

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society

April 15, 2016

I. **Call to order**

Dr. Wes Stone welcomed all and called to order the regular annual business meeting of the ACTWS at 4:01 PM on April 25, 2016 at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia, AL.

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

Carrie Threadgill motioned for ACTWS to accept the 2015 meeting minutes. Barry Grand seconded. No opposition.

III. **Financial Report**

Christine Easterwood gave the financial report.

- a. Checking Account Balance - \$12,585.70
- b. CD Balance - \$2,966.96
- c. Paypal Account Balance - \$2,747.23
- d. Savings Account - \$150.00

Carrie Threadgill motioned to approve the Financial report. Allison Cochran seconded. No opposition.

IV. **Old Business**

- a. **Student participation on the board** – Shannon Allen reached out to students since the 2015 meeting. She found that there was concern over time commitment and the need for it to fit into the student's career (For instance, a 2-year commitment on the board for a student with only one year left would not be feasible).
 - If a board position, student liaison would be nominated and elected. Discussion about querying national about a one-year position.
 - In lieu of a student position on the board, a member suggested engaging students on a different level such as providing a platform for a student liaison at the annual meeting. ACTWS could invite student chapter presidents to participate in the "agency updates" and perhaps offer a travel grant to do so. The membership was in favor of this action. The executive board to follow up on this discussion and present recommendation in 2017. This proposal will also address the question of what to do with any surplus from prior meeting donations.

V. **New Business**

- a. **Oral and Poster Presentation Awards** – Rebecca John (oral) and Dustin Duffie (poster) were both presented with \$150 and an Alabama Wildlife Federation *Managing Wildlife* book.
- b. **Update bylaws** - need to clarify that student membership is \$5 and non-student membership is \$20. The existing bylaws did not distinguish. Also generalized that the chapter meeting will be in the "Spring" and not solely in "February." The

revised bylaws were approved by The Wildlife Society on April 11, 2016. Allison Cochran motioned to approve the revision. Amy Silvano seconded. No opposition.

- c. **Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN) Request for Funding** – The SBDN is partnering with the Talladega National Forest and Jacksonville State University this summer for the 2016 SBDN Bat Blitz. The majority of the costs will be covered through an agreement with the USDA Forest Service (historic costs have neared \$20,000) however the organization has requested financial assistance from the ACTWS for a portion of this important (and popular) biological and education event.
 - A formal letter of request will be submitted to the ACTWS for a \$1,000, or any other amount, contribution. Shannon Allen motioned to approve the \$1,000 donation. Ericha Nix seconded. No opposition.
- d. **Alabama A&M University Student Leadership Award** – Mark Smith asked if there had been any discussion of instituting this award at Alabama A&M, similar to Auburn University's. Need to establish ground rules on who selects the recipients (at Auburn, this is done by the faculty and a student liaison staff). Wes Stone is reluctant to lean on the A&M faculty, due to a current shortage. Discussion of selecting by student thoughts. Wes Stone will consider it and present recommendation in 2017.
- e. **Biologist of the Year Award** – Amy Silvano proposed the ACTWS begin recognizing an outstanding Alabama biologist at the annual chapter meeting. The membership was in favor of this action. The executive board to follow up on this discussion, develop award criteria (follow the line of effort from the Southeastern Chapter) and present recommendation in 2017. Possibly need an Awards Committee (could also address student travel scholarship with this type of committee).
- f. **2017 Meeting and Professional Development Program (PDP)** - Several ideas and locations were presented:
 - Structured Decision Making Workshop. Allow wildlife managers to take scientific evidence and make the best decision possible for future management actions. Barry Grand to provide a brief description.
 - Animal Tracking. Nick Sharp to provide a brief description.
 - Climate Change. Shannon Allen to provide a brief description. Possibility of NCTC Climate Change Program Representatives/Instructors to travel and present.
 - February or early March timeframe for 2017 meeting. Time may be determined by selection of the PDP topic.
 - Locations may be dependent on PDP topic. Possible locations are at AWF in Millbrook, AL; Jacksonville State University, Little River Canyon, the 4-H center in Columbiana, AL, or Auburn University.
- g. **Silent Auction** – The silent auction for our 2016 meeting brought in \$566 dollars.
- h. **Photo contest** – Carrie Threadgill proposed an annual photo contest and use the winning image for the next year's meeting t-shirt. The membership was in agreement.

- i. **Recognition of Past Presidents** – On behalf of the ACTWS membership, Wes Stone thanked and presented plaques of recognition to Mark Smith and Elizabeth Johnson.

VI. Elections

Dr. Wes Stone announced the new officers:

President-Elect – Dr. Barry Grand

ACTWS Representative to the Southeastern Section – Brittany Petersen

At-Large Board Member – Rebecca Bearden

VII. Adjournment

Dr. West Stone welcomed the new officers and thanked outgoing officers Liz Johnson, Allison Cochran and Shannon Allen. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.