



Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

Board Meeting/Teleconference

September 2nd, 2015 – 13:00-14:30

Dial-in Number – 641-715-3580

Meeting ID / Access Code – 233-550-950

AGENDA

Meeting attendees: Dan Collins, Brian Hanson, Quentin Hays, Kristin Madden, Ginny Seamster, Krysten Zummo

Purpose: to discuss travel award, scholarship and professional/outstanding student award processes, receive updates on Southwest Section, Conservation Affairs Committee work, Joint Annual Meeting, etc.

Information/Discussion Items:

- **Update on Southwest Section**
 - Help with Conservation Affairs Committee
 - Hire a lobbyist? The Texas Chapter hired one and claims that it is relatively inexpensive. Perhaps we just help with expenses to send a CAC representative to important legislative sessions?

- Pay certain amount to lobby/engage issue chapter has interest in- there are already natural resource lobbyists present and you tie in to that.
 - Information on cost wasn't provided during the SWS call – they said it was affordable. It might be more affordable for TX since they are a larger chapter.
 - If there is a contentious issue – then help get Brian to Santa Fe to voice opinion instead of paying a lobbyist.
 - We got caught off guard this year on some issues – rancher elk tags as an example.
 - Bob knew about the elk tag issue but we didn't get complete information on it from him.
 - Rather see money go to a student than to a lobbyist.
- SWS will attempt to standardize newsletter dates so as to enable dissemination of interstate information and section to chapter information – this has been discussed before but no movement to date. The Southwest Section and Texas Chapter have the same issues we do with getting newsletters out on a regular schedule.
 - Firmer dates are likely to help in getting newsletters out more consistently.
 - Information exchange among newsletters- put information from AZ and TX in our newsletter- and visa versa- Quentin will let us know if he hears anything on that.
- Any thoughts about how the Southwest Section can provide better service to/help the Chapters? Especially in terms of engaging the CAC.
 - Help to provide structure for the CAC's at the state-level?
 - Maybe state-level stuff is different from what the section could support – there are local actions taken by counties and agencies that may not match up with what the section is connected to.
- **Update from Conservation Affairs Committee**
 - Letter sent to NMDGF on proposed changes to bear and mountain lion regulations on August 20th.

- Can distribute this letter to the Board or membership if deemed necessary?
- Key points included addressing potential concerns with the bear model and asking for some language to be clarified, and addressing incidental take under new cougar trapping regulations (in potential wolf areas)
- The committee obtained information in person and documents from NMDGF. The committee reviewed that information and provided comments – mostly on the bear model and a little on cougar trapping, including TWS’s position statement on trapping. The committee pointed out that there are best management practices for trapping; indicated some trap types are less likely to cause harm than others; and that conservative application of the bear study results might be warranted. The committee applauded the department for applying more recent and science-based results to the process for revising the rule.
- Changes to harvest numbers vs. addressing whether the population is healthy/sustainable- is it increasing/decreasing – department needs to start thinking about the overall population and not just focusing on the harvest numbers.
- Was it a good process? Could our comments have impacted the rule? Seems like we need to provide information earlier. Good that we put something together/still useful even if it didn’t change the process. If we can identify issues earlier- likely be more effective.
- Having a standard operating procedure for the CAC would also be helpful in terms of being able to respond to comments efficiently – tell people how much lead time we need and what kind of information we need. Maybe select one or two items we want to focus on early on and go with those rather than responding to last minute requests where we can’t provide thorough or timely responses.
- The take down of the rule from the NMDGF website/process on the game and fish end didn’t help with the timing issue.
- We could include the letter in the newsletter- get the word out about it. Put on website and send out in the newsletter.

Maybe include a portion of it in the newsletter. ½ page summary – put in a CAC update page/section in the newsletter.

- **Update on the SWS Geospatial Advisory Committee – Ginny...**
 - Will send out information on two upcoming webinars when we have those scheduled – one will deal with acquiring and processing climate data and issues with those datasets, including issues related to modeling climate in the southwestern US- this will be in late October and will be given by a researcher at the University of Arizona. Later in the year we're looking to have a webinar where there will be multiple speakers including one from the Western Regional Partnership – they have a web-based mapping application that provides access to many spatial datasets relevant to the southwestern US. We may also try to identify a speaker on fish-related mobile apps.
 - The committee also wants to support a GIS-related workshop at the state-level meetings in AZ/NM/TX – we could either devise a new workshop or assist with planning one of the GIS-related workshops already identified for 2016 JAM. Arizona has a lot of participants in the JAM planning process. It may make sense for us just to have our name associated with a GIS- related workshop- they may not need as much man-power for this 2016 JAM.
 - We are definitely looking to grow participation in the committee – it is a good group but it is still small and we would like to see more attendance at the next webinars and improve advertisement for them.
- **Update on survey sent to Law Enforcement and how NMTWS can better serve their needs – Ginny...**
 - There are JAM workshop topics that might be of interest to LEOs based on the survey and it might be good to have a session for LE activities or at least a meeting/lunch for them. Might also be good to clarify what topics are covered in the descriptions of the oral presentations/technical sessions to indicate that they do cover topics that are of interest to LEOs (e.g., population biology, ecology and management; habitat restoration impacts on wildlife). We could also include information on law enforcement activities in our newsletter.

- Maybe not need to have a session for LE- maybe a round table discussion- open things up for questions- might have a better shot at engaging LEOs with something like that.
 - Maybe have law enforcement be the theme/key topic for a JAM
 - Mescalero conservation officers- tribal lands- there are other entities that do law enforcement- e.g. tribal/USFWS...
- **Update on changing officer positions – Ryan is leaving us for Idaho...**
 - James Pitman may be able to cover the newsletter and getting the summer newsletter out and Kristin has emailed James about that.
- **Update on Joint Annual Meeting hosted by AZTWS**
 - Meeting will take place in Flagstaff in 2016 – February 4th-6th
 - Still ongoing discussions about how to judge student papers, etc., despite demonstrated success using the new (Frey) system at JAM in Las Cruces (2015)
 - Nice that they have moved it from Pinetop. Best attended JAM ever was in Flagstaff. Weather may be pretty cold there though in February.
 - Quentin will help out with Quiz Bowl.
 - Jennifer Frey put together a good process for judging student talks- not necessarily something they will do in AZ; Fisheries will still abstain from that process- do their own thing. It would be nice if we were more integrated/did things consistently across meetings/years
 - Would be good to revamp the poster boards – everyone agreed on that. Might phase that in over time. AZ work on it for this JAM. If they come up with a plan/prices- Quentin will come back to the board to talk about it.
 - Made \$14,000 at JAM this year- seems like new boards is a good investment.
 - Are poster boards that costly? Maybe last longer if not ship back and forth between states all the time? Might be good for each chapter to have their own. Quentin has asked about that. \$3-500 dollars per board. 10-12 can be a lot of money.
 - AFS was most interested in it for the short-term. Also issue of where to store them. Traditionally they were stored at NMDGF in Santa Fe. 10 can take up a lot of room.

- Would like to see more professional/longer lasting boards.
- Ask parent society if they have something - if we could use the same thing that they use. Convention centers may provide boards for the parent society as is a bigger meeting/they go to bigger facilities.
- **Update on NMTWS one-day meeting**
 - No interest in a one-day meeting expressed by anyone
 - Several people pointed out the plan revisions underway by NMDGF and suggested it might not be a good year
 - There **will not** be a one-day meeting hosted by NMTWS this year
 - Was a good event several years ago when Leland and Renee helped put it on. Be careful in considering how much time it takes/how useful is for the membership.
 - Maybe just target LEO's and have it in Santa Fe – maybe do that in future.
- **Update on 2017 Annual Conference in Albuquerque**
 - No news from the Parent Society – will send an email asking for update or inquiring about how to help, etc.
 - Should be able to touch base with leadership in Winnipeg
 - Some people have indicated that they are interested in assisting with this.
 - Krysten Zummo will also be in Winnipeg.
 - Carol Chambers will be there- see about getting a meeting together with Carol and Karol about the 2017 conference.
- **Update on By-laws revision(s)**
 - By-laws were revised and approved (in part) in 2010
 - Further revisions were rejected by the Parent Society because of lack of voting member participation
 - Changes have occurred since then and more revisions need to be made including a new NM Student Chapter, etc.
 - Prepare a paper ballot for JAM to ensure sufficient member participation (with only 125 members we should be able to get by with 20% participation). Announce and hand out ballots in order to try and get participation up. 20 people fill out ballot should be pretty

good. Send out electronic stuff beforehand and have the hard copy of the ballot at the JAM.

- Kristin and Ginny could hand out ballots at NMDGF- try to help participation.
- May need to get approval from National first before sending out for voting. Quentin will check with Mariah on this/clarify the voting procedure.

- **Any other discussion items?**

- Funding request for upcoming conference. Kristin Madden is working with Kris Johnson to put on PJ symposium next spring. Steering committee may ask NM TWS for help with publishing proceedings of the symposium.

Action Items:

- Travel Award process revisions

- **Questions for the Board**

- 1) ***What should the annual budget for the travel award be?***

Perhaps somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1000-1500?
Should it vary in years that we host the JAM or when the Annual Conference is in the Southwest, etc.?

\$500 to each chapter in past few years- about \$1,000 total. We have enough money – that isn't the issue- being consistent is the issue. Have over \$50,000 in the bank right now. Money from national and membership would cover 1/3 to 1/2 of what spend on travel. \$1,500 per year seems reasonable.

- 2) ***Should NMTWS fund travel to non-TWS meetings?*** Perhaps taxa-specific meetings with justifiable relevance? Certainly not meetings of other societies with their own travel award process (like SCB, etc.).

Not fund travel to other societal meetings. If have money left over – then could use for other meetings- but focus on JAM and national. Focusing on supporting travel to TWS meetings is the consensus.

- 3) ***Should a certain portion of the annual budget be reserved specifically for the JAM?*** Does 50% or more sound like a reasonable percentage? More in years when we host JAM? What about set-asides for the Student Chapters in host or non-host years?

We need guidelines for how much they can apply for. \$220 to \$250 for student registration for National. National travel awards didn't fund complete attendance- max was \$700 for national travel awards. We can aim to pay for 1-2 annual conference registrations and save the rest for JAM. Divide between the two chapters? \$500 as baseline for each student chapter - if they apply for more, then we can see what the actual values are.

- 4) ***Should we fund only students who are presenting at the conference, or should we also consider funding attendees?*** Maybe we fund attendance by a given individual once, then ask that if the same individual applies again they must be presenting?

Important to support student chapters to attend JAM – support some students to go to National too. Put limit on what give for JAM but not for national? Make an application for national- require them to give a presentation? And keep current application/process of granting a lump sum for student chapters.

Could ask the chapters how much would it take to get 5-10 people to travel to National? How many people would be interested in going to national? Just president? Or president and someone else?

At ENMU Ruidoso – have an annual fundraising event.

President organizes that- fund goes to pay for president to go to annual conference. Also pays for student members- as many who can and will go – to go to JAM. Total expenses \$1,500 to get students to go to JAM last year from ENMU Ruidoso.

NMSU – fundraising not just go toward conferences. Participate in crane check stations- make money from those- help to get money to go places. Many times students do things on their own. Also apply for travel award. Not many from NMSU go to

annual conference; mostly NRCT participants are the ones who go to national.

Split the two- keep JAM travel award process how it is- student chapters get \$500 as long as send students – keep students engaged in regional stuff; different merit-based process for travel to National conference/larger meetings – e.g. western section. \$1,000 for JAM - \$500 per chapter; \$500 – enough to cover two student registrations for annual conference. Board can also award more or less depending on what is going on in a given year/what the applications look like.

5) ***Should we set annual and/or lifetime limits on travel awards for an individual?*** Annual limits definitely seem to make sense, but students might have important (i.e. different) research to present more than once...

6) ***Should we consider professional (non-student) travel awards?*** Professionals sometimes need to disseminate important findings (right away and can't wait to publish, etc.) and might lack departmental funds, etc. Should this be a separate pool or category or award process if so?

Need standard criteria for people to meet if we do this. Would need to increase the budget – say \$500 for attending national meeting. Could do something for NM TWS officers? Consensus is to want to fund budding professionals/graduate students and not go down this road at this point.

- Scholarship process revisions

- **Questions for the Board**

1) ***We need to develop a matrix to use to award scholarships – what should be considered and how should these considerations be weighted?*** It seems like GPA, contributions to the profession/science, and professional service should all be included. What weights should these receive? Perhaps 50% GPA, 40% contribution to the field and 10% other? Any input on how to assess contributions to the field? What about demonstrated need?

Quentin will send out a draft matrix on this. Get Elise to give input.

- 2) ***Should we have separate pools for graduate and undergraduate students or maybe even separate awards?*** The thinking here is that these are very different cohorts, particularly if you include undergraduate students at two-year institutions (80% of students who receive a four-year degree in NM attend a two-year institution along the way). Create a separate award for undergrads- \$250 or \$500.
- 3) ***Should we have a limit on how many times an individual may receive the scholarship?*** It makes sense that we shouldn't feel obligated to award a scholarship if there aren't any worthy candidates – what about awarding it to the same student repeatedly? What if this student moves from undergraduate to graduate, or from MS to PhD?
Often you can't apply for an award if you have received an award in a previous year. If received last year – then may receive lower consideration. Maybe account for it in the “need” portion of the evaluation. Could say that you will receive lower consideration if you have received funding in a previous year.
- 4) ***How do we create some sort of cut-off score for years when there aren't any deserving applicants?*** Perhaps we just use the rubric we develop above and create an actual cut-off score...

- Professional and Outstanding Student Awards

- **Questions for the Board**

- 1) ***Should we create a rubric for the Student Award?*** Perhaps something similar to the rubric we develop for the scholarship award? It seems like we need an objective way to judge students.
- 2) ***Should students only be eligible while they are enrolled at a NM institution, or should eligibility extend after graduation?*** It makes sense to extend eligibility at least one year post-graduation as the contributions may have been made during the student's final year.

Yes - this seems reasonable to consider them up to a year after graduation.

- 3) ***Should we separate the awards (in terms of how they are advertised, etc.) so that they can be disseminated more widely?*** It makes sense to have “separate” awards so that the professional award nomination paperwork can be passed around NMDGF while the student award nomination paperwork can be posted in FWCE at NMSU...
This sounds like a good idea too.

Action Items:

All: Share any ideas on what the SWS can do that might help the chapter with Quentin.

Ginny: Send summary of LEO survey to Colonel Griego and whether we can get a little more participation.

Ginny: Figure out how many NMDGF members of NM TWS are also members at National-level.

Ginny: Send out information on the GAC webinars once we've identified a time for those.

Kristin: Email James Pitman about newsletter and his ability to take that over.

Quentin: Will get the revisions to the awards, matrices for scoring award applications, and bylaws sorted out and share with the board.

Quentin: Get quote on lobbyist cost from TX TWS chapter.

Quentin: Contact Mariah and clarify the bylaw revision process- determine whether National needs to review the bylaw revisions before they go out to the membership.