

**Minutes from the Fall Business Meeting  
of the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society  
Tuesday, 31 October 2017  
(Louisville, KY)**

**I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Mark Smith**

The fall business meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm (Eastern).

**II. Approval of Fall 2017 Business Meeting Minutes**

*Motion to approve, so moved.*

**III. Reports**

Secretary/Treasurer – Susan Rupp provided the account balance and informed members that our financials were in order. Discussion about target financials and what we should and shouldn't support financially. Do members see the option to join SETWS? Could it be prompted?

*Motion to accept treasury report; so moved.*

SETWS Section Representative - Mike Conner gave the Section Representative report.

Give-back program: Many members do not know that they can GIFT a 6 month membership to a non-member of TWS. This is NOT a half-off offer. It is a full 6-month membership with no strings attached. Recipients will be contacted about joining for the remainder of the year, but they are not required to do so. Rather, this is an attempt by TWS to help non-members 'try before the buy'. Also, this year, the give back program has been extended to include students. In the past, students were not eligible, but they are now.

Journals: Please remind colleagues that Journals are part of the membership benefit. Surprisingly, many chapter members do not know this. Also, Council recently completed a survey of TWS journal authors. Responses were enlightening and Journal Editors are taking this opportunity to improve all of our journals in response to the Survey. Editor-in-Chief of JWM, Paul Krausman, had prepared a letter from the Editor to describe how JWM will address survey issues. David Haukos will do similarly for WSB. Krausman also reported that 9 people are contacted for every person who agrees to review a JWM manuscript! Please review if contacted and you feel qualified to review. Finally, EIC appointments have been increased from 2 to 3 years with an expectation of serving at least 2 terms if extension is agreeable to all parties.

Conferences: The 25th TWS conference will be held in Cleveland, OH. Dates are Oct 7 - 11, 2018. Remember that our own Darren Miller will assume the Presidency at this meeting.

The 26th TWS conference will be held in Reno, NV. Sept 28 - Oct 3, 2019. This will be a joint meeting with AFS. We will have plenary sessions involving both organizations.

Nominations: Over 20% of all TWS Members reside in the Southeast. We should have people/groups nominated for all awards. Mike indicated he would be happy to assist with identifying candidates and preparing nomination package. Please spread the word.

SE TWS Membership: We have over 2000 TWS members who live in the SE, but only about 25% are members of SETWS. When members are contacted regarding renewal in TWS they will be encouraged to join Chapters and Sections at the same time

JSEAFWA Submissions – Curtis Hopkins (SEAFWA Executive Secretary) and Gary Hepp (JSEAFWA Editor) will meet with Mark to review submission guidelines again. Next SEAFWA meeting in Alabama. May 1<sup>st</sup> possible deadline, notification will be sent to authors. Even if a paper is rejected, the authors can still present (doesn't make a lot of sense and may need to figure this out). Eric Pelren asked about Editorial guidelines....Mark Smith said it will be in document. Target dates for submissions will be made clear. No proceedings anymore. SETWS is not responsible for proceedings or the new Journal. Host state is responsible for proceedings, but it has not happened since 2014. Cindy Delaney has all the abstracts. We need to close loop. Drop in Journal submissions this year, states given flexibility to design the program. Many getting away from paper submissions and move toward special symposia. Can you have a manuscript in proceedings and not in Journal? There is confusion. Biologists are still sending abstracts to Gary Hepp and not the Associate Editor for Wildlife.

SETWS Strategic Plan – Eric Pelren took what we do and are supposed to do according to by-laws as a starting point (i.e., working document). Value to strategic plan, immediate value to working document. Three-year goals for strategic plan? Need to decide timeline. Historically, some boards have been more active than others. Mark suggested 2 documents.....one that outlines goals and another that is about the structure of SETWS (e.g., responsibilities of executive board positions, journal guidelines, etc.). Rolling 3-year plan? For example, Oct. 2017 goes through October 2020, next year add 2021, then next year add 2022.

Associate Editor for Wildlife–Chris Comer said they have had 15 submissions, rejected 3. Mark Ford and Chris Comer decided to split duties 50/50 this year. Chris will transition to Associate Editor for Wildlife next year.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster–Katie Edwards could not be here, so Mark reported in her place. Encourage members to submit work, artwork, photos, research, awards, etc. Be timely in updates, if possible. On average, newsletters are running 42 pages total. Emailed to roughly 570 people.

Caroline Murphy from TWS – 2 major federal policy updates:

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act was introduced in last Congress. Ask for 1.3 billion in dedicated funding for state wildlife action plans. State and tribal wildlife grants are currently funded at \$60 million annually. Should be introduced to this Congress extremely soon! Monies coming from oil and gas royalties. After bill drops, looking to have a "fly-in" to meet with representatives about the bill. Conservation Affairs Network will continue updates.
  - FY 2018 appropriations – Operating on a continuing resolution until December 8<sup>th</sup>. Put in budgets for agencies (BLM, USFWS, etc.) in early 2017. Will keep us updated through CAN as well.
- Western Burro and Horse Management – non-native feral species. Have federal protected status. Lack of funding, congressional appropriations, etc., have led to mismanagement. FY18

funding, looking to relax appropriations restrictions to allow euthanasia as an option. Passed house; will likely hit Senate in next week or two.

Also, Caroline updated us on:

- Review of membership dues
- Policy library on membership portal that shows all the federal policy documents since 2010; asking for documents from state (Email: [cmurphy@wildlife.org](mailto:cmurphy@wildlife.org)).

Audit Committee - Mike Conner reported. All funds present and accounted for since January 2016. Mike Conner and Steve Rockwood will draft report, sign, and send to Mark Smith.

Student Awards – Andy Madison reports. Normally had 4 nominations for Student Chapter of the Year....may have some confusion where to send nominations. Should send to Chair of Committee. Was in newsletter at least twice, but Andy only received one. Three nomination packages were sent to TWS.

9 student presentations at SEAFWA  
5 student posters at SEAFWA

Difficulty in getting judges. Had to recruit right before presentations.

C. W. Watson Award – Had 11 nominations this year. Winner will be announced Tuesday night. Encouraging to hear we had so many nominees!

Deer Committee – Mark Smith reported on behalf of Steve Demarais. The 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was in Missouri. Dr. Karl Miller was recipient of Career Achievement Award for 2017. Dr. Demarais stepped down after 15 years and Steve Shea took over as Chair. Bob Zagland will be new students' awards coordinator. Continue to work on CWD. 41<sup>st</sup> meeting in Nashville, TN. Continues to be the premier deer management meeting.

Steve Rockwood – Chair joint Wetlands Wildlife Committee (SETWS and SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Directors). Had committee meeting on Sunday afternoon. Talked about the NA Waterfowl Management plan update, update for 2018 Farm Bill and how it relates directly to wetlands (especially WRP), couple of presentations from Kennedy Foundation, update of farming on refuges (2016 banned use of GMOs and neonicotinoids), NA Wetlands Conservation Act – asked for re-authorization and funding at ~\$38+ million.

Endangered Species and Non-Game Wildlife Committee – No report

Fur Resources Committee- Colleen Olfenbuttel was not here, so Mark Smith reported. Have to meet charges of Wildlife Resource Committee.

Battle with EPA over Kaput for feral hogs - Eventually made to AFWA Policy Resources Committee – eventually culminated in letter to EPA to withdraw product. TWS also submitted letter. EPA has not changed stance. Both AFWA and TWS requested information sharing.

SEAFWA directors approved: 1) state oversight of damage control agents and 2) BMPs for rabies-vector species. Wildlife Damage Control Agents (SEAFWA webpage has approved documents)

Richard Rogers reported on 4 issues in need of research and asking for administrators to back:

1. Eastern spotted skunk conservation plan – WV only state that allows legal trapping. Concern is that nobody has good information on abundance/distribution. Feeling that distribution has contracted and abundance declined. Need data. There is a multi-state push for study.
2. Bobcats and otters – challenges to CITES by Wild Earth Guardian challenging export of bobcat/otter pelts. In court now. E.A. has been prepared, but has been appealed. They are challenging the science, not the morality of trapping. If they win this, it will just embolden them. States want research to help in cause.
3. Coyote incentive programs, predator contest bans – Issue is with private ones.....Virginia had “Eastern Predator.....” People were upset with trucks full of coyotes and other predators. Encouraging policy or position statement. Media was only getting one side of story.
4. Muskrat decline – Anecdotal decline observed by trappers across wetland types. Prolific breeders, have lived in bad conditions before. Why declining? Probably habitat quality related. Predation? Water quality? Round-Up? Endocrine disruptors? Tim Hiller – Wildlife Ecology Institute came to working group meeting last May and came up with study design, but way too big and way too expensive. He is working to pair it down using wetland classification system and radio telemetry studies.

Mark Smith said we could help to support these causes as a scientific organization, but asked for the Committee to bring things to us and make specific requests for assistance.

Wetlands Wildlife Committee–Will be given time at business meeting. Will have 2 recommendations to be submitted for vote. Will be asking SEAFWA to look through it. Executive Committee will review before Tuesday meeting.

Editorial Advisory Board for *The Wildlife Professional*- Joe McGlincy, Chair (but Mark reported). The EAB has 6 conference call/year to discuss each wildlife professional issue. Readers’ survey was very positive, gave TWP high marks. They need good articles submitted – especially from Southeast - but contact Nancy Sasavage first.

Minorities in Natural Resources Committee – No report

Wildlife Management Excellence Award- No report

Publications Committee- No report

TWP Editorial Advisory Board - No report

Membership Committee- No report.

Nominating Committee -Mike Mengak reported that he had a hard time getting people to sit on committee. Also hard time getting nominees. Katie sent out another reminder today. Had 75 votes so far. Clear candidates selected. Ray Iglay (President elect) and Kelly Douglass (secretary/treasurer).

Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC) -Nelson LaFon could not be here, but Mark Smith reported on his behalf. They have 13 member state chapters, but some states do not have individual CACs. Requested SETWS to sign off on Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which Mark did. Kaput feral hog bait – they have been in a lot of communications to keep people in the loop. Encourage people to get involved.

SEAFWA Liaison - Steve Rockwood reported. Had meeting with SEAFWA leaders about getting information out about SEAFWA journal. May request that Mark send letter to southeast universities to make sure they know SEAFWA has journal. Number of publication had dropped to 15 this year. Also talked the need to clean up the SEAFWA website to make clear whether abstracts are reviewed or just journal submissions. Need to clarify direction of Proceedings as well.

Strategic Planning – By-laws changes.... Mark Smith contacted Darren Miller to figure out the add-ins. Changing verbiage for where to hold business meeting.....but other changes by Darren that Mark does not fully understand.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Subunit collaboration meeting - Thought of having student representative on SE Section Board. Folks generally in favor, but would like thoughts from members of SETWS. For example, how would students be selected? At Conclave? Would we rotate position? A comment was made that we should be prepared to offer funding to help get the selected student to the annual meeting. If we wanted to provide support, would it come out of SETWS budget? Could the student “Skype” in to the meeting if budget is not there? If we rotate, we could have the student from the state that is hosting be on EB for year. Mike Mengak stated the need to get more members into section to help budget if we are to continue to provide financial support to students – on Executive Board, Conclave, etc.. What would the responsibilities be of the student if they are not voting member? Student voice into EB discussions, also allows EB to see what students are doing. Use Conclave as a way to exchange information among student chapters, funnel information to student rep on EB. Mike Conner suggested that first meeting with the student representative be in person at the SEAFWA meeting (as opposed to spring business meeting).

Mike Conner *moved* to add student representative to the Executive Board of the SE Section of TWS and that member be chosen based on the state that is hosting the SEAFWA meeting that year and that the student would be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

Motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Congrats to Eric Pelren as a new Fellow of TWS

Andy Madison announced student awards:

Best Student presentation - John Yeiser

Best Student paper – Charles Sanders

Best Student Chapter of the Year – Virginia Tech

Mark presented plaque to Mark Ford for his service as Associate Editor of Wildlife on Proceedings.

Mark also presented plaque to Dr. Steve Demarais for his 15 years of service to the Deer Committee.

Results of Elections – Mengak

Had about 13.8% of chapter voted. Incoming President Elect – Ray Iglay and incoming secretary/treasurer is Kelly Douglass.

Mark handed over presidency to Dr. Mike Mengak.

Dr. Mengak presented plaque to Dr. Smith for his service as president. Also presented plaque to Dr. Susan Rupp for her service a secretary/treasurer.

Call to adjourn, seconded.....so moved

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.