

Minutes, SWS Conference Call

August 6, 2018 10:07 AM MDT, Dial in 641-715-3580, Code 932379

Attending: Ginny Seamster, Melanie Culver, Tad Theimer

Scholarship Guidelines: Tad suggested we consider adding undergraduates to the scholarship or indicate that the scholarship be strictly Graduate student. Mel suggested that we start with this opportunity being a Graduate scholarship and funds permitting, we add a separate undergraduate scholarship of lesser amount in the future. Regarding the rotation, rather than not being eligible if the previous recipient was from your state, we will indicate that the previous winner's state will be considered (weighted) in the decision, but applicants should still apply. Ginny indicated the schedule would be for the call to go out Sept-Oct, review Dec-Jan so the award can be made at this year's JAM.

The Conservation Committee: Chair, Jim Ramaka is stepping down, and has suggested several names to replace him. It was suggested we could have Co-chairs for the CAC, but the CAC also has a vice-chair and we can try to make sure these two positions come from different states, in fact we can add that to the By-laws. Ginny will offer the chair position to Romey in Texas. We suggested that Melissa Merrick can be a back-up name for Chair. The Conservation Committee also has recently completed a position statement on the Border Wall, we will include a summary of this in the next newsletter in the President's message. Also for the newsletter will be an article (Tad will write) on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

JAM workshops/symposiums: The Geospatial Advisory Committee: The GAC has a nicely designed page on the website that people should check out <https://swsectiontws.org/gac> Also, the GAC is planning to hold a 2-part workshop and a mobile APP workshop at the JAM. Also WOW will be holding a symposium at the national meeting titled "Moving Forward from #MeToo"

JAM update: the JAM location is Albuquerque but the venue is not definite yet. If anyone wants to take a committee, there are available committee's to chair. Discussed SWS involvement to rely less on our announcements at each Chapter Business meeting (since these are fairly low attendance) and put two posters at the JAM. One at the Poster Session and one at the Registration Table. The poster can include who we are, the activities we do throughout the year, what we fund (at National, at the regional level, and at the three local chapters) – scholarships, travel for workshop participants, travel for students, funding for symposiums like WOW – other. And also have a section for comments of what we should do better/more of. And a section with materials to join the section and list the reasons why you should pay \$5 to join. Also Tad suggested the AZ/NM poster should have a section on what TX does, then the TX JAM poster should have a section on what AZ/NM does. (this addresses having a presence at each others' JAM meetings). Ginny will start with content for the poster, Tad will do a mock up, Mel will be help with editing the poster.

Sponsorships: We decided sponsorships should be funded based on those that facilitate cross over between the three states of the SW section, therefore we would like to fund the

freshwater turtle workshop that would potentially involve Texas researchers coming to the AZ/NM JAM. Ginny to contact the turtle workshop folks. If support is not needed for the turtle workshop, can reach out to Texas to see if there is support needed for travel from AZ/NM to the Texas meeting.

Membership Decline: Membership levels are declining below 2016 levels but not down to 2017 levels. This is addressed with our poster idea, which included a section talking about why pay \$5 to join and included membership materials. In addition to the poster for JAM, we will make sure we are listed at the chapter level for membership and have a sentence description of what we do. (Mel will contact the AZ Chapter about this)

Listserv and gmail: Carol will not be managing the listserv in the future and it made the most sense for the Treasurer to take on this task. Ginny will ask Ryan if he will manage the listserv. Mel will check the gmail account asap.

End 11:36 AM