

TWS Forestry & Wildlife Working Group (FWWG)
Meeting Notes
9/11/17 1pm ET

Action items are in bold.

- I. Introductions/In attendance
 - a. Current Board
 - i. Greg Corace (Chair; Applied Sciences Program, Seney NWR)
 - ii. Jenniffer Bakke (Secretary/Treasurer; Hancock Forest Management)
 - iii. Steven Castleberry (Board member; University of Georgia)
 - iv. Justin Vreeland (Board member; Pennsylvania Game Commission)
 - v. Kelly Douglass (E-newsletter editor; North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission)
 - vi. Shelby Weiss (Student Liaison, Ohio State University)
 - b. New Board
 - i. Krisha Faw (Chair; Nutter & Associates)
 - ii. Greg Corace (Past Chair)
 - iii. Kelly Douglass (Secretary/Treasurer; NC Wildlife Resources Commission)
 - iv. Jeff Larkin (Board member; Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
 - v. Scott Stoleson (Board member; USFS, Northern Research Station)

- II. Where have we been
 - a. Corace
 - i. He began term by drafting an excel sheet of priorities and the board ranked items. Six main items were identified as high priorities and a point person on the board was generally designated for each one (e.g., Vreeland took lead on creating a logo, Bakke on the website, Weiss on Facebook, Douglass on the newsletter).
 - ii. Accomplishments over the last two years have included outreach through the SAF interview article, a survey of the membership, drafting an article on perspectives in the profession, symposia and other meeting sponsorships at TWS Annual Conference and at local meetings, some funding success, and running an election.
 - b. Vreeland
 - i. Acknowledges that Bakke also created a Google Drive to house all WG documents (**Bakke will hand over the account info**)

for the Google Drive to Douglass and Douglass will extend invites to the new Board).

- c. Douglass
 - i. Identifies the FWWG Operating Manual as another accomplishment (two drafts are on the Google Drive). The operating manual provides guidance/procedures for various WG activities.
- d. Castleberry
 - i. Brings up the frequency of conference calls, which has been about 4-5 per year (once every 2.5 months) and has been adapted as needed based on priorities.
 - 1. Corace has provided the conference line thus far. **Douglass will provide a conference line moving forward.**
 - 2. Weiss has been responsible for drafting meeting notes that are then reviewed by Bakke and Corace before being posted to the website and Google Drive, usually by Bakke.

III. Where we are headed

- a. Two items from survey of note (round table)
 - i. Vreeland
 - 1. Is surprised by the low proportion of state agency members and wonders if this reflects a lack of interest from them. Sees potential for outreach to state agency employees in the future
 - 2. Notes that staying informed was rated the highest for motivation to join the WG.
 - ii. Castleberry
 - 1. Notes the lack of student members and thinks this could be improved.
 - 2. Notes that few respondents were involved in doing timber sales/direct forestry practices. Thinks the WG could work to engage this group more.
 - iii. Douglass
 - 1. Also notes the lack of student members and thinks this could be improved.
 - 2. Thinks that the WG is heading in the right direction in terms of addressing the member's desire to stay informed and participate in information exchange. Things that the WG can continue to use this survey as a guide.
 - iv. Bakke
 - 1. Also notes the lack of student members and thinks that students are underrepresented. Thinks it would be

- interesting to look at which colleges have forestry and wildlife as co-curricula.
2. Notes that facilitating information exchange was rated as a high priority.
- v. Weiss
 1. Also notes the lack of student involvement and thinks there is potential for more outreach in the future.
 2. Notes that members seem to have a strong desire to stay informed through the working group.
 - vi. Corace
 1. Notes that many members said they had a desire for changing forest management practices in their region, we should flesh this out more.
 2. Also notes that few members were forestry practitioners. Thinks this is a gap in the WG membership and would like to see if they can be more involved.
 - vii. Faw
 1. Notes that 75% selected networking as a motivation and thinks there's a potential to do this at the section and state levels.
 2. Notes that 60% had been motivated by a desire to contribute expertise on forestry and wildlife.
 3. Asks about Facebook and how many people are reached through Facebook.
 - a. Weiss answered that it is quite variable depending on the post. The last three posts ranged from 53- 643 (the 643 post had been shared and "liked" more).
 - viii. Larkin
 1. Notes the lack of representation by forestry practitioners.
 2. Notes that members were motivated by wanting to keep in touch with the profession.
 - ix. Stoleson
 1. Notes that 18% of respondents were involved in private industry. Thinks the WG could reach out to practitioners. Also noted low student membership.
 2. Notes members' motivation to stay informed on issues. Thinks that the role of the WG could be to be a clearinghouse on issues in forestry and wildlife.
 - b. Open discussion – insights from the old board, questions from the new board
 - i. Bakke
 1. Thinks the new Board should consider using a different membership database (e.g., wild apricot).

- ii. Vreeland
 - 1. Thinks that the new Board should revisit raising dues to help support future activities, such as workshops.
 - a. Corace notes that at the last annual meeting in North Carolina, members said that they would consider a raise in dues to \$10 if communication between the Board and the members improved; he thinks it has and suggests we move forward.
- iii. Douglass
 - 1. Notes that there was only 18% (~30 people) participation in the election so wants to explore ways of marketing it better in the future.
 - 2. Has been working with Bakke to move the bank account to an online bank, so that it will not be linked to any one location.
- iv. Castleberry
 - 1. Notes that the details on how to run the election were vague in the Charter. **He will provide more a specific guidance document for the future board to reference (including information on using SurveyMonkey).**
- v. Corace
 - 1. Notes that deadlines have helped keep the Board on track throughout the last two years.
- vi. Weiss
 - 1. For Facebook, she has been the point person to post things and other members of the Board were responsible for emailing her material to post. Thinks this is a useful way to run Facebook because the oneness is not on just one person to look up material to post. Thinks that the future Board could consider having more specific targets for #/Facebook posts each quarter, if they would like to continue growing Facebook.
- vii. Faw
 - 1. Asks that Corace send his contacts for people at National SAF.
 - a. **Corace will send contacts;** notes that the SAF wildlife WG is not active.
 - 2. At the Georgia chapter meeting, they were able to provide SAF credits, thinks they could consider doing the same for the WG.

IV. Annual Conference

- a. Corace cannot attend; **Castleberry will run the meeting, Corace will draft (Bakke send out to membership by 5 PM PT) invitation and agenda.**
- b. **Bakke will provide treasurer report to Castleberry.**
- c. Corace has sent the Annual Summary to Membership to the Board for feedback
 - i. This document contains a draft agenda for the annual meeting. **Faw will take over ~2/3rds of the way through the meeting, since she will be in attendance.**
- d. No refreshments this year and no audio-visual.
- e. **Castleberry and Faw will be the only Board members in attendance and will take care of the meeting notes (trading off).**
- f. **Faw will be responsible for distributing meeting notes from the Annual Meeting as her first action as Chair.**
 - i. Douglass requests that the notes be sent to her by Oct. 1 so that they can be included in the fall newsletter.

V. Closing remarks?

- a. Vreeland wanted to touch on the position statement as another priority the WG had
 - i. The TWS position statement on forestry and wildlife has lingered for a long time now.
 - ii. Corace has continued to remind the national office, but nothing has happened.
 - iii. Corace encourages the new Board to stay on it and keep reminding the national office.
- b. **Weiss will send draft meeting notes to Bakke and Corace by 5pm CT 9/13/17.**
- c. **Bakke will get meeting notes posted by Friday 5pm PT on Friday, 9/15/17 (sent along with invitation).**