

TWS SWS Board Meeting

Attendees: Ginny Seamster, Tad Theimer; discussed separately with Melanie Culver after the meeting

March 12, 2018

Convene at 10:05 AM

Brainstorm an action the board wants to complete in 2018 - All

- Possible actions:

- Discussion on student awards. To be awarded at Chapter meetings. The challenge is to get nominations – student award- likely get more interest if they are made aware of it- student award- rotate among chapters – AZ/NM/TX – every year a different chapter/state gets award – supporting college students is always good to do - \$500 to a student can make a big difference – start an award for graduate students in the three states to apply for; add minority or women as criteria/add to scoring – ethnic background/family background/first to college. Apply to as student – the only thing AZ TWS has currently is a travel award - something to further student research would also be good - prestigious for students to compete for – maybe add undergrads?
- Sponsor a workshop? Support chapters- workshop they want to put on – could use \$\$ for speaker or something- support in that way? Also, could support having someone from the Texas Chapter travel to the AZ/NM JAM to give a talk, and, someone from the AZ/NM JAM travel to the Texas Meeting to give a talk. Or other ways to foster more interactions between the chapters. Highlights of research in Texas – interchange of ideas- a poster? AZ/NM do a good job of communicating; what are the issues Texas is dealing with? Something to highlight major things going on in Texas? SWS would support this informational exchange. For example, a poster on highlights from last year's meeting? Or this year's meeting?

SWS CAC – Border Wall/Security – Tad and Ginny

- TWS position statement on border security to expire in March.
- Southwest Section support of position statements/activities of state chapters, including California, New Mexico, and Texas on this issue. California and Texas writing position statements; New Mexico considering working on a position statement.
- How do we want to support this at the section level?
- Let the committees go with this
- Wondering what happens when the positions statement expires in March
- Letter from SWS and WS sections- based on position statement- would the letter be citing invalid position statement – timing is troubling
- Wrote Keith Norris in February – and re-emailed in March – will follow up by phone
- If national wants it to be updated- then can we get chapters to work together to revise or update national statement
- If the national position statement will be retired/expire – then could work with the states on producing a combined resolution from chapters and sections- send to chapters to sign on/have an independent voice. Having individual chapters speak to individual issues pertinent in their states plus WS and SWS

Speak independently might be more powerful than having only one statement – each state could tailor a letter to their local representatives/legislators using the language from Texas’s resolution plus the WS/SWS joint letter; having state chapter voices (not just input from the parent society at the national level/in D.C.) might be more powerful from the congressional standpoint; ideally it would be fairly easy for states to modify resolution (TX) and WS/SWS letter to be more locally relevant

- Section statement as potential second best option with all states signing on – especially if the parent society isn’t going to renew their position statement

SWS Sponsorship of WOW Symposium - Ginny

- Women of Wildlife are putting together a proposal for a symposium related to #MeToo; moving beyond #MeToo (see attached draft that is a work in progress). Would you support the SWS sponsoring this symposium?
- WOW proposal- move point 8 to point 1 – point 8 – why have to work about it in the conservation workplace – that is really important – move that upfront – speaks to why need at the TWS meeting – move upfront – made it clear why talk about this at wildlife society meeting
- Send template of support letter to board for review before submission
- #MeThree – does not make sense; do not like that much

SWS List Serv - Ginny

- Currently Carol maintains it – updates every 6 months or so.
- Takes section member list provided by a member of the board and adds in information on parent society staff and anyone who has paid dues directly to the section (Treasurer should have this info) and duplicates. Converts to .txt.
- Carol can give us info on how to upload information to the NAU listserv database.
- Carol requires counts of members by state to add to the Newsletter.
- In the process can compare the current and new lists and ID people who should be contacted about renewing their membership.
- Ask Ryan to assist Carol with this
- Can add Tad or any other board members as administrators as needed

SWS Gmail Account - Ginny

- Verification issues – verification tied to Mark Wallace’s phone so I was unable to login the first time I tried.
- Login information: swsectiontws@gmail.com; SWSTWS2018; recovery phone: (505) 310-9687; recovery email: virginia.seamster@gmail.com – anyone on the board should be able to sign in using either the recovery phone or email.
- Mel assist with checking it/making sure emails are answered?
- Mel – can help in checking the email messages (gmail) once a month

SWS Website Maintenance - Ginny

- I have login information for the website (<http://swsectiontws.org/>).
- Anyone want to assist with keeping the website up to date? Or, conversely- do we want to consider transferring our website over to be maintained by the Parent Society?
- List of things to update:

- SWS news link (<http://swsectiontws.org/policy-etc>)
 - LCC webinar lists (<http://swsectiontws.org/webinars>)
 - GAC charter and logo (<http://swsectiontws.org/gac>)
 - Executive board (<http://swsectiontws.org/executive-board>)
 - Meeting minutes and board members/committee chairs (<http://swsectiontws.org/administration>)
 - 2017 newsletters (<http://swsectiontws.org/newsletters>)
 - SWS blog (<http://swsectiontws.org/blog-swsection>)
 - Do we still want to offer conference calls now that parent society is? (<http://swsectiontws.org/conference-calling>)
 - Section news (<http://swsectiontws.org/section-news-stories>) and news across our profession (<http://swsectiontws.org/news-across-profession>) pages seem somewhat redundant
 - Remove candidate biographies (<http://swsectiontws.org/candidates>)
- Information on transferring to the Parent Society website:
 - Mariah with the Parent Society is happy to help with this if we want to go this route. There are no fees and it would take Mariah about a week to get a new site set up.
 - Would have a similar set up to other section websites currently hosted by the Parent Society (e.g., <http://wildlife.org/CMP/>; <http://wildlife.org/ncs/>; <http://wildlife.org/nw/>; <http://wildlife.org/ne-section/>; <http://wildlife.org/se-section/se-section-about/>). Mariah can keep as much of the layout/sections of the current SWS website as we want within the limits of the Parent Society's website template.
 - We would need to ID one primary contact who would answer questions about layout, content, and web edits and would provide content for the website (documents, text, images). This includes a minimum of 5 relevant photos. I would be happy to do this.
 - We would also need to put any pre-2015 documents we want members to be able to access on Google drive so they can be linked to from the section website. The Parent Society doesn't keep documents longer than 3 years on their main website. We would also be responsible for backing up all information from the old site before shutting it down.
 - Tad supports turning this over to parent society and Mel too
 - Preferred to turn over to national
 - Remove news page; remove blog; remove webinars
 - No need to have files older than 2015; do maintain list of old board members – e.g., have past board member list on the executive committee page rather than Admin page; good resource
 - OK to have Mel's information on the website now – USGS contact info
 - Would need a new page for the awards

Section Newsletter – Ginny

- Articles for Spring issue due to Carol Chambers by April 1st.
- Would be great to get something from each state and each board member.
- Tad is in between relevant projects; will contact Mel to work on something jointly regarding the border wall- Mel talk about her research and Tad do an update on it (e.g., national position statement; retrospective on this

issue- review papers from old wildlife society bulletin plus papers that have come out since then; ideally say what SWS can do regarding this issue).

Action Items:

- Tad work with Mel on article for spring newsletter
- Tad follow up with Keith Norris about status of renewing the national position statement on the border wall/border security
- Ginny send out meeting notes and draft letter of support for WOW symposium at national meeting
- Ginny email Kathy Granillo and let her know a letter of support will be forthcoming and that we had some feedback on the draft proposal
- Ginny contact Mel about maintaining SWS email account and Ryan about assisting Carol with list serv updates
- Ginny send out draft of award guidelines for a student award at the section level prior to next board meeting – ideally get something finalized in time to send out in the fall to AZ, NM, and TX chapters for distribution