



Wetlands Working Group

Annual Meeting Minutes

Tues., October 18, 2016

1:30-3pm

RCC 402

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Adonia Henry called the meeting to order
 - b. 21 attendees, including 11 members & 12 students: Adonia Henry (out-going chair); Lisa Webb (past chair); Adam Janke; Garrett Savory; Scott Yaich; Nick Goodman; Ashley Leemans; Madison Sazama; Julia Guyton; Drew Fowler; Travis Schepker; Bridget Wheelock; Shelby Brown; Stephen Richter; Katy Lewis; Jake McPherson; Michael Barger; Trenton Rohrer; Deanna McCullum; Zach Truelock; and Liz Brewer.

2. Membership Update
 - a. 111 total members as of 30 September 2016
 - i. Regular = 76
 - ii. Student = 13
 - iii. New Professional = 20
 - b. An additional 7 members signed up for the WWG during conference; several others said they were interested in joining

3. Student Travel Award
 - a. Awarded to Julia Guyton, University of Missouri. Julia is a MS graduate research assistant working on developing a rapid assessment protocol to sample fish and amphibians in wetlands
 - b. All 4 applicants received a reusable Chico tote bag

4. Activities & Accomplishments During Past Year
 - a. Newsletter
 - i. 2 of 3 issues completed to date (April & September) focusing on wetlands and international connections of waterbirds
 - ii. 3rd issue with feature article on wetlands in Mexico scheduled for Dec 2016
 - b. Facebook page
 - i. 13 members to date but very little activity.

- ii. Encouraged WWG members to join facebook page and post wetland-related information.
 - iii. Invasive species working group has 400 followers on facebook, in part because they have a member who posts something of interest every day.
 - iv. Posts on facebook cannot be shared by members – is there a way to change this?
 - c. Website migrated to TWS hosting site
 - i. Website content modified from previous website.
 - ii. TWS staff provides a quick turn around on updates, so this is currently working for our needs
 - d. Increasing awareness of WWG with booth at 2016 TWS conference!
 - i. Adonia and Lisa reported that the WWG booth was effective at increasing awareness of the WWG among TWS members. Consider doing every 2-3 years; possibly share booth cost with another working group.
 - ii. Adonia reported that working group officers at the All Working Groups Meeting asked TWS staff to help increase awareness of the working groups. Suggested having a working group ‘booth’ at registration where information on all working groups could be available.
 - e. Reusable Chico tote bags with WWG logo for sale
 - i. Sold 9 bags at \$10; 8 bags at \$5
 - ii. Total sales = \$130
 - f. Initiated partnership with SWS Wildlife Group for 2018 Arid Wetlands Symposium
 - i. Planning ongoing.
 - ii. Drew Fowler expressed interest in helping.
 - g. Submitted ‘Request to Council’ to update position statement
 - i. Incoming TWS President stopped by the All Working Group Meeting and said one of his goals is to be more responsive to Working Group requests
 - ii. Relatively new TWS staff from Government Affairs offered to help follow-up.
5. Treasurer’s Report
- a. Beginning balance \$1600
 - b. Expenses: Booth fee \$300; Chico bags \$625; Student Award \$275; Misc \$100
 - c. Income: Membership \$400; Chico bag sales \$130
 - d. Balance = \$830
6. Election of Vice-chair: One nomination; voted unanimously to approve Johanna Duffy
7. Member Survey Results
- a. Summary: Increasing communication and exchange of info was #1 priority from survey, followed by training opportunities.

- i. Organize symposiums at conferences.
 - ii. Regional field trips/work days, but membership is too small across broad geographic range for this to be effective.
 - iii. Keep members updated on policy issues; several members said they'd be willing to help with policy comments, updating white paper.
 - iv. Executive board will discuss other ideas to address 1st priority
 - v. Ideas for 2nd priority
 - 1. Workshops and training on wetland related issues; potential topics: understanding wetland habitat assessment, wetland delineation training, case studies
 - 2. Add training section to newsletter &/or website
 - 3. ASWM does monthly training webinars – is something similar feasible for WWG? Can we archive webinars on TWS website?
 - b. Full survey results will be compiled in early 2017.
 - c. Some members and new members expressed interest in continuing survey so they could participate.
8. Objectives and Opportunities for Upcoming Year
- a. Newsletter: going back to 2x/year.
 - b. Facebook: need to have 1 member take lead on posting more information
 - c. Organize symposium for 2017 TWS conference on water availability and wetlands; also include water quality aspects.
 - d. Representatives/liasons: identify volunteer, non-voting positions where members could focus on 1 aspect of WWG activities to assist Executive Board. For example, Auriel has volunteered to be liason with SWS Wildlife Group.
9. Member Round Table/Open Discussion
- a. TWS partnership with Bayer Bee Care: WWG does not take positions on TWS activities. Executive board will discuss scientific issues related to wetlands and Bayer Bee Care as follow-up.
 - b. No other topics reported, but meeting running late due to good discussion on member survey results.
10. Succession of Officers
- a. Chair – Jennifer Chutz
 - b. Vice-chair: Johanna Duffy
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer: Auriel Fournier
 - d. Past-chair: Adonia Henry
11. Next Officers Meeting – 15 December 2016