

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

OHIO CHAPTER

Annual Meeting
February 1, 2013

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Mike Tonkovich

-Executive committee members present:

Mike Tonkovich	President
Andy Montoney	President-Elect
Chris Smith	Secretary
Scott Peters	Treasurer

II. Minutes from Fall Business Meeting, October 31, 2012

-President Tonkovich asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve minutes as presented, Allen Lea moved the motion, Craig Hicks seconded. The motion passed.

III. President's Report – Mike Tonkovich

-President Tonkovich reported that we had good attendance at the fall 2012 meeting and continuing education workshop. President Tonkovich also expressed his appreciation for the help from executive committee, the OCTWS membership and the speakers that made presentations at the fall meeting.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Scott Peters

-Treasurer Peters presented and submitted the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Peters stated that the fall meeting incurred no costs. Ken Duren moved a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Bob Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

-President Tonkovich suggested we send an internet survey to the membership on the use of OCTWS funds.

V. Membership Report – Scott Peters & Chris Smith

-Currently, the Ohio Chapter is comprised of 108 members. Brett Beatty moved a motion to accept the membership report, Kendra Wecker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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VI. **Legislative Committee Report - Kendra Wecker**

–State Legislation – We are in the 130th General Assembly of the Ohio Legislature. We are also entering a new biennium so all legislative bills we need to be reintroduced. It is anticipated that the Governor’s budget will be announced with the next week. We will review it to determine whether it presents any impacts to the Division of Wildlife.

–Federal Legislation

– Conservation funding has taken a hit in Congress over the past year. As wildlife professionals we need to stay in tune to these issues and urge continued support for conservation programs that have been successful.

–Sales of firearms and ammunition are up which will provide a larger amount of Pittman-Robertson excise taxes available to the states for wildlife conservation.

–State Wildlife Grants – This federal program for funding “species of greatest conservation need” is authorized by the Interior Appropriations Bill. The Teaming with Wildlife Coalition will gather in Washington, DC on March 5 & 6 to urge support for State Wildlife Grant funding. Letters of support should be sent to your congressional representatives urging support for permanent wildlife funding for wildlife diversity species similar to the Pittman-Robertson program.

–Farm Bill – The Farm Bill was extended until September 2013, under much duress. We look forward to being actively engaged in the development of the next Farm Bill process.

VII. **-North Central Section Report – Bob Gates**

-The 73rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference was held in Wichita, Kansas, December 9-12, 2012.

-The Wildlife Society National Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 5-10, 2013. Ohio Chapter members are encouraged to attend. Activities will include continuing education programs and a symposium of topics relevant to our section.

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-The Wildlife Society Council have expressed concern for issues with deficits & budgets at the national level.

VIII. –Student Chapters

- The University of Rio Grande Chapter reported that they currently are comprised of 16 members. They have been involved in planting wildflowers and developing a tree trail their campus. They have also constructed bluebird & squirrel boxes.

-The chapter from Ohio State University reported that they have invited speakers from agencies such as the Ohio Division of Wildlife and USDA – APHIS to make presentations at their chapter meetings. They have attended Wildlife Council meetings and conducted wildlife surveys. The OSU chapter reported they generally have as many as 20 members attend their meetings.

IX. Website Update – Amanda Conover

-Amanda has been updating and expanding The Ohio Chapter website. A web survey has been suggested as a way of gathering website ideas from the membership.

X. Old Business

–President Tonkovich mentioned that participation in chapter functions have been weak. President-Elect Montoney inquired as to whether members are receiving chapter emails, also stressing participation and voicing concern for the direction of the chapter.

- Karen Norris gave an update on the Wildlife Awareness Award. Karen Norris and Allen Lea have been seeking sponsorship for this award. The Ohio Division of Wildlife’s Information & Education section, as well as Cabela’s, have been contacted regarding sponsorship. The Division of Wildlife’s Information & Education section has shown interest in sponsorship. Dropping the wildlife techniques manual as one of the awards has been considered as a cost cutting measure.

-In regard to the chapter treasury, suggestions were made to raise dues or charge a fee to cover costs of continuing education workshops.

-Jeremy Bruskotter, Continuing Education Chairman, believes another survey should be done to determine future continuing education workshop topics.

XI. New Business

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- No new resolutions were presented.
- It was announced that Geoff Westerfield was elected Treasurer.
- Ken Duren and Mike Enright were candidates for President-Elect. Mike Enright won that race to become the new President-Elect. Mike is a conservation biologist with 5 Rivers Metro Parks.
- President Tonkovich thanked the candidates for volunteering to run for the open chapter offices.

XII. Adjourn

- Mike Reynolds moved a motion to adjourn. Bob Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed.