

**TWS NE Section Executive Committee Teleconference
March 4, 2014 3:00 pm**

Attendees

Tim Green – Membership Chair
Dave Paulson – New England Chapter Rep
Mitch Hartley – NE Section President
Eric Schradling – NE Section Secretary
Mike Fishman – NY Chapter Rep
Shawn Haskell – NE Section VP
Stacy Carpenter – NE Section President-Elect
Scott Williams – NE Section Treasurer

New Student Chapter

We have received a petition to establish a Penn State University DuBois Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society. According to The Wildlife Society (TWS) bylaws, the Northeast Section must approve formation of any student chapter within its jurisdiction. Thus, I am writing to seek formal approval from the Northeast Section to establish this student chapter.

The petitioners have met the two basic requirements for formation, namely: (1) submission of a petition signed by ten members and an advisor who are voting members of TWS, and (2) preparation of draft bylaws that meet Society guidelines. Motion to approve the student chapter was made by Mike Fishman, seconded by Eric Schradling. Motion carries (all in favor).

Action Item: Mitch will notify National that this was approved (DONE)

Membership Dues Voting

An announcement regarding voting for proposed dues changes will be made in the March Wildlifer. National will also provide voting information for a NE Section National Representative. There were no objections.

Action Item: Mitch will send article to Katie Edwards by the March 10th deadline.

Awards

Several nominations came in for NE Section awards to Jennifer Higbie. Nominations went out to judges and will be determined by the NEAFWA conference.

Membership Survey

All members received the membership survey. Eric didn't initially suggest a due date on the section member survey, though some chapters did when they sent it out (e.g., PA chapter said "due end of March"). The NY, PA, NJ, and NE chapters sent out the membership survey request to their chapter members. Eric will follow-up with WV, MD-DE, and ME chapters regarding whether they notified their chapter members.

Action Item: Eric will send a reminder to all Section members & all state chapter reps, next Wednesday (March 12) and indicate the end of March target for survey completion

Student Conclave

Stacy will be attending the student conclave at Penn State. Paul Smith is interested in hosting the next student conclave. Mitch will forward their email to Stacey, so it can be discussed at the upcoming conclave this month. Kristen Zummo was coordinating conclave planning for the Section, but she has recently moved out to New Mexico, so we may need to get a new volunteer for this.

Action Item: Include agenda item to discuss possible new student chapter liaison at upcoming Annual meeting (NEAFWA in Portland, ME)

NEAFWA Conference

NEAFWA Conference starts April 13 in Maine. Meeting rooms are set. Student papers have 3 judges, but Scott is looking for additional judges. Scott, Mitch, Shawn, and Stacey will be there in person, as will Jennifer Higbie. Two folks will be calling in for the Exec Comm meeting on Sunday, April 13 from 2-6 pm (Tim and Eric). Mitch is requesting agenda items for the meeting. Agenda items to include are Bylaws update, update from Conservation Affairs (Tom Serfass). A general membership meeting on Monday, April 14 from 5-6 pm. Maine Chapter will likely join the NE Section at the general membership meeting.

Action Item: Eric will send call-in number when he gets confirmation that line is available.

Action Item: Mitch, Tim and Stacey will discuss possible Bylaw changes

Action Item: Mitch will check in with Tom, Terra, etc. to see about the policy network.

Link to the NEAFWA conference is: <http://www.neafwa.org/>

New Business - Archives

Northeast Section Archives needs to find a new and permanent home. Mitch has been holding onto these boxes, but has been getting pressure to dispose of them. Mike Fishman has an admin assistant that may be able to help get them scanned, if we wanted to keep the entire archive in a digital-only format. Mitch will email Mike and follow up on this. We discussed when/how we could transfer the physical files, and that could be done at the May Section field course, at the latest. No objections to getting rid of the paper. We did discuss checking with TWS National office about their interest in holding on to any of the most important documents. We will make sure National (and interested Section members) gets an opportunity to keep hardcopies if they want to. We would have to make sure we keep multiple copies of the archives in separate locations, to ensure the integrity of these documents indefinitely.

Action Item: Mitch will follow up with Mike to see about getting archives scanned

New Business - Elections

Shawn asked when the new officers and Section rep will start. New Section Rep will start after the Pittsburgh national TWS meeting (which will be John's last meeting). Our new Section officers will begin immediately after our annual business meeting, in Portland in April, where we will take a pro forma vote on each of them, since all are running unopposed.

Next Exec Comm Meeting

The next Exec Comm meeting will be at the NEAFWA conference on April 13, 2014.

The teleconference ended at 3:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Eric Schradung, TWS NE Section Secretary