

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting
of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Tuesday, 3 November 2015
Asheville, NC**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Eric Pelren

The fall business meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of 2014 Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes were read by Mike Conner and unanimously approved.

III. Reports

SETWS Section Representative - Mike Conner gave the Section Representative report.

1. 5th International Wildlife Management Congress was held in Sapporo, Japan. It included a strong hunting and conservation theme. There were over 1,500 participants from over 40 countries.
2. Budget – tracking well. TWS improved net asset position by 21% and ended up fiscal year (now July – June) with \$211K surplus. This surplus is being used to shore up financial footing. \$2.5M budget for 2015-2016 with a goal of \$203K surplus. Council voted in Oct. to release \$385K for fiscal year based on TWS meeting financial targets.
3. TWS added new staff members (Chuck Shively, Development Director; Keith Norris, Government Affairs Director).
4. The Winnipeg Conference was a success with over 1,600 attendees. Next conference will be in our Section – Raleigh, NC – be prepared to help if asked. Darren Miller is the Program Committee Chair. The 2017 Conference will be held in Albuquerque and 2018 Conference in Baltimore. In 2019, there will be a Joint Conference in association with the American Fisheries Society in Reno.
5. Gary Potts is now President of TWS. He will focus on partnerships and agency involvement and this will be reflected at the Annual Conference.
6. This year's annual conference overlaps SEAFWA completely. This issue has been discussed and hopefully conflicts will be avoided in the future.
7. The Wildlife Professional will have 6 issues/year beginning in 2016 with no increase in cost.
8. The 1,000 raised over \$104,000 last year. Please consider contributing.

9. Currently there are over 9,800 members. Membership decline appears to be over and now emphasis will be on growing the membership. TWS plans to grow by 3% next year. A full 21% of TWS members are from the Southeastern Section. There is much opportunity to grow Section membership.
10. Tell nonmembers about the TWS Partners program. This is a free but restricted access to some member benefits. It can be accessed via the TWS website (www.wildlife.org/wildlifepartners).
11. Several SE section wildlifers received TWS awards – Eric Hellgren, SE Section Fellow; Bob Warren, Aldo Leopold Medal (2014), Randy Spencer (MS) – TWS Distinguished Service Award. Please nominate deserving colleagues for these awards. This is especially important given 2016 meeting in Raleigh. J. Ding Darling art award was approved by Council and TWS will need nominees.

Secretary/Treasurer - Mike Conner provided the account balance and informed membership that our audit suggested financials were in order. A complete finance report is attached as an appendix to the minutes. Mike pointed out that there was a declining trend in the financial report. Steve Rockwood reminded membership that \$2500.00 may be needed to pay SEAFWA for webpage design.

Audit Committee - Eric Pelren gave report. All is in order.

Associate Editor Wildlife – Eric Pelren provided report for James Martin. 35 manuscripts were submitted, 10 were withdrawn. 23 were accepted. Todd Steury will serve as the 2016 AE.

Student Awards – Eric Pelren reported for Andy Madison. Eric Pelren will announce winner at the awards banquet.

C. W. Watson Award – Eric Pelren reported for Craig Harper. Winner to be announced at the Awards Banquet.

Deer Committee – Eric Pelren reported for Steve Demarais. This year's SEDSG meeting was hosted by Arkansas Game and Fish with 327 registrants. Larry Castle received the Career Achievement Award. Lindsey Roberts, Texas A&M-Kingsville, won outstanding student presentation. The 2016 meeting will be held Feb 15 – 18 at Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC.

Endangered Species and Non-game Wildlife Committee – Jeanne Jones reported. She is trying to pull together a committee of specialists working on multiple taxa of non-game. See Jeanne or Darren Miller if interested in serving of this committee.

Fur Resources Committee- Colleen Olfenbuttel reported. Stated that a "Trapping Matters" workshop was offered at this year's SEAFWA. The Fur Resources Committee meets every year. Georgia will be hosting the next meeting.

Wetlands Wildlife Committee - Steve Rockwood reported. He encouraged students to attend committee meetings. He stated that the final BP settlement was approximately \$20B. The clean water act with new language defining wetlands was approved in August. Avian Flu was discovered in the Pacific and Central Flyways. The committee is watching for impacts on farming on refuges and suggests there will be a ban on GMOs and Neonicotinoids on refuges.

Editorial Advisory Board for The Wildlife Professional- Eric Pelren reported for Joe McGlincy. He has participated in numerous conference calls and has reviewed several papers. TWP will be going from 4 to 6 issues per year.

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee- Jeanne Jones gave report. She encouraged participation.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award- Eric Pelren reported for Chris DePerno. There were no nominees.

Publications Committee- Eric Pelren reported for John Staten. They reviewed 26 manuscripts and the best paper award will be announced at the awards banquet.

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster- Katie Edwards provided report. The SETWS website is live on TWS. Reiterated that Katie is staying on as newsletter editor/webmaster. Katie will provide updates to the website as needed.

TWP editorial advisory board Eric Pelren stated that TWP asked for a representative from each section to serve. Joe McGlincy agreed to serve as our SETWS member.

Membership Committee No report.

Nominating committee Mark Smith reported. Stated that we had an excellent slate of nominees.

Conservation affairs committee Eric Pelren reported for William Moore. A bylaws change is needed to make this an official committee. Darren Miller is working on a proposed change.

Susan Rupp suggested that we add a student representative to the SETWS Executive Board. Vanessa Lane added that perhaps each state could have a student representative to SETWS. Darren Miller said that we should encourage a student from the SE section to consider becoming a student representative to TWS Council.

Keith Norris described the Conservation Affairs Committees and Conservation Affairs Network. The overall purpose is to provide greater linkages between TWS, Sections, and Chapters.

SEAFWA Liaison Steve Rockwood reported. SEAFWA will be developing a webpage. He stated SETWS promised up to \$2500 in support if needed. He stated that there was much concern over the submission process with regard to abstracts and full papers.

Vanessa Lane suggest that SEAFWA registration should include a checkbox for those willing to serve as judges and that we could use survey monkey to help the Student Awards Chair coordinate judges.

Strategic Planning Eric Pelren reported. A skeleton framework is available on the internet. Please provide feedback. This will be passed on to Mark Smith for further action. Darren Miller suggested that this would be a great way for students to get involved at the section level.

IV. Other Business

Strategic Plan- Eric Pelren provided a template to Mark Smith for further action if needed.

Historic records- We have many boxes of records and some have been digitized. We may need to decide what is relevant to digitize and discard remaining records.

Bylaws- Darren Miller is working on suggested changes for bylaws. Once the Executive Board reviews these suggested changes, they will be announced to the membership for a vote.

Keith Norris explained the Wildlife Partners program. It is a mechanism to allow non-TWS members to experience some of the benefits of membership. He also announced that American University was providing discounts to TWS members. Finally, he mentioned that there were new certification guidelines that allowed for experience to substitute for shortfalls in coursework.

Colleen Olfenbuttel offered to answer questions regarding the 2016 TWS meeting in NC.

Darren Miller presented the Distinguished Service Award to Randy Spencer.

Election Results- Mark Smith announced that Billy Minser and Bruce Leopold served on the nominating committee. Voting ended November 2. Approximately 100 ballots were received. Mike Mengak is President Elect and Susan Rupp is Secretary-Treasurer.

Eric Pelren presented Darren Miller with an award for service as Southeastern Section Rep.

Eric Pelren presented Mike Conner with an award for service as SETWS Secretary-Treasurer

Eric Pelren gave Mark Smith the podium. Mark encouraged members to contact him if needed.

Mark Smith presented Eric Pelren with an award for service as Southeastern TWS President.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.