaker Ed Thompson, Chief Operating Officer, National TWS office
 - a. 5 year strategic plan – improve communication and attendance and cross-over with chapter, section and working group meetings. Integrate parent society with the groups
 - i. online presence improved
 1. 3 new articles every day at least on homepage
 2. Facebook, twitter and LinkedIn
 3. weekly eWildlifer,
 4. professionally hosted website for chapters and groups: supply them with the information and they will post it
 5. conservation affairs network;
 - ii. NEW: all presentations will be available online from conferences – 2 presentations every week, view and listen
 - iii. Wildlife Partners – free introductory membership (wildlife.org/wp)
 1. access to the two presentations a month
 2. two issues of TWS eNewsletters (targeted as professional or supporter)
 3. action alerts *need to tell Oikos group*
- III. VTTWS hosting Conclave, March 12-15, Smith mountain Lake - Chandler Eaglestone
 - i. Need volunteers for quiz bowl and first day set up
 - ii. Thanked VATWS for support - awarded \$1500 contribution from VATWS
 - iii. Email her at eaglestone@vt.edu if you want to volunteer
- IV. Election Balloting – president-elect, treasurer, member-at-large, student representative
- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer’s Report – Todd Fredericksen -
 - i. Account Status
 1. Checking = \$9,484.97
 2. Savings = \$8,362.51
 3. PayPal = \$6,778.20?
 4. Checks = \$1,081.36
 5. Total = \$25,707.04
 - ii. Still waiting on final bill for meeting which will come out of above total
 1. *Addendum: Total paid Hotel including \$500 deposit = \$8,255.92 (tljy 3/16/15)*
 - iii. Donated
 1. \$100 VA Conservation Network
 2. \$100 VA League of Conservation Voters
 3. \$1500 to conclave
 - b. Secretary’s Report – Tamara Johnstone-Yellin
 - i. 98 regular members, 31 student members
 - c. Committee Reports
 - i. Conservation Review – Nelson Lafon

1. See CRC notes below.
2. met 2/10/15 as a committee
 - a. Results of survey on issues for committee to address – all topics important to the chapter
 - b. Need to prioritize and select topic leaders – let's be proactive rather than reactive
3. Nelson looking to hand over chair within the next year
4. Ed Clark reported on status of TNR bill
- ii. Audit – Matt Knox/Jeff Trollinger
 1. No report
- iii. Awards (Ad Hoc) – Scott Klopfer
 1. 2015 Awards
 - a. Best Undergraduate Student Poster – Brenna Hyzy
 - b. Best Graduate Student Poster – A Katagoritis
 - c. Best Undergraduate Student Presentation – Kayla Tugan and Samantha Hannabass
 - d. Best Graduate Student Presentation – Dana Morin
 - e. VATWS Scholarship – Emily Ronis
 - f. A. Willis Robertson Award – Gene and Laura Goley
 - g. Henry S. Mosby Award – Scott Klopfer
 2. For next year better guidelines of criteria ahead of time
 3. Call for nominations for next year taken at any time – nominations are retained for 2 years
 4. Congrats again to all winners (Karen)
- iv. History/Archives – Karen Powers
 1. secretary box found
 - a. needs scanning of old docs – Scott Klopfer will scan and try to read floppy disk
 2. still have 3121 scanned documents from A. Willis Robertson
 - a. 1928-1933 correspondence
 - b. Natural Bridge will be working on a display on Conservation of Virginia. These documents may work well here.
 - c. Karen will submit write-up to National on Robertson letters
 3. Mike Fies – historical material at Verona office from beginning also needs to be scanned
 4. Suggestion that we use chapter funds to have all historical documents digitized.
- v. Student Chapters – VT and Radford
 1. VT – see above
 2. Radford – 8 new paying members – up to 30 now; went to wildlife techniques day at Tech, Hosting annual bio blitz in April,
 3. BC to join formal chapters to become involved despite low number precluding chapter formation
- vi. Other committee reports?
 1. none

VI. Old Business

- a. Request for participation on standing committees
 - i. No activity or leaders have departed from their positions/our Commonwealth: Membership (Amy C left) Education & Information,
 - ii. Communications (re-activate newsletter? Combine with education? Goals?)
 - 1. Are we actually using the website? Not much being posted
 - 2. Ed Thompson will work with Scott Klopfer to have national info fed into chapter site in addition to state news
 - 3. Social media – members need to share information on their own feeds
- VII. New Business
- a. Aaron Proctor – suggests changing date of state meeting
 - i. Crunch for DGIF to get travel authorization because of December holidays (20+ staff at DGIF)
 - ii. Need to get venue the numbers sooner
 - iii. Push off a week or two to 3rd or 4th week of February
 - 1. Last week not good for deer study group meetings
 - 2. Between 15th and 20th
 - 3. AFS meeting is 3rd week, would be a crunch – but maybe a joint meeting with AFS?
 - b. Nancy Montcrief, curator of mammals at
 - i. VAS environmental symposium on May 21st at JMU, keynote Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources
 - 1. Snapshot update on the state of VA environment
 - 2. See VAS website meeting page for PDF announcement
- VIII. Other Announcement and Updates
- IX. Election Results
- a. Lauren Billodeaux = President elect
 - b. Todd Fredericksen = Treasurer
 - c. Marcella Kelly – Member at Large
 - d. Keifer Titus – Student representative
- X. Changing of the Presidents
- a. Change over to Aaron Proctor
 - b. Thanks to Karen for hard work this past year
- XI. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by President Aaron Proctor at 9:47

Conservation Review Committee

2014 Annual Report

Following are key activities and accomplishments of this committee since the Feb 2014 meeting.

We renewed our memberships to both the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) and Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VLCV).

The Committee continues to be involved in the Conservation Affairs Network, an initiative of National TWS Government Affairs Department formalized this year to enhance collaboration between state chapter conservation affair/review committees within each section of TWS. Our CRC chair will serve as a representative to the Southeastern Section CAC. We are awaiting more guidance from the SE CAC regarding opportunities to collaborate more.

The Committee drafted 4 letters, sent by the Chapter President, to:

- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) supporting the statewide prohibition of hunting over bait.
- The Virginia House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Subcommittee: Natural Resources to express opposition to HB 2343 (Game, game animals, and fur-bearing animals; DGIF to allow feeding of certain wildlife). The bill did not advance.
- The Virginia Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee to express opposition to SB 693 (Feral cats; trapping, neutering, and returning to site activity), SB 698 (Companion animal; surgical sterilization program, fund, penalty), and SB 699 (Community cat programs; localities to authorize operation of programs). One bill (SB 693) was carried forward as a modified bill and will be heard by the full Senate and awaits action by the House of Delegates.
- The Virginia House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Subcommittee: Agriculture to express opposition to HB 1586 (Community cat programs). The bill did not advance.

The Committee also sent an email and form letter template to members encouraging them to submit the letter to their legislators on the feral cat issue.

The Committee would like to thank Jeff Waldon and Ed Clark for testifying on behalf of our Chapter at House and Senate committee hearings on the above feeding and feral cat bills. This concerted effort significantly enhanced our efforts this year.

Submitted 2/10/15 by Nelson Lafon