

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2015

I. **Call to order**

Elizabeth Johnson welcomed all and called to order the regular annual business meeting of the ACTWS at 2:50 PM on March 27, 2015 at Guntersville State Park.

II. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Wes Stone motioned for ACTWS to accept the meeting minutes. Ericha Nix seconded. No opposition.

III. **Financial Report**

Carrie Threadgill gave the financial report.

- a. Checking Account Balance - \$12,244.04
- b. CD Balance - \$2,963.99
- c. Paypal Account Balance - \$1,442.96

Allison Cochran motioned to approve the Financial report. Seth Maddox seconded. No opposition.

IV. **Old Business**

- a. **Conservation Affairs Network** – Elizabeth Johnson reported that there hasn't been much done over the last year. The committee is members from each state working with National TWS on policies for both the state and national chapters. If anyone is interested in being the liason for ACTWS with the National Chapter contact Elizabeth.
- b. **Student participation on the board** – Elizabeth Johnson asked to group about having a student liason on the board? Questions were asked about how to change the by-laws to add another board member and how long the terms would be, 1 or 2 years. A committee was created to look into changing the by-laws: Shannon Allen, Carrie Threadgill, Matt Brock.

V. **New Business**

- a. **Oral and Poster Presentation Awards** – Mercedes Barkovich (oral) and John Draper (poster) were both presented with \$150 and an AWF Managing Wildlife book.
- b. **2016 Meeting and Professional Development Program** – One idea that was given was to have the next meeting at the Dixon Center and have a prescribed fire PDP. Amy Silvano suggested that in 2 years the Coop Unit at Auburn could lead a decision-making workshop for the PDP. Allison Cochran stated that we could extend the PDP program to include field trips, with an Indigo Snake field trip possible next year at the Dixon Center. February will be a bad month at the Dixon Center next year because of hunting season and also the Deer Study meeting is late Feb. Ray mentioned that if we go to the Dixon

Center, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries can provide guns and ammo for the group to take a trip to the new shooting range that is at Conecuh.

- c. **Baiting Bill** – Elizabeth Johnson stated that a new baiting bill is in the legislature. The bill would make it legal to hunt deer and hogs over bait with no permit. We have sent a letter in the past to the governor about baiting. There was discussion about a possible committee to come up with a new letter to the governor, or checking on the old letter that Mark Bailey drafted previously.
- d. **ACES Request for funding WHEP** – A request came from Dr. Armstrong at Auburn for either an annual or one-time contribution to the Wildlife Habitat Education Program. Joel Glover mentioned that the last time Alabama hosted this event was in 93, and this is Alabama's turn again. The event will be August 2-5 at the 4H Center in Columbiana with teams of students coming from all over the US. Marissa Futral suggested ACTWS give \$1000 donation to the program if available. Christine Easterwood motioned to give \$1000 to ACES. Matt Brock seconded. No opposition.
- e. **Silent Auction** – The silent auction for our 2015 meeting brought in \$366 dollars.

VI. Elections

Elizabeth Johnson announced the new officers:

President-elect – Amy Silvano

Secretary/Treasurer – Christine Easterwood

At-Large Board Member – Eric Spadgenske

VII. Adjournment

Elizabeth Johnson welcomed the new officers and thanked outgoing officers Carrie Threadgill and Matt Brock. After handing over the meeting to incoming president Wes Stone, meeting was adjourned at 3:35PM.