

**2017 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society**  
September 8, 2017

**I. Call to order**

Amy Silvano welcomed all and called to order the regular annual business meeting of the ACTWS at 10:35 AM on September 8, 2017 at the Mississippi State University Riley Center in Meridian, MS.

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

Lloyd Culp motioned for ACTWS to accept the 2016 meeting minutes. Seth Maddox seconded. No opposition.

**III. Financial Report**

Christine Easterwood gave the financial report.

- a. ACTWS Checking Account Balance, as of September 4, 2017 - \$11,687.42
- b. CD Balance - \$2,968.45
- c. Paypal Account Balance - \$9.18
- d. Savings Account - \$294.11
- e. USFWS/Louis Breland Funds Holding - \$10,240.00

Jimmy Stiles motioned to approve the financial report. Alex Lewis seconded. No opposition.

**IV. Agency Updates**

- a. None

**V. Old Business**

- a. **Student participation on the board** - The 2016 Annual Meeting concluded that student chapter presidents, or designated representative, should be offered an opportunity to provide their updates/news at the annual meetings. The ACTWS Executive board recommended that travel funds in the amount of \$500 be granted to each president (or designated representative) of the Auburn University and Alabama A&M University's student chapters to allow for that opportunity. Lloyd Culp motioned to approve a \$1,000 maximum travel allowance. Mark Smith seconded. No opposition.
- b. **Biologist of the Year Award** – An Awards Committee was formed from the membership present to develop awards criteria, solicit nominations, and vet the candidates. Lloyd Culp, Will Gulsby, Paige Ferguson, Drew Arnold, and Brittany Peterson (representative from the Executive Board) volunteered to serve on the committee. An example of criteria for two of the awards the MS Chapter manages will be forwarded to the committee.

**VI. New Business**

- a. **Update bylaws-** Three amendments to the current bylaws were presented to the membership (Article V, Section 1; Article V, Section 4; and Article VI, Section 1 Clause A). The proposed amendments were approved by The Wildlife Society on August 25, 2017.
  - i. Will Gulsby motioned to approve the revision to Article V, Section 1. Seth Maddox seconded. No opposition.
  - ii. Will Gulsby motioned to approve the revision to Article V, Section 4. Claude Jenkins seconded. No opposition.
  - iii. Steve Barnett motioned to approve the revision to Article VI, Section 1 Clause A. Lloyd Culp seconded. No opposition.
  
- b. **Oral and Poster Presentation Awards** – Andrew Cantrell was presented with a \$150 check for the best student oral presentation and a \$150 check for the best student poster presentation, along with Alabama Wildlife Federation *Managing Wildlife* book. Students from both the MS and AL chapters were judged for the best poster and oral award. We are proud to say that Andrew won the house.
  
- c. **Fundraising**
  - i. Hurricane Harvey – funds in the amount of \$470 were raised by raffling a Cabela’s \$100 gift card, Cabela’s \$50 gift card, and Gun Dog Supply \$50 gift card. MS Chapter will match the funds. Motion to approve the AL Chapter matching funds was made by Jimmy Stiles. Seth Maddox seconded. No opposition.
    - Each state chapter matched funds to round the total out to \$1500.
  - ii. The silent auction for our 2017 meeting brought in \$213.
  
- d. **ALPFC Calendar**
  - i. 2-year calendar to promote use of prescribed fire. ALPFC is soliciting for monthly sponsors. A \$500 sponsorship will allow an image and sponsor message. ACTWS board discussing sponsoring for placement during the month of June for both years. Will promote growing season burns. Several questions by membership –
    - What will funds be used for? Production and perhaps distribution.
    - Would the chapter get any complimentary copies? Likely not.
    - Propose a photo contest for the image; Eric S. will develop a message with help from Josh Osborn, Alex Lewis and Jim Schrenkel.
    - Will calendars be sold as a fundraiser for ALPFC? Answer unknown.
  - ii. A majority supported sponsorship for the month of June.
  
- e. **2018 Meeting and Professional Development Program (PDP)**
  - i. Discussion that a fall meeting may not be ideal with several other meetings (national TWS, SEAFWA), funding shortfalls at the end of federal/state fiscal year close-out and heavy course load with professors.

- ii. Current/newly elected board hesitant to have a 2018 spring meeting b/c there is such short turn around. Open discussion on having a summer meeting. Amy Silvano to poll the membership for a seasonal preference.
  - iii. PDP brainstorming – pollinator habitat, cave habitats, wildlife disease, eDNA, climate, expand client base, communication/outreach, emotional intelligence.
  - iv. Jimmy Stiles proposed Camp McDowell. No other locations proposed. Will poll for suggestions. Locations proposed in the past included AWF in Millbrook; Jacksonville State U; Little River Canyon; 4-H Center in Columbiana; and Auburn U.
  - v. Good feedback on the joint meeting. Consensus that ACTWS should pursue a joint meeting every 3(ish) years and let opportunity drive which state we may partner with.
- f. **Recognition of Past Presidents** – On behalf of the ACTWS membership, Christine Easterwood thanked and presented a plaque of recognition to Dr. Wes Stone.

**VII. Elections**

Amy Silvano announced the new officers:

Secretary/Treasurer – Christine Easterwood

At-Large Board Member – Mercedes Bartkovich

**VIII. Adjournment**

Amy Silvano welcomed the new officers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.