

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting
of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Wednesday, 19 October 2016
(Raleigh, NC)**

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Mark Smith

The fall business meeting was called to order at 10:30 am (Eastern)

II. Approval of Fall 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve, so moved.

III. Reports

Secretary/Treasurer – Susan Rupp provided the account balance and informed members that our financials were in order. The EB discussed a declining trend in the financial report. On April 12, 2016, a deposit was made for \$1856.00. Total Balance is currently \$10,504.50 (\$808 of it is WG money), but still needed to write check for \$1000 sponsorship for national meeting. Hunting, trapping, and conservation WG (HTC WG) still using account.

SETWS section representative - Mark Smith for Mike Conner gave the Section Representative report.

1. 1851 in attendance – 5th largest meeting in history
2. Starting in December, members can nominate someone to get free 6-month membership
3. All members will get free electronic subscription to all TWS journals.
4. TWS finances are doing well, 6-month “rainy day” fund
5. Mike made 3 visits to state chapters: TN, GA, FL; hopes to make more state visits this year
6. SE section members received several notable awards this year (Reggie Jackson, Steve Rockwood, Darren Miller, Mike Mengak)

Comment made that UGA came in first place, NC State placed second, Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College (ABAC) placed 4th in Student Quiz Bowl. Lots to be proud of.

Associate Editor for Wildlife – Todd Steury could not be here, 14 manuscripts submitted, 2 sent back with minor revision, 12 sent back (poor writing) with major revisions. Encourage folks to send in manuscripts. Submissions were down – may be due to overlap with SEAFWA. Hopefully will rebound. Dr. Mark Ford will be new AE for wildlife next year. We are in the process of revising guidelines for JSEAFWA – working on timelines and submission dates.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Mark Smith for Katie Edwards. Encourage states to make submissions. January, May, September newsletters went out. On average, ~560 – 625 members receive it (roughly ¼ of SE Section). Newsletter is usually ~40 pages. Please contact Katie for any website submissions.

Student Awards – No report

C. W. Watson Award – Award is always presented at SEAFWA each year.....very hush-hush. Best kept secret. The award this year went to John Fischer. Need to find a replacement for Craig Harper. It is a 3-year commitment. Craig will be rotating off.

Deer Committee – Mark Smith for Steve Demaris. 303 pre-registered. 45 abstract, 33 selected incl. 16 students. 19 posters with 16 student exhibitors. The Career Achievement Award was presented to J. Scott Osbourn. Best student awards were presented to Becky Shuman (University of Georgia) for presentation and Lindsey Phillips (Texas A&M – Kingsville) for poster. MDC will be hosting 2017 SE Deer Study Group (Feb. - March 1, 2017). The 2017 annual meeting will be hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation. Barbara Keller reported it will be held at the Hilton Frontenac in St. Louis during February 27- March 1. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Tennessee in 2018, Kentucky in 2019, and Alabama in 2020. Request to review “Captive Cervid” position statement because about to expire. Steve Shea will take over as Chair for Deer Committee after 2017 meeting.

Endangered Species and Non-Game Wildlife Committee – No report

Fur Resources Committee- Colleen Olfenbuttel reports. Had 30th annual meeting in Georgia in May for 3 days. Had 11 of 13 states represented and 13 guests including researchers on coyotes. Full-day session on coyotes. Four action items to approach SEAFWA with, but may need to discuss with SETWS:

- 1) In 2012, Directors in SE asked for recommendation on NUCOs regulations....presented recommendation in Dec. 2014, got stalled because of changes in leadership, recently sent over to directors of _____ for approval,
- 2) In 2013 asked by directors for recommendation for movement of rabies vector speciesfound out on Sunday that moving forward for approval of BMPs. Requested SETWS to look at and possibly endorse.
- 3) Muskrat population discussion since ~2006. Used to be highly desirable species to trap. Starting in 1980's there was a decline in trapper harvest....not due to decline in prices. A few years ago had joint meeting of NE and SE Furbearer Biologists. Looking at joint research. Muskrats are indicators for other species (e.g., river otters).
- 4) next meeting May 15 – 18, 2017 in Southern Pines, NC

Wetlands Wildlife Committee – Joint SEAFWA/SETWS. Steve Rockwood was here, but had to leave. At meeting, had several presentations (CWA, Farm Bill, wetland strategies, open discussion, Wetlands Center, etc.). Hosted special symposium

Editorial Advisory Board for The Wildlife Professional- No report

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee – No report

Wildlife Management Excellence Award- Chris DePerno provided update to EB. Not getting a lot of submissions. Encourage people to submit. Committee received one nomination.....more discussion on nomination is scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Publications Committee- Protocol document for JSEAFWA admissions – shooting to have draft copy for review/approval by SETWS before director's fall meeting. Dr. Pelren says in past conversations two documents: 1) guiding document for editors and 2) guiding document for contributors.....one and the same? Or two separate documents? Both need to be addressed.

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster- No report

TWP editorial advisory board - Joe McGlincy sent report. Editorial Advisory Board provides recommendations for content to TWP. Several conference calls regarding content. Has reviewed several papers for publication. Put in request in SE Section newsletter for submissions. TWP has gone to 6 issue/yr. Feel free to contact Joe or Nancy at headquarters with questions or comments.

Membership Committee - No report.

Nominating committee

- Distinguished Service Award – moving forward with nominating Steve Rockwood. Waiting for endorsement letters (May 20th), will put together packet after that and submit to us for vote. Needs to be to TWS national by June 1st. Surprised we didn't get any nominations. Nominations were due to section on May 1st. So we should not have issues with last minute nominations.
- TWS Fellows – have been notified and was announced in alumni newsletter. Mike Mengak and Darren Miller. Protocol for nominating individuals through sections will be brought up by Mike Conner at fall meeting. Procedural change? Probably not a by-laws change. Everyone tends to agree that the current process is probably not bad

Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) - Nelson Lafon is new chair and gave report. Has heard from 12 of 13 states; enthusiasm to be engaged. Some chapters still determining who is contact next steps will be developing a regular communication schedule, a committee structure, determining mutual conservation priorities, and collaborating to improve our chapters' and region's impact on these issues. Keith Norris has been very helpful. Only specific item addressed was a Georgia issue on feral swine. Provided documentation they believe has been helpful. Possible contribution of student chapters to CAC discussed; also brought up at CAN meeting yesterday. Maybe have a single contact in each state, then have students work through that person. Mark sends thanks on behalf of SETWS to William Moore for being chair of ad-hoc committee.

SEAFWA Liaison - Steve Rockwood. Website development proceeding forward.

Strategic Planning – By-laws changes....Mark contacted Darren to figure out the add-ins. Changing verbiage for where to hold business meeting.....but other changes by Darren that Mark does not fully understand.

IV. Other Business

Strategic records update – Eric Pelren reports. Billy Minser gave Eric Pelren 8 boxes, which he has since consolidated to 2 boxes. Did scan all newsletters in archives. Most everything else in digital format. Has been discussion with EB how to proceed forward with documenting records.

SETWS approval of University of Central OK Student Chapter – University has gone through initial steps to form chapter and sent to Mariah Simmons. Has been forwarded to SETWS. Next step is to seek approval from SETWS to become interim chapter for 3 years; progress will be monitored; then submitted for final approval. SETWS EB had a few questions that will be answered by Mariah before we call it to a vote.

SETWS representative to Certification Review Board – 3 year commitment, ~8 hours per month. Need to be CWB to serve. Expectations of a CRB member are to review and vote on applications, and participate on monthly conference calls (typically ~2 hours) to discuss the applications. CRB members also attend the annual TWS conference, and have a meeting during that conference (travel funds are available). Appointments last for 3 years (this appointment would be effective from October 2016-October 2019). Need to have person identified within next 3 weeks.

Awards – Steve Rockwood, Reggie Thackston, Darren Miller, Best student presentation and poster awards reviewed by Andy Madison. Best student paper review by Jessica Tegt and committee and was awarded to H. Tyler Pittman and David G. Kremetz for *“Efficacy of Landscape Scale Oak Woodland and Savanna Restoration in the Ozark Highlands of Arkansas”*

SE Section Student Chapter of the Year – Mark announced this year’s awardee: University of TN at Martin.

Other items: Western Carolina student chapter is celebrating 5 years. ABAC celebrating 10 year, UG celebrating 50 years next year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.