

# 2017 Virginia Chapter Wildlife Society Meeting

## *February 23rd & 24<sup>th</sup> -- Blacksburg, Virginia*

Called to order at 8:59am by President-elect M. St. Germain

### **Old Business**

- 1) Conservation Affairs Committee (formerly Conservation Review Committee) (A. Proctor)
  - a) Nelson Lafon – now Southeastern CAC chair
  - b) Scott Klopfer – now VA CAC chair
    - i) Contact Scott if you want to be on CAC
    - ii) Also looking for representatives from the chapter to reach out to delegates in their districts.

### **New Business**

- 1) Listserv Issues – still having issues with everyone receiving the emails (A. Proctor)
  - a) Updated with membership lists, so if not renewed then fall off the list
  - b) Two groups – members and info list – info list is hard to maintain – for folks who just want info
  - c) Students – clarity on protocol on how to get students on list if only paying into school chapter.
- 2) Introducing Dr. Gray Anderson – hired as VDGIF’s Terrestrial Deputy Director (A. Proctor)
- 3) New toxicant for Feral Hogs approved by EPA – Kaput (A. Proctor)
  - a) 0.1% warfarin – approved in 18mo by EPA, consequences for mammals, T&E species and raptors
  - b) Motion to submit chapter letter against Kaput - unanimous approval
- 4) Archives (S. Klopfer)
  - a) Monika Mattson (Radford Student) scanning some Robertson papers and other chapter history.
  - b) Please submit any other materials to S. Klopfer.
  - c) Cannot be stored on national server. Need to decide how to disseminate once scanning is complete.
- 5) Communication with Student Groups (M. St. Germain)
  - a) President will continue to serve as liaison with student representative.
  - b) Christy Clark, Radford University – student rep for this year.
- 6) Predator Killing Contests in VA (D. Morin)
  - a) Press – lack of accuracy in press going out to the public.

- b) Scott will create subcommittee to work on fact sheet/talking points with accurate, scientific information on effects of predator control and return it to the chapter and the SE CAC (Nelson Lafon)
- 7) MidAtlantic Ocean Action Plan (K. Terwilliger)
  - a) K. Terwilliger will distribute to the plan
  - b) CAC to draft comment on plan.
- 8) Virginia Conservation Network and League of Conservation Voters memberships – vote to renew unanimous.
- 9) Mike Conner – SE Representative
  - a) Annual Meetings in Albuquerque NM (2017), Cleveland, OH (2018), and Reno, NV (2020); 50% attendees are students, encouraged to attend.
  - b) Please submit nominations of wildlife biologists and groups for awards.
  - c) SE section is largest section.
  - d) Membership benefits and news
    - i) Wildlife society journals now part of membership without price increase.
    - ii) Wildlife professional 6 issues per year instead of 4,
    - iii) Author survey coming out end of March.
    - iv) Give back program – opportunity to nominate someone to receive 6 mo membership in TWS.
  - e) Contact Mike Connor if need anything or want to see the section do something in particular.
- 10) Student reports
  - a) Heather Custer – Radford University chapter rutws@radford.edu
    - i) Bobwhite on the Brink documentary screening – Planetarium, 6pm 3/29, open to the public.
    - ii) Bioblitz – April 14-15<sup>th</sup>, open to public as well.
    - iii) Facebook page
  - b) Paige Crane – VP VA Tech Chapter – reporting on Tech and Radford events
    - i) Speakers from VA Tech and outside of Tech
    - ii) Field Trips/Workshops –winter hibernacula survey, hunter safety, elk trip Grundy VA, hikes, intro to archery, birding trips/workshops
    - iii) Game dinner
    - iv) Education and Outreach – mill mountain zoo, elementary schools,
    - v) Camera Trapping – every weekend of fall semester at Mountain Lake
    - vi) Mentorship Program started last spring.
    - vii) In the News on national website: public comment on pipeline EIS, bioblitz, game dinner
    - viii) Conclave at Mississippi State this year.
    - ix) Suggestions/Considerations
      - (1) More activity year round with VA TWS

- (2) More communication with state chapter, including volunteer opportunities and positions
- (3) Continued collaboration with Tech and Radford
- 11) Treasurer's Report (T. Frederickson)
  - a) Total \$27,844.62 in the bank before conference costs.
  - b) 2016: Beginning balance = \$16,307.47, Ending balance \$17,427.13
  - c) Meeting income: \$9,880.00 before costs and refunds.
  - d) Time to look into things the chapter can invest in. – suggestion from Andy Rosenberger
- 12) Secretary's Report (T. Johnstone-Yellin)
  - a) 157 members as of 2/17: 111 Professional, 46 Student
  - b) All minutes are posted on national website, including CAC reports.
- 13) Restoring America's Wildlife Act (D. Whitehurst)
  - i) Funding for all wildlife, non-game has been difficult to procure.
  - ii) National Blue Ribbon Panel
    - (1) \$1.3billion from oil and gas revenues paid to us govt. = \$26 million per year for all states to manage wildlife, will result in transformational change in state conservation.
    - (2) Introducing legislation this year to fund more research to avoid listing and allow business to continue, and improve public value and health benefits of getting outdoors.
  - iii) CAC is contacting state delegates and congress people to sponsor the bill
- 14) 2017 Meeting Awards
  - a) Undergraduate Poster: Brogan Holcombe, Runner up: Cameron Comer
  - b) Graduate Poster: Lauren Austin, Runner up: Laura Mengak
  - c) Undergraduate Paper: Allison Moser, Runner Up: Aylett Lipford
  - d) Graduate Paper: Christopher Rowe, Michael Muthersbaugh
  - e) Mosby Award: Becky Gwynn
  - f) Scholarship Award: Allison Moser
  - g) Robertson Award: Brian and Martha Murphy
- 15) Elections (D. Kocka)
  - a) President Elect: Faren Wolter
  - b) Treasurer: Shannon Bowling
  - c) Member at Large: Susan Jewel
  - d) Student Representative: Kristy Clark
- 16) 2018 Meeting, Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton – reached out for next year's event.
- 17) M. St. Germain – inaugurated as new president.

**Adjourned at 10:29am by President M. St. Germain**