



# Wetlands Working Group

The Wildlife Society

June Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2017 – 1 pm CST

Attendees: Jennifer Chutz (Chair), Auriel Fournier (Secretary/Treasurer), Johanna Duffy (Chair Elect)

## I. Admin

- a. Is there any need for a dues increase to support future symposia, field trips, etc?

### ACTION ITEMS

- All - Consider this for the future, but don't feel it's justifiable at this time. Discuss again during June if all board members present.

- b. Call for nominations

- Nominations due July 31, 2017
- Vice-chair and secretary/treasurer up for election

### ACTION ITEMS:

- All – brainstorm people to nominate/approach to be officers

## II. Treasurer Report

- a. Direct Deposit is set up

### ACTION ITEMS:

- Auriel – Will send checks to Jen for depositing

## III. Media

- a. Website

- Johanna made a list of national & international meetings

### ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen & Adonia - Compile links to other sources of wetland news instead of maintaining our own monthly update in "Wetland News" section. Get onto website.
- Johanna - Add "training opportunities" section.
  - Hyperlink the meeting list just created
  - Find & make hyperlinks to webinar sites maintained by groups/organizations

- b. Newsletter

- Next issue will be mid-July - **deadline for articles is June 16.**

### ACTION ITEMS:

- Feature Article: Bob from ND, herps in ag wetlands
- Smaller Articles:

- NRCS using new method for wetlands certifications used prior to farm land conversion. Resulted in reduction in wetland determinations & therefore protected wetland acres (Johanna)
  - Threats to ESA (Auriel)
  - Threats to WOTUS (Jen)
  - New admin's EPA - Budget cuts, Scott Pruitt, effects on wetland programs (Jen)
  - WWG News – include call for nominations, info on Water, wetlands, and wildlife symposium (Adonia; others feel free to add!)
  - Add link to presentations by Drs. Mitch Weegman, Lisa Webb, Heath Hagy and Rick Kaminski, & Mr. Kent Van Horn - part of seminar series titled “Ducks, Habitat and People” [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmXdXHbSipF83LcwMr\\_nCq8pZHj\\_5vjKo](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmXdXHbSipF83LcwMr_nCq8pZHj_5vjKo)
  - Adonia - Continue with "training opportunities" and “wetlands in the news” section
  - Jen - Contact Andy (NPS) & Adam Sepulveda (USGS) to potentially write the feature article for end of 2017 newsletter about eDNA use in identifying wildlife that use wetlands
- c. Quarterly Email
- i. 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly email sent out May 9 w/ student travel award, call for nominations, call for social media liason, links to neonic webinar and other general wetland items
- d. Facebook
- ACTION ITEMS:
- Jen - Write FB post/website post to get Social Media Liaison to keep our page updated.

#### IV. Student Travel Award

- a. Reimbursing one student member for early registration (\$300)
- b. Applications due June 11<sup>th</sup> (send to Auriel)
- c. Students notified by July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- d. We’ve already received 2 applications

ACTION ITEMS:

- Auriel – Compile and distribute applications to board members
- ALL – Review

#### V. TWS Conservation Affairs Network

- a. Jen, Adonia & Scott Yaich are current recipients of the CAN newsletters.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen - Add Johanna to CAN list

#### VI. TWS partnership with Bayer Bee Care

ACTION ITEMS:

- Auriel will do homework, and see if TWS has provided some explanation/transparency about the Bayer decision
- Depending on what Auriel finds we’ll either write up what we find for the newsletter, or we’ll write a letter to TWS asking for more transparency, and ask the following WGs if they would like to sign the letter

- Biodiversity, Forest and Wildlife, Invasive Species, Rangeland, Wildlife Habitat and Restoration

VII. New Executive Order regarding WOTUS (rewrite the Rule in the spirit of Scalia's 2006 opinion)

- a. Considering making official comments

ACTION ITEMS

- Jen - Email Keith Norris about this. Would have to go through TWS National (editing, etc...)
- All - Decide if we want to put time into this.

VIII. FY18 Trump Budget Proposal

- a. Considering making official comments

ACTION ITEMS

- Jen - Email Keith Norris about this. Would have to go through TWS National (editing, etc...)
- All - Decide if we want to put time into this.

IX. 2017 TWS National Conference - Sept 23-27, Albuquerque, NM

- a. Annual Meeting at TWS conference

ACTION ITEMS:

- If anyone finds out they will be able to attend for sure by June 30, request for meeting space for WWG meeting

- b. WWG sponsored Symposium on Water, Wetlands and Wildlife

- i. Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:10 to 5:00 PM, with ten 20 minute talks

- ii. List of 10 speakers is finalized

ACTION ITEMS:

Adonia - Update the longer symposium description to reflect changes in speakers. Hope to finish that by mid-month.

- c. Group booth for ALL 29 Working Groups

- i. Mariah Simmons sent Johanna and Jen an email wondering if the WWG was taking the lead on organizing this.

ACTION ITEMS

- Jen – Respond to Mariah that the intention was for TWS National to host this table.

X. New wetland-related information

- a. Jen shared info about National Wetlands Inventory mapping occurring at the Montana Natural Heritage Program, official stewards of NWI data for Montana.

- b. Auriel shared info about the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network.

ACTION ITEMS

- All – share fun new wetland-related research, news, and policy during our conference calls!
- These can be catalysts for email blasts/FB info/newsletter ideas

XI. Next meeting: TBD

Minutes prepared by: Auriel Fournier & Jen Chutz