

TWS IWMWG meeting agenda – 8 October 2018 8:10 - 9:50 AM
Room 4, Huntington Convention Center Cleveland Ohio

8:10 - 8:40 AM Welcome and Introductions

- 1. Greet/welcome members - welcome from outgoing Chair, Jonathan Derbridge and incoming Chair, Melissa Merrick**
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Jonathan Derbridge greets WG, introduces and passes on leadership to Melissa Merrick

Merrick hopes to touch base with members and talk about what the group can do in the upcoming year and how people can be involved.

- 2. Updates from members of the TWS International Involvement Ad Hoc Committee in attendance.**
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John McDonald will be back on the international committee and IUCN application will be in by the December deadline. JM expresses that it is time to start planning engagement strategy. Shane is also on the committee, another strong advocate of jumping in

Merrick updates members on current progress of international involvement: TWS is revisiting their role in the international community and how they can best serve practitioners and elevate our community. Among council members, Ad-Hoc International Involvement Committee working to develop a vision statement for how we will engage international community. We are fortunate to be in a position to work closely with this committee to be the conduit between our members and the international community.

Rick Baydack: Can you update us on our conference plans for Chile?

McDonald: We had to table that, the committee was discussing it but our primary contact changed positions, so we decided not to try to advance one in the immediate future, but Norway may be a possibility if we have a strong partner.

Merrick: It is the strong partnership that is critical?

McDonald: Right, we don't have enough money in the budget to staff a planner/organizer for a conference but we do have enough to find a host who can help.

Focus has shifted from holding international congress due to lack of an international host. International Involvement Committee instead focusing on joining IUCN as a member and planning an engagement strategy.

3. Updates from Canada Section.

Baydack: We did undertake a strategic plan for Canadian section, tailored after TWS with a Canadian flavor. Currently working toward increasing membership, enhancing education (webinars, get students more active, etc), trying to promote certification in Canada among professionals and students, “certification tool kit” made available to universities and student chapters across the country. Ebbie Merrill taking over and Shane Mahoney is new International Involvement Chair.

Cameron Kovach: Though Canadian membership recruitment slowed, it is growing now with a graduate positive trend.

Al Arsenault: started to do curriculum review in Canada to look at curriculum in Canadian universities and see how they can guide students toward certification. The goal is to create a national standard out of TWS certification but it is challenging because criteria is very US-centric. This could be especially challenging for the global community. We need to make sure certification is achievable by international people

Claire Crow: Canadian students feel that a lot of the quiz bowl questions are US-centric. Something we could work on to create a more internationally inclusive view.

Canadian section experiencing gradual growth, working on enhancing membership resources and training. Canadian members having trouble passing TWS certification, which is based on US curriculum. This could be an issue for most international members and is something that should be looked into.

4. Chair-elect election results - introduction from our new Chair-Elect Scott Brainerd

Merrick introduces new chair elect (Scott Brainerd): I reached out to several people to get some international perspective on our board. We had 6 people interested in running, 2 from India, 2 from Mexico, 2 from US, and 1 from Japan. I want to hold on to that enthusiasm, it was a tight race. I would like to officially welcome Scott.

Brainerd provides brief background and vision for international involvement of TWS. He has spoken briefly with associates in Norway (NINA) about a IWM congress. They are cautiously interested... they don't have much of a nexus with TWS. Norway is a wealthy country that appreciates the prestige conferences bring to the country, they may be willing to spend money on it.

Derbridge: TWS doesn't have much infrastructure to devote, some if it is realistic opportunity, but it is mostly about the host.

Brainerd: We would need some dedicated engagement in order to pull it off, I can't guarantee that but could investigate. Norway would apply for money through the Environmental

Directorate, because NINA has to pull in their own salary, they could put it in as a project and they could finance that meeting through a grant. I cowrote an article in the 2010 issue of The Wildlife Professional with a brief overview of the Scandinavian Model of Wildlife Management, we have lots to learn from Scandinavia in that context.

Baydack: I was co-chair of international congress (not involved in organizing). I was able to travel to Japan and assisted in fundraising effort. We leveraged the fact that a North American organization that was involved with mammal society of Japan, funding grew substantially by that connection to a North American organization.

Kovach: I will bring this back to the CEO and see what timing would look like to pull this off. If it looks positive, we have people in the office that can help with this. A lead is what we need, so we can take this and begin a discussion.

Brainerd: [The International Union of Game Biologists](#) (IUGB) Conference is in Lithuania, I have been put in contact with organizers. IUGB would be a natural partner, but I have just had preliminary contact. Next meeting in Lithuania, after that maybe in Poland.

Mahoney: A challenge for TWS and international conference is that it's not like the IUGB that has a regularity to it. That takes place every year, there is continuity in research presented which opens up opportunity for actions toward conservation objectives. In the case of our efforts, they are sporadic, in different parts of the world, stand alone kinds of efforts. It would be my thinking that the decision around the congress should be based around trying to have the largest impact post-congress. I remain unconvinced that an international congress has impacts over the long haul, I looked at those efforts and I can't seem to find the lasting echo. The events were fabulous in and of themselves, but I guess I would try to figure out what is more strategic. With IUGB, even there I would wonder if it is sufficient to just have one event? Or is that something you should try to make repetitive.

Brainerd: I was thinking we would join forces with IUGB for more regularity, but it is North American and European centric, and tends to exclude the rest of the world. IUGB conferences in 2019 and 2021 will be in eastern Europe, which is well integrated with the rest of Europe. Asia, India, Australia, Africa, there's not a lot of presence at IUGB meetings. I don't have a lot of experience with that but I think we need to focus in developing countries and regions. It is gratifying that TWS is becoming member with IUCN because we can do a lot through that membership. Sustainable and consumption use has not been a big part of that organization. It might be useful to put on a congress that would be meaningful for sustainable use and livelihoods. Norway is really focused on that as a country, long tradition of human use while keeping an eye on biodiversity.

Kovach: We don't have strong EU membership, so we have to think about launching points and long term goals. If one and done, not worth it. Lot of strategic discussion needs to go into it.

Brainerd: I agree with Shane that we need to employ a suite of approaches. One way would be to collaborate with IUGB but maybe not a congress. Have TWS members there, have sessions that are TWS-oriented but international at IUGB meetings. Having more of a presence in IUCN and other venues could be a hook for getting more membership from EU without it being a congress.

Brainerd brings up ideas about holding an international congress in Norway or becoming involved with IUGB conferences. Shane Mahoney stresses the importance of focusing on long term impacts rather than hosting one-time events. Holding symposiums at international conferences and supporting members to attend regularly may be the most effective way of engaging internationally.

8:40-9:00 AM Updates

5. International survey updates

Merrick: In trying to think of other ways that we can still be engaged other than congresses without a lasting echo, we are revisiting survey of membership to get a feel for what people think would be good ideas.

- We want to keep it short and sweet, but it puts ideas forth like collaborating and partnering with these conferences. If there is some funding or support from TWS for that symposium and providing travel grants to TWS students to go to international conferences that may be cheaper than hosting a conference.
- Some other ideas: helping to provide more literature resources, international student travel/research grants, grants for US members to do research in other countries, English translation services. We were thinking we would provide it to our membership first, then maybe have all of TWS members take it.

Thus far, it has mostly been IWMWG board member contribution with input from the International Involvement Committee, but we welcome any input or feedback.

6. Reminder about IWMWG-sponsored symposium - Tue 12:50-5pm HCCC Room 23:
Grassroots Community Engagement: a Critical Tool for Global Wildlife Conservation

We have a symposium on grassroots engagement, there are some speakers here now. A good symposium with broad interest that we are excited to host. Tomorrow, 12:50-3pm

7. International peer-mentor buddy system for future conferences

Merrick: Kira Hefty wanted to head up another sub-committee to spear head a peer mentoring program. If there are attendees coming from another country that have never been to an international meeting, someone could take them under their wing, show them around, introduce them to others. It's meant as a way to connect pre-conference to anyone interested. People would sign up as being available as hosts, then those people would be connected with

anyone interested in mentorship. You'd have to actually be at the conference, be in touch via email ahead of time, then when you get to conference meet face to face and be their resources at the conference.

Derbridge: Adding to that, as important as help that international visitor might find from a TWS veteran, there is a lot that the veteran could learn from the international guest if they spend time with that person during a conference. I could see this as a IWMWG thing, but could be a TWS-wide agenda item. We've done all the ground work, next year we'll have it in place. Kira calls it "Wildlife Without Borders"

Merrick: We're not sure how best to implement it, but maybe check a box when you register, whether you want to be a host or a hostee. The biggest thing is the two-way exchange, we don't think the North American conservation model is the best way, we are open to learning from international colleagues. One of the biggest benefits of international involvement.

Crow: Another thing we're exploring is to do something where AirBnB is available for multiple people traveling so they can stay together. Facilitate relationships, plus sharing accommodation costs on a sliding scale depending on each person's capacity to pay. It is much more expensive for international people to travel all the way here. Takes the pain out of accommodations and facilitates relationship.

Our goals and the basic groundwork for "Wildlife Without Borders" program mostly laid out. Merrick will email more details about this co-mentor program to membership.

8. IWMWG international liaison

Merrick: We wanted to hold onto the momentum and enthusiasm, so we were thinking of forming international liaisons that can participate in WG activities like conference calls. They would also be available to provide input and feedback so we can get different perspectives. If interested, we would welcome that. We have some contacts in Mexico, India, and Japan.

9:00 - 9:30 AM New Business

9. Election results - much interest in IWMWG involvement an officer - 6 nominees for Chair-elect, from 4 different countries. Want to keep people involved as international liaisons to WG activity.

10. Travel grant awardees (Irene, Pranav, Alex)

Two years ago we increased membership rate to provide travel grants and increase support for international members who have opportunity to get training. This year we had 3 international travel grant winners, one of them is here with us today.

Merrick introduces Pranav Tamarapali.

Other travel grant winners were Irene Castañeda González from France & Alex Beatty from Canada. Sujeevan Bullard, who won the travel grant last year, was unable to attend last year or this year, Shrikanth Manneपुरi is here in his place.

Ashwin Naidu (Fishing Cat Conservancy) expands on the impact of IWMWG's travel grant. This is Pranav & Shrikanth's first international trip, Shrikanth teaches 10,000 students about wildlife research and Pranav is involved with wildlife management. They are literally making ripples across the country, changing people's lives at grassroots level. They will be presenting on their work and the impact that they have been able to generate in less than a year.

Derbridge adds that Santosh Edupuganti, who received funding to attend Raleigh, wrote an article available on our webpage (Passport, [March 2017 issue](#)) about his experience coming here that articulates the impact Ashwin mentioned.

Merrick: Our Facebook page also notifies when the passport is out, highlights award winners and the new president chair-elect. If anyone else is interested, we could always use help.

Merrick: The interaction doesn't have to stop at the conference. Once you are on our email list, feel free to use it as a community of people you can reach out to. If you have anything specific that you want to ask, feel free to contact any one of us or the whole mailing list, via Facebook, or Facebook group specialized for dialogue. If you don't have access to journals and need a specific reference that someone would be able to find that for you, used equipment, etc.

11. Next year's symposium-ideas

Merrick: Last year we had two ideas- grassroots engagements and international urban wildlife. There is a whole Urban Wildlife working group we could co-sponsor with. We could role with that theme or if someone else has ideas...

Dave Bergman, chair of Wildlife Damage WG, discusses past joint symposiums with Wildlife Disease WG that went well. Wildlife damage is not US-centric and his working group may be interested in holding internationally themed symposium. He will take the idea to their WG meeting tomorrow.

Mike Stokes: There is a huge amount of interest in subsistence farmers throughout Asia & sub-Saharan Africa.

Brainerd suggests that since we're joining IUCN, seems like it would make sense to have a symposium that highlights IUCN. But in lieu of that, or in addition to that, have a themed session on sustainability issues. Could do a symposium with IUCN next year and then a plenary the year after, once we have better defined goals for our role in TWS.

Mahoney: A suggestion for combined meeting is still very timely with IUCN. The issue of damage globally and its impacts on incentivizing people to either dislike wildlife or work for wildlife is incredibly important, IUCN has many programs toward that. Idea proposed here would open up the door for people from IUCN to participate and come next year, then maybe have something larger the year after. Another suggestion- time for TWS to think about not only joining IUCN, but what kind of cultural personality TWS will bring to debates. If TWS simply becomes another part of large entity, may not have as much impact as if it entered with clear ideas on what it means to be TWS in US and Canada. IUCN has never been too involved with US and Canada. It is a good time to build relationships, but safeguard our profile. I do think a symposium is a really good idea, takes in virtually every continent in the world.

Next year's symposium's ideas include:

- **A joint symposium with Urban Wildlife**
- **A joint symposium with Wildlife Damages**
- **A symposium showcasing TWS's recent membership of IUCN, invite IUCN to participate**
 - **Potential follow-up plenary the following year**

12. Ideas for symposia or discussion groups at ICCB July 2019 in Kuala Lumpur - calls will open any day now. Is this something that TWS would be interested in sponsoring?

Merrick: Another idea- International Society of Conservation Biology will be in Kuala Lumpur in July next year. This is another opportunity to get involved and have TWS presence at international venue. We could participate in or sponsor a symposium or discussion group. We'll have to check with TWS council- is it possible to have financial support?

Ashwin Naidu offers contact information for connections he has there. Merrick discusses possible themes to go with the conference theme "Conservation Beyond Boundaries." Another iteration of grassroots engagement would be good and a symposium could be a really cool, not-too-distant future to try out other ways of international engagement.

Merrick: A symposium needs 6 presentations on cutting-edge research or we could have a 1.5 hour discussion group. We welcome ideas for people to contact as a speaker.

Mahoney: I think that SCB is particularly important. At the Hawaiian meeting, organized plenary where Boone and Crocket, Sierra, and leadership of TWS all participated. It was organized strategically to bring us back together on NGO side and sustainable use side. I would strongly endorse any attempt to have a role at that meeting. Unfortunately, nothing came out of that meeting. Plans to continue but they never happened... the weakness of one time events. We shouldn't fool ourselves that there is a lessening divide between these two philosophies (protectionist and sustainable use), it is growing. There is a non-use view of nature that is emerging. If there is a way to do something at symposium, that would be a good idea.

Derbridge has reached out to SCB and has been in touch with North American board member, Harriet Allen (TWS NW representative), to discover more about overlaps and differences.

Mahoney: There is a massive amount of community based efforts around the world. Spectrum from nothing to do with animal use, to trophy hunting or something very controversial. Next July, it might be reasonable expectation that much of emphasis is on non-use kinds of approaches but in keeping with origins and mission of TWS. Trying to bring in the idea of how sustainable use can be used to incentivize conservation efforts in the community. There is a battle of these ideologies, especially Africa and Asia. That might be the role for TWS.

Tamarapali: Most of our works are community-based. Maybe we can get people that are part of community that are doing a lot of service to wildlife. There is an ex-poacher who is now a conservationist. Many people who are contributing locally who may not be educated as us but we can get the perspective of those people if they can come to the symposium. Maybe one speaker from a variety of communities can come to talk about their perspective of the wildlife. Naidu talks more about ex-poacher and how he has combined his traditional ecological knowledge with modern science.

Tamarapali: If we can get someone from the community to talk and go to the meeting and then go back to their community and tell them about how great it was, that would have a high impact.

Naidu: It is also important that they experience and pull knowledge from the scientific world. TWS is science-based conservation. We can use science and curiosity because they are interested in the things in their backyard. At the local level people are concerned and they want to learn and implement. And us to learn from them. There is immense potential for cross-pollination and sharing that knowledge.

Merrick: We'll follow up today's meeting with bullet points of what we talked about, action items for the next year. As soon as call comes out, we'll send that around and try to solicit speakers. Just a few minutes left- turn it over the Claire

ICCB July 2019 Engagement:

- **Involvement with this conference supported by International Involvement Committee**
- **Organize a symposium or discussion group that focuses on community-based conservation**
 - **May focus on non-use approaches but could bring in the idea of sustainable use (keep in mind role of TWS in international conservation (IUCN, ISCB))**
 - **Potentially include non-professional members of the nearby communities to teach us their perspective, learn about science-based conservation, and take the ideas back to their community**

13. Passport (newsletter) plans and themes for the coming year

Crow: The way we're running the Passport newsletter, articles are either from someone who has asked to have it included or things we've followed up with. It is an informal newsletter, we try to make the articles with a less formal tone, but they don't have to be short. I've not really approached it in a theme-way in the past. There are generally 2 newsletters a year, one focusing on what happened after the conference and one focusing on what we're expecting from the conference. I'm seeing that we could have those themes related to what we're putting forth for symposia proposals. If anybody has input or suggestions, I would appreciate it. If you have cool photos from work (it doesn't have to be the field or animals), we could always use more photos to keep the newsletter interesting.

14. IWMWG-themed table at student professional mixer Tuesday 7:30-9:30 PM

9:30 - 9:50 AM Member questions/ideas/concerns

Jim Ramakka: Fidel Hernández is the Southwest represent on council, from Texas Kingsville. He will be attending a conference in Mexico in November. We made a request to council for funds to go there so TWS will send \$5000 to support conference, which is a gathering of Mexican biologists. The idea is trying to build communication between biologists and folks working in North America for information exchange. Fidel would be a good person to contact for a passport article. Raul is another person active in getting this arranged. Mexican biologists are always looking for ways to learn more from North American counterparts but also biologists in America could learn a whole lot for them.

Merrick suggests collaborating with or attending this conference if there is another one held next year. Ramakka and Derbridge stress that it is easier for US citizens to travel to Mexico than vice versa. When IWMWG had guests working with our group come to meetings from Mexico, they always ask for a letter to help get them through customs. They may not get through otherwise. It is a good thing to remember that it is a challenge for other people to come to this country.

IWMWG board will contact Fidel Hernández about providing article for the Passport and collaborating with Mexican biologists at next year's conference

15. Treasurer's report

Current funds are \$2,054.71. We contributed \$2000 toward travel grant funds this year and received just over \$1100 in membership dues.

We need to find other ways to fundraise, increase membership, or decrease travel grants- we may need to provide just 2 grants next year because we currently are not making enough money to continue to cover 3 travel grants. One hurdle is that if we ask for donations (for example through a sponsored project), they go to TWS, not IWMWG. Derbridge suggests asking TWS Council to contribute toward travel grant funds. Merrick suggests that money no longer

going toward an international congress could go to travel grants to send people to conferences. Anyone could bring these ideas up at council/member meetings. Derbridge stresses that we need to prove that we have donor interest. If we show up without any specific donors, they won't pay attention. If we have money interests ready, Council may take us seriously.

10:00 Meeting adjourned