

NM TWS Board Meeting Notes for 8/25/2014

Meeting attendees: Brian Hanson, Dan Collins, Ginny Seamster, Jimmy Cain, Krysten Zummo

1. JAM

a. Workshops

- i. Piscicide training
AFS deals with organizing this workshop; we provide a room; they want two rooms – one for second workshop.
- ii. Wildlife restraint
Kerry Mower with NMDGF agreed to teach this.
- iii. LE workshop—Ginny
Current potential topics:
 1. Border violence (need to see if someone at AZGF can teach this).
 2. GIS workshop – use of phone apps and on-line GIS for wildlife law enforcement (see 1 pg proposal from GeoMattix that I sent out prior to the meeting).
 3. Social media – use of social media in case building (potential instructor from within NMDGF).
 - Brian offered to check in with Pat Vasco who is an instructor for region 5 at the federal training facility in Georgia. This is where federal enforcement officers get trained.
- iv. Using R –
Dr. David Daniel from NMSU will teach two workshops – one basic/introduction to R and one more advanced that will involve working with some datasets.
 1. Data sets needed—Ginny
Dr. Daniel needs ecological datasets that he can use in the more advanced/afternoon workshop. He thought a mixture of categorical and continuous variables would be good/more versatile in terms of the sorts of analyses that could be done. Jimmy- has some data that he thought might be good for the workshop; he can ask other people in the dept; Dan has data too.

b. Field Trips

- i. WSMR (remove from list)
- ii. Mgmt at Ladder Ranch or Armendaris Ranch (Ted Turner)
Visit Audubon, USFWS river restoration site above Leasburg (20 miles north Las Cruces)
- iii. Restoration at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park (south Las Cruces)

- WSMR – not sure if new security will be an issue? Krysten: Might be complicated because of background checks; need information well in advance and can take one month – or even longer - to do background checks. Bighorn sheep meeting – had WSMR field trip; have to submit background info and non-US citizens can't go. Doable – depends on how motivated we are to do it. No one objected to taking WSMR off the list.
- Haven't contacted anyone yet. Go with the Ladder Ranch and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park and see who says yes. State park does lots of rehab work- Brian thought they wouldn't have a problem working with the chapter. Ladder ranch – not sure if they have new manager; but probably not a problem for them to do a field trip – Brian went on field trip there long time ago.
- One idea was to put the field trips on the registration site and see which one was most popular/which one lots of people signed up for and decide based on that. Elise – has a draft web registration site; Jimmy tried registering and there were some problems. We could add field trips to the site but it will likely be hard to get people to go to the site early enough to get head count and judge interest ahead of time and still be able to plan the field trips.
- Some people on the call haven't really been on field trips at conferences; JAMs haven't really had field trips in a while. Field trips are in JAM manual but have not been done recently. 10 people were on a field trip that Brian went to – wasn't a big draw/very popular; maybe we shouldn't put too much effort into field trips.

c. Plenary Topics

- Have 2 hours for plenary.
- Last JAM had 4 talks and a panel discussion at end.
- E.g. 4 different cutting edge technologies for topic i.

i. New Technologies for Wildlife and Fish Population Assessments (this is the topic that was selected during the call)

- Change to be novel rather than new?
- Maybe find high powered consultants talk about it?
- Include some fisheries technologies in the mix.
- One way to think of it is new approaches to analyzing data that come from newer technologies/technologies that have been around for a while but were maybe originally used in other fields/for other things/in other ways – genetics (e.g. Melanie Culver)/isotopes/GPS/drones.
- Potentially take out focus on populations; could for example consider things like using remote sensing/aerial photos to determine river habitat.

- Could potentially include species range stuff in this topic/have one speaker that talks about species ranges/climate change if that is still of interest.
 - May be easier to get speakers for this topic since it is broader. A lot of people not nearby use “new technologies”/novel approaches for answering questions formerly used for other fields/questions.
 - Going with this topic will likely make more people happy/grab more people’s attention. If we went with one of the predation topics – if you’re not interested in predation – then maybe you’d also not be interested in attending the plenary?
 - Anyone object to going with new technologies? NO – go with this topic.
- ii. How does Predation Function In Wildlife and Fish Populations?
- iii. Predator/prey interactions and social issues such as lion/bighorn, coyotes, lions, and Mexican wolves
- Social issues included in this topic; need to include fish too? Removal of fish on San Juan river; talk about San Juan system?
 - Combine ii and iii into 1 topic - include ecological part of predator/prey interactions in iii – get rid of ii entirely.
 - E.g. Wolves re-introduced – riparian vegetation coming back – trophic cascades.
 - Are there people who can talk about this? One idea is Brian Miller – he was a scientist based at Wind River Ranch before it was turned into a National Wildlife Refuge. He gave a talk at NWR in Las Vegas about wolves/coyotes/small mammal dynamics in Yellowstone.
- iv. Species Ranges
1. Impact of drought: range expansion and contraction, are ranges shifting from continuous distribution of species to discontinuous
 2. Adaptation and landscape genetics of species on their range edges (leading and following) versus core
 3. How do biologists even determine a species range
 4. Why a range map has big implications for management, whether it's T&E work or it's black bear management
- Leland Pierce’s suggestion.
 - Great topic but who could we get to talk for 3 hours on it?
 - Who’s working on these big issues? Some ideas - Science center Ft Collins – Janet Ruth – climate change/large landscapes; LCC folks? Some work has been done with breeding bird surveys. Ken Boykin and his work with GAP is relevant; Ginny’s current research project is relevant.
 - Climate change analyses - not always data driven? Some of the Prairie Chicken researchers have on the ground data. Maybe eliminate climate

change and just look at how you determine species ranges/address the issue of what is the best way to determine species ranges.

- First two topics seem easier/more doable than this one. People who work with species ranges are often at bigger universities/international; getting them here might be difficult/more expensive.

d. **Farleys**—lunch during workshops—Ginny

- Might be good to have something set up with Farleys (restaurant across the street from Hotel Encanto)- at least tell them they may get upwards of 20-25 people for lunch – especially on the day of the workshops.
- Other than the restaurant in Hotel Encanto – Farleys is the closest sit down restaurant; all other nearby places are chains/fast food. Maybe we don't need to do more than alert them to the fact that we are having the JAM. People expect to be on their own for getting lunch during the workshops; give Farleys a heads up and let attendees know it is the closest restaurant. If JAM attendees identify themselves as such maybe able to get them served faster/improve the turn around time. We can think about having a limited menu – have participants fill out form/turn it in on the day of the workshops – make turn around faster for workshop participants. Ask Dr. Daniel for phone number for his contact there – Ginny will set this up.

e. **Still need volunteers for:**

- Board members need to sign up for leading the following committees...especially those board members who have yet to volunteer for any aspect of JAM.
- i. Contacting/making arrangement for vendors – Brian volunteered to work on this.
- Best vendor Jimmy's seen in the past was one who was selling natural history books.
 - Contact vendors - see if anyone interested/if they're willing to travel. There are for example multiple LE-type vendors that are not based in AZ/NM that might be of interest for LE officers.
 - Vendors should pay \$60 for table; we don't pay for vendors/shouldn't pay for vendors to come to the JAM.
 - LE vendors? Help pull in LE people? Ginny's gotten some names of LE-type vendors but they are not in-state. The closest was a taser vendor based in AZ. Not sure if NMDGF has to go with a particular vendor/limited to a particular set of vendors or if LE officers can just purchase things on their own.
 - Had 4-5 vendors last JAM.

- Brian: See how national gets vendors interested in the national meeting and information on vendors that show up consistently and might be interested in coming to regional meeting. Also check out vendors that historically had a table at the JAM which are listed in the JAM manual.
 - Telonix (sp?) is based in Mesa.
 - How many vendors do we have room for? 6 max
 - Vendor numbers seem to have dropped; not sure how much of a service it is? Only thing Jimmy bought were books. Brian bought jewelry.
 - Vendors – won't give up on having them but Jimmy want someone else to step up to take charge (Brian volunteered). Potentially good way to draw LE in more; need workshops and other things to get them interested as well though – vendors alone won't do it.
- ii. Purchasing awards – **need volunteer for this**
 1. Student paper/poster
 2. Professional and new student award
 3. Photo contest
 - iii. Job Board and Message Board – **need volunteer for this**
2. **Update on bylaws revisions** – Bob (wasn't on call)
 3. **Update on awards nomination process** – Quentin (wasn't on call)
 4. **Newsletter—August**
 - Ryan Walker will finish up the newsletter soon.
 - Send anything to include in newsletter to Ryan (ryan.walker@state.nm.us) by August 31st (if you want it in the summer newsletter).
 5. **Bonfire Fund email about t-shirt design/sales—Ginny**
 - Ginny received email about Bonfire Fund (which was sent to board members following the conference call) – they work with non-profits/other groups to design t-shirt; set sales goal; they ship out t-shirts and split the profits with the non-profit. There is an option to donate more money in addition to the price of the t-shirt.
 - Brian likes idea of having chapter t-shirt. The chapter had a t-shirt in 2009 - someone put together design. They had a lot left over...but that's fine; they can be sold at next JAM/used for awards.
 - Do we want to make our own t-shirts instead of working with Bonfire Fund? Have them to sell/have them left over for use at a later time?
 - From the treasurers standpoint- having t-shirts readily available is better than working with Bonfire Funds.
 - Student chapter- do they have t-shirts?
 - Need to get someone to do a design if we want to do have/sell t-shirts; Ginny send out notice to membership – anyone want to design t-shirt?

6. Nominations for elections??

- Reach out now – try get nomination secured early – have had issues with getting nominees/people to run for positions in the past.
- President-elect will be open; secretary and treasurer should also be open as they've both been filled for two years running by the same people. Dan is however happy to stay on as treasurer or can pass on all the materials to someone else.
- Each position is for a year – except for president which is for 3 years. Brian was going to look at existing bylaws – see what the rules are in terms of restrictions on number of years running you can run for a position in a row and the amount of time you are signing up to be in that position.
- Ginny – potentially interested in running for president elect.

7. Other business

- Non-taxable certificate from tax and rev – save \$2,000 on taxes- related to Hotel Encanto.
- Brian wanted member numbers TX/NM ~ 113 people for NM.
- We'll be having monthly JAM meetings starting Sept. Jimmy will contact Lee and Bob to get ideas on things to cover for new technologies plenary theme; will ask Scott Carleon about doing a stable isotopes talk.
- \$25 per workshop for R- \$50 for whole day; do we want to allow Dr. Daniel to keep all of the workshop fees or do we want to split it between him and the chapter? Workshops probably won't generate a lot of money for the chapter? Does the teacher usually get all of the \$ from workshops? Good question for Ken Boykin. According to Brian it varies – if get chapter member to lead workshop – then keep money at chapter level; if bring in someone outside chapter- then they expect compensation for their time; grant writing workshop – last JAM – NMDGF ran it – Jean Higgins didn't get paid and there was no charge for the workshop....Wildlife restraint – Kerry doing the workshop in his official capacity – his time paid for through NMDGF? That registration fee stay with chapter; \$50 – would that cover laptop fee? Not have to have laptop for the workshop – so there shouldn't be a laptop fee- you can bring a laptop if you want.
- Originally we were going to increase contribution to student awards to \$350; AZ only increased to their contribution to \$250 so we'll only increase to \$250 as well – split between best poster and top 2 student presentations.

Action items:

- **All:** Send anything you want to go in the summer/August newsletter to Ryan Walker by August 31st.
- **All:** Send Jimmy ideas for plenary speakers (New Technologies for Wildlife and Fish Population Assessments) and vendors (including LE vendors) and any potential nominations for chapter awards (but don't fill out nomination forms yet since that application process is going to be revised).
- **All:** If you are interested in working on designing a t-shirt for the chapter or pursuing things with the Bonfire Fund (email that Ginny sent out following the meeting) please contact Ginny.
- **Brian:** Contact National TWS about vendors that consistently attend the National meeting and might be interested in attending the JAM (including LE vendors) and USFWS instructors at federal training center regarding current and other ideas for LE workshop topics. Look at bylaws for information on elections and amount of time officers can be/are expected to be in a given position.
- **Dan and Jimmy:** Send ecological datasets to Ginny to give to Dr. Daniel for the R workshop. Jimmy check with other people in the FWCE department for other datasets.
- **Ginny:** Get contact info for Amber at Farley's from Dr. Daniel and contact them about either setting up a limited menu that workshop participants can fill out or at least making them aware of the JAM and that they may have people from the JAM eating there, especially on the day of the workshops. Ask Ken Boykin about splitting of workshop fees and how that was handled at ABQ JAM.
- **Ginny:** Send out request for stuff for newsletter to membership – if want info to go out in August newsletter – send by end of the month; if OK with it going in next newsletter – then can wait/send after August 30th; also ask about people who are artistically inclined and interested in working with the chapter to design a t-shirt that we can sell at JAM and other places. Send out email from Bonfire Fund to the board.
- **Jimmy:** Send out email to vote on splitting cost of R workshop with David Daniel and about ideas for plenary speakers.