

Northeast Section (NES) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) Meeting of the Executive Committee (ExComm)

April 7, 2013
Saratoga Springs, NY

Present: Mitch Hartley, President
John McDonald, Section Representative to Council
Eric Schrading, Secretary
Scott Williams, Treasurer
Shawn Haskell, Vice President
Tim Green, Bylaws Chair
Shannon Pederson, Program Manager, Subunits&Certification, TWS
Darryl Walter, Director of Marketing and Conferences, TWS
Tammy Colt, PA Chapter President
Samara Trusso, PA Chapter Secretary
Tom Serfass, Conservation Affairs Chair
Jim Cardoza, NE Chapter Representative
Jennifer Higbie, Awards Chair
Mike Fishman, NY Chapter President
Angie Berchelli, NY Chapter representative
Don Katnick, Maine Chapter representative

Call to Order: 1430

Introductions

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Scott Williams)
See attached pdf documents

Secretary's Report
Minutes for August 31, 2012 conference call approved

Standing Committees (all)

Standing committees remain but only one is functional (awards). There is a need for the audit committee to provide the appropriate checks and balances with financial statements maintained by the treasurer. In addition there is a need for the bylaws, nominating, and conservation affairs committees. However, the bylaws maintain these committees even though there are no currently serving chairs.

Mitch will check with Ken MacKenzie to see if there are members that can serve the audit committee and initiate an audit for the NE Section. At least two members will be needed.

Tim Green will reinitiate the nomination committee to identify candidates for office as well as looking for options to improve voting participation by members.

A motion was proposed and passed to activate the bylaws committee, chaired by Tim Green to relook at the bylaws to modify the committee articles based on those committees that are active and those that are non-active.

Student Issues

The field course is now in its 5th year in June in Vermont with 20 students attending. There is a need for new antennas for radio telemetry equipment. John McDonald identified the need for three new antennas for the field course. A motion was made to purchase three new YAGI antennas (\$300/each) for the field course and the motion passed.

The student conclave is being hosted in April 2013 in Connecticut. Tom Serfass indicated the difference between Northeast and Southeast Section conclaves is the level of participation by advisors (more at the Southeast Section). He suggested that advisors of student chapters be encouraged to participate. In addition, it may be worth assisting officers and advisors of the student chapter hosting the next Conclave to attend the next Southeast Section Conclave to see how they operate and identify opportunities to improve the Northeast Section Conclave.

There was a brief discussion about improving communication between the NE Section and the student conclaves. An Ad Hoc Committee of John McDonald and Tom Serfass will look into improving communication with Student Conclaves and issues associated with improving participation in Student Conclaves.

National Issues

The TWS budget is tight and approximately 10% cuts were taken in all departments. The primary focus has been to eliminate the past deficit. The TWS is falling behind on its publication revenue and is considering other options for revenue (e.g., having authors pay to publish or subscription based). The conference in Portland was a large success including the highest net income and the 3rd largest attended TWS conference.

The TWS national has dropped the discussion of unified membership where all TWS members pay one membership fee and are members nationally and their respective sections and chapters. Currently members can pick and choose whether to be members of national and/or Section and/or Chapter. Until unified membership is decided, TWS national would like to get membership lists from the Section and Chapters so that they can at least provide all members with emails and information about TWS national issues and membership opportunities.

Membership

The NE Section continues to need to communicate with Chapters and its members the value and efforts that it undertakes. The NE Section provides funding and organization for Student Conclaves, policy papers that cover multiple states, and supports Tech

Committees that are valuable to multiple States. However, as few as 50% of the members of chapters, are also members of the Section. This is in part, due to the options available on the TWS website to pick and choose what a member decides to be part of. Alaska is currently the only State chapter that requires all chapter members to also be members of National and the Section.

Mitch proposed that on a trial basis, the membership dues between Chapter and Section be merged to promote unified membership. Specifically, have the chapters collect the Chapter fee plus \$1 for the Section and therefore having one membership fee for the Chapter and Section. The motion was made to move forward with this unified membership and the motion was passed. The Section will propose this to the chapters for comment and evaluate whether the chapters are willing to move forward with this proposal on a trial basis. If the proposal is accepted, the Section bylaws may have to be changed regarding dues collection.

TWS Conference

The 2014 TWS conference will be in Pittsburgh, PA from October 25-29. Tammy Colt identified that committee people will be needed to cover conference organization and the Pennsylvania Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist. The next newsletter will send request for volunteers for specific committees. In addition, an email will be mailed to request volunteers for conference committees.

Overabundant Deer Position Statement

Scott Williams led a brief discussion on drafting a position statement on overabundant deer in the northeast. The Ex Comm agreed that it was valuable to move forward on the position statement. Scott agreed to draft the position statement for review by the Ex Comm of the NE Section as well as national TWS to ensure consistency with its policies.

Conservation Affairs

Tom Serfass led a discussion about communication from the NE Section from the Conservation Affairs committee and whether the committee had authority to sign letters from the NE Section or whether they had to be signed by the President of the Section. The Ex Comm agreed that the Conservation Affairs committee representative could sign the letters, but that the draft letters should be circulated to the Ex Comm of the Section for review and approval before sending them out.

Professional Development Grant

The PA Chapter provides \$1,000 as a professional development grant to student members to go to conferences or training that assists the student toward their TWS certification. The PA Chapter suggested that the Section consider a similar type of professional development grant. No decision was made about this issue, but the ExComm agreed to discuss the issue.

Nominations

Tim Green led a discussion about nominations. The NE Section is behind in elections of the President Elect. There is currently no nominating committee. So nominations for President Elect will be solicited by an email to all NE Section members and in the upcoming spring newsletter. The President Elect voting will hopefully occur over the summer and will be sworn in at the fall 2013 meeting.

Adjourn: 1720