

**VATWS Executive Committee Teleconference
November 3, 2014**

Attendees: *Lauren Billodeaux, Chandler Eaglestone, Todd Fredericksen, Tamara Johnstone-Yellin, Karen Powers, Aaron Proctor, Andrew Rosenberger*

Not Present: *Mark Ford*

President K. Powers called the meeting to order at 1:09pm.

Budget Requests

VA Tech requested funds from VATWS for Conclave, to be held on 12-15 March 2015. Currently, funding Conclave does not fall under any specific funding category in the VATWS Funding Protocol (approved 8/13/12). If moved upon in a meeting then can be funded without a vote from the full chapter. However, we did not vote on this at the last meeting, February 2014, only had a general feeling of support.

C. Eaglestone discussed the tentative budget submitted by the VA Tech student chapter:

- (1) \$62,000 income from registration
- (2) \$58,274 paid to 4-H
- (3) \$3726 remaining
- (4) \$4,000 loans
- (5) \$2,000 donations
- (6) Goal to raise \$15,000 from sponsors, restaurant agreements, advertising, etc.
- (7) Requesting maximum VATWS can offer in support.**

K. Powers reminded the ExComm that if the request is \$1,500 or less then there is no requirement for full chapter vote; the ExComm can make the decision under section IV.B.

The ExComm request the following from the student chapter by **December 1st** before a final funding decision:

- 1) Formal funding request (see notes below from the Funding Protocol)
- 2) Indicate where VATWS funds will be used to document to The Chapter.
- 3) Formal volunteer requests.

Suggestions from the ExComm for volunteers:

- 1) VDGIF Region 3 (Student chapter has reached out already.)
- 2) Soil and Water Conservation Districts – they ask for help each year for their Envirothon and may be willing to reciprocate this year.
- 3) Once we have the formal request in December we can target specific people for help.

From VATWS Funding Protocol (approved 8/13/12)

IV. Programs or projects that relate specifically to existing priorities established by chapter membership or by the Executive Board, based on membership input

B. Enhancing student involvement in the VATWS.

1. Student Travel Awards (up to \$500/student, not to exceed \$1,500 total, unless authorized by an approval from the VATWS membership at the annual meeting) intended to support the travel of an active member of the state or college/university chapter (graduate or undergraduate) or a team to a professional meeting or competition.
 - a). Must be enrolled in a Virginia university or college
 - b). Award winner must provide a summary of the event for the chapter newsletter and present a summary of the meeting attended at the winter VA TWS State Chapter meeting
 - c). Applicant must submit to the VA TWS Executive Committee:
 - (1) Meeting announcement with registration/attendance costs
 - (2) Abstract of talk/poster
 - (3) Cover letter of why they deserve the support
 - (4) Summary of all efforts made to raise funds for the event
 - (5) Letter of endorsement from TWS student chapter faculty rep or general faculty member (limited to 1 undergrad and 1 grad student per year per institution)

Payment options for memberships

T. Johnstone-Yellin has contacted Mariah Simmons, Wildlife Programs Coordinator of the national Wildlife Society about possible member management systems used by other small chapters. Waiting to hear back from her and will present options to the ExComm. Others supportive of complete digital system for membership and conference registration, particularly for agency employees that would use their purchasing cards.

Conference Update and Themes

A. Proctor updated the ExComm on the status of the meeting at Natural Bridge Hotel in February 2015.

T. Frederickson sent the deposit and confirmed the conference with Linda, Conference Services at Natural Bridge Hotel. A. Proctor will send out the latest itinerary and contract to the ExComm for review. Need to check in with Linda after the first of the year to confirm and finalize details. We will let her know the equipment required for the conference at that time.

Themes: A. Proctor summarized the theme (member suggesting topic) suggestions received from VATWS members as follows:

- 1) Ongoing wildlife research in Virginia (Marc Puckett, small game biologist, quail project) – current wildlife management research projects in VA
- 2) Completely open theme, or look for common themes from paper submissions and congregate ideas on the fly. (Scott Klopfer) – panel discussion can be informative but don't get a whole lot of open dialog afterward or a concrete direction for the Chapter. Instead of having a panel, see what common themes are presented in papers. Allows for more presentations if don't have the panel
- 3) Maximizing benefits of Virginia's privately-held conservation easements for wildlife objectives (Scott K.) – broad theme
- 4) Human-wildlife interactions and conflicts- wildlife rehabilitators, nuisance wildlife (our new conflict helpline), urban wildlife conflict, fertility control in cervids, feral cat/TNR issues, etc. Large topic so may have to truncate. (Jeff Trollinger)
- 5) Wildlife collision on highways and interstates (I-81, current I-64 VDOT wildlife camera/collision survey). (David Kocka)
- 6) Dominion Power's proposed natural gas pipeline, hot topic in western part of state. Potentially expand into demand for energy and utility needs, does this follow too closely with our theme from 2013? Too soon? (David Kocka)
- 7) Active Forestry: have we forgotten that most wildlife does not require or even utilize climax forests? (Steve Capel) – we don't do enough active forestry in VA and are there any species in VA that actually benefit from a climax forest?
- 8) Others? From our May 1 tour at Natural Bridge with Nelson, Karen, Andrew, and myself I proposed the idea of human-wildlife dimensions since it seems to be an ever-growing issue with wildlife management as a whole.

General Discussion on Themes ensued

ExComm agreed on Human Dimensions as a theme. The topic covers many issues listed in above topics, is important for students to get more exposure to these issues and will lead to more student participation, we recently addressed hunting over bait, coyotes, etc.

Panel Member Suggestions:

1. B. Donaldson, VDOT
2. Representative from Wildlife Services on the Wildlife Conflict Hotline
3. Nelson Lafon
4. Mark Duda, Responsive Management
5. Steve McMullin
6. Jim Parkhurst
7. Aaron Proctor, feral hogs

Word of caution from A. Rosenberger that we should make sure the panel presentation leads to general chapter discussion, chapter initiatives and products. We need to come up with a focus for the panel. Is this a general information presentation of what's occurring around VA or are we discussing what needs to be improved and potential roadblocks?

A. Proctor will create an outline of potential topics and proposed speakers, which he will share with the ExComm. This will help shape request for papers and posters and determine who we will invite as panel members. He will also come up with a list of goals for the discussion and product outcomes.

There was interest from the committee to also set a time for 10 minute updates from agencies on current projects and status. Invite one person per agency to update the Chapter.

Goals

1. Registration announcement by mid-December
2. Call for paper topics by mid-December
3. Draft agenda by mid-December
4. Abstracts submitted by mid-January
5. Close registration by mid-January

President K. Powers called the meeting to a close at 2:01pm

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara L. Johnstone-Yellin, Secretary