

Fall Board Meeting Minutes
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL
21 October 2018

ATTENDEES

<u>Executive Board</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mike Mengak	President
Ray Iglay	President-elect
Mark Smith	Past President
Kelly Douglass	Secretary/Treasurer

Members in attendance: Darren Miller (President, TWS). Nonmembers in attendance: Caroline Murphy (Government Relations Program Coordinator, TWS).

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 P.M. CST.

Welcome and Opening: Mike Mengak welcomed the new Board members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Meeting Minutes: Kelly Douglass distributed copies of the meeting minutes from the Spring 2018 Board meeting (12 April 2018) and they were reviewed by the Board. No comments or questions were received. Ray Iglay motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Mark Smith seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Douglass distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, covering the calendar year to date (1 January 2018 – 20 October 2018). The current account balance is \$11,051.44. Income received: \$4,766.00, from 2017 third and fourth quarter dues and 2018 first and second quarter dues. Expenditures made: \$1,708.51, including \$48.01 for a new checkbook, \$160.50 for award plaques, and \$1,500.00 for the Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.

Kelly then distributed the 2018 CY budget, as of 17 October 2018. Estimated budget items (predicted and actual income and expenses) were reviewed by the Board. Our baseline goal to retain \$10,000 in our account has been achieved, and we have no standing funding requests. Dues income is on par with last year. LSU did not request funds for hosting the 2018 Wildlife Student Conclave, so we did not spend our budgeted \$1,000 for that item this year. Monetary student awards (\$700) will be expended and presented at the awards banquet on 23 October 2018 or by end of year. TWS Conference line item is \$0 and will remain so for at least another year; Mike Mengak mentioned that the 2020 TWS Conference will be held in the Southeast Region – in Louisville, KY – so we should be prepared to support the conference at that time if TWS requests funding assistance, as we have in the past for years in which the TWS Conference is held in the Southeast Region. The most recent times the TWS Conference was held in the Southeast Region was 2016 in Raleigh, NC (SETWS donated \$1,000) and 2008 in Miami, FL (SETWS donated \$5,000 for the student mixer). SEAFWA also did not request funds for the

2018 SEAFWA Conference, so that budget line item is \$0. Support for other meetings (\$500 line item) is included in the budget for contingency purposes; no funding requests came in this year. Once the 2018 CY budget is closed out, Kelly will send a proposed 2019 CY budget to the Board for consideration at their spring Board meeting. Ray Iglay made a motion to accept the 2018 CY budget; Mark Smith seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved.

SE Section Rep to Council: No report.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Audit: Steven Castleberry is chair. A written report was submitted. The 2018 audit was conducted in October 2018. The committee found that the financial records were generally in good order.

Conservation Affairs: Nelson Lafon is chair. A written report was submitted. Nelson gave an update on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) legislative activities and Endangered Species Act (ESA) amendment. Nelson attends the bimonthly Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) meetings, held through TWS. No action items re: current conservation affairs were brought forth. Mark Smith asked about state chapter involvement in the Conservation Affairs committee. Carolina Murphy said the Southeast is very active, and Nelson is very involved. RAWA has been a good test model for CAN efficiency re: subunit engagement. Rachael Urbanek and Krisha Faw attended the CAN meeting at the 2018 TWS Conference in Cleveland, OH. Individual state involvement is unknown. Mike Mengak said there has been no discussion in GA re: conservation affairs. Kelly Douglass said NC was very active in conservation affairs, and Rachael Urbanek represents the NC Chapter on the CAN and SETWS Conservation Affairs committee. Ray Iglay said MS struggles with conservation affairs; Caroline Murphy offered to help.

Membership: Chair is vacant. Committee stays inactive. No chair appointed. Discussion occurred re: the necessity of this committee. The conceptual idea of this committee is great, but it is not very practical. No motion made to address the vacancy or purpose of this committee.

Nominations: Ray Iglay is chair. No news. Nominations will pick up in the spring. We will be looking to fill two positions: President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer.

Resolutions and Bylaws: Mark Smith is chair. No action yet. We will need to wait until after the annual business meeting to wrap all the bylaws changes together. Electronic voting is OK now (bylaws were amended in 2016 to allow for this).

Special Committees - Permanent

Deer: Steve Shea is chair. No report.

Fur Resources: Colleen Olfenbuttel is chair. A written report was submitted. This committee met with the SEAFWA Furbearer Working Group (FWG) at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in

Cameron, LA from 30 April – 3 May 2018. Eleven of the 15 SEAFWA member states were in attendance. Attendees reviewed a coyote synthesis document, and several members assisted in writing and reviewing the Eastern Spotted Skunk Conservation Plan. The committee requested the following action items:

- Eastern Spotted Skunk Conservation Plan: To increase awareness in the Southeast Region of eastern spotted skunk knowledge gaps and research priorities, we recommend that this plan be approved by SETWS Conservation Affairs and/or the SETWS Board. If approved, we would like to draft a short article to promote the plan in the SETWS newsletter.
- Recommendation for State Oversight of Wildlife Damage Control Agents: To increase awareness in the Southeast Region of these recommendations, which will help guide state agencies in drafting or reviewing state laws and regulations, the SETWS FRC requests that the SETWS endorse and promote these recommendations among its membership [Appendix B of the FRC report]. Possible outreach could include an article in the newsletter, posting the document on the SE Section's website, and/or elevating the document to the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group for consideration and endorsement.
- Recommended Best Management Practices to Address Possession, Transportation, and Disposition of Rabies Vector Species: As with the recommendations for WDCAs, the SETWS FRC feels that there is a need to increase awareness in the Southeast Region of these BMPs among the SETWS membership [Appendix C of the FRC report]. The SETWS FRC requests that the SETWS endorse and promote these BMPs among its membership. Possible outreach could include an article in the newsletter and posting the document on the SE Section's website.
- Coyote Incentive Programs/Predator Contests/Bounties: The SETWS brought this up as a topic of interest for the SETWS at the October 2017 meeting. We still believe this topic may be of interest to the SETWS Conservation Affairs as a policy priority for the Southeast Region due to the creation of two state harvest incentive programs, as well as increased pressure by various sportsmen's groups to implement bounties and predator contests.
- Muskrat Population Declines: The FWG continues to work on a regional muskrat research proposal. Once we have one or multiple proposals, we would like to engage the SETWS in helping us elevate this issue to state directors and various stakeholders. It has been challenging to secure support for research into muskrat population declines due to the potential cost of the study and the fact that the muskrat is neither a game species or a threatened or endangered species.

The committee's next meeting is a joint meeting with the Midwest Furbearer Working Group and will be held April 30 – May 2, 2019 in Enid, OK.

Publications: Lora Smith is chair. A written report was submitted. Eleven manuscripts were published in the 2017 *Journal of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. The committee selected as the winner of the SEAFWA 2017 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award: Little, A.R., G.J. D'Angelo, C.H. Killmaster, K.L. Johannsen, and K.V. Miller "Understanding Deer, Bear, and Forest Trends in the North Georgia Mountains: The Value of Long Term Data". Mike Mengak has the award plaque.

Awards: Andy Madison is chair. A written report was submitted. Two nominations and nine judges solicited for Student Chapter of the Year Award. Winner: Virginia Tech. Award will be presented at the SEAFWA awards banquet, along with the Best Student Poster Award and the Best Student Presentation Award.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA): Steven Castleberry is chair. A written report was submitted. No nominations were received this year for the WMEA. The lack of applications may be due to the late deadline. The committee will make sure that the call for nominations goes out earlier next year.

Special Committees - Joint Section-Association Committees

CW Watson Award: Emily Jo Williams is chair. A written report was submitted. The committee received and reviewed several excellent nominations for the CW Watson Award. A recipient was selected, and the award will be presented at the SEAFWA awards banquet on Tuesday.

Minorities in Natural Resource: David Buggs is chair. No report.

Wetland Wildlife: Steve Rockwood is chair. A written report was submitted. The committee has three recommendations: letters of support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, re-authorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the 2018 Farm Bill. The committee will write the letters and ask SETWS to sign-on.

The Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board: Joe McGlincy is chair. The board had six conference calls and discussed six issues with *The Wildlife Professional*. Joe asked to be replaced as chair next year.

SEAFWA Editors: Chris Conner is Associate Editor. Mark Ford is Assistant Editor. Both Chris and Mark would like to be replaced next year. The Board discussed several options or solutions: 1) get two new editors and ask Chris Conner to stay on in an advisory role, 2) make these positions a 2-3 year commitment, for continuity purposes, and try to get later-career individuals in the Associate Editor position, 3) suggest a 2-year term, but may be hard to find someone who is willing to serve that long, 4) stay with the current 1-year term, or 5) get two assistant editors to help with work load. Attendees suggested several options: Daniel Greene (suggested by Darren Miller for Assistant Editor), Karl Miller (retiring in 2019) as Associate Editor and Cherry or Daniel Greene as Assistant Editor, Lisa Muller (suggested by Darren Miller), Lara Pacifici (suggested by Mike Mengak).

Newsletter Update: Katie Edwards continues to serve as Newsletter Editor & Webmaster. A written report was submitted. Three newsletters were published, so far, this year: January issue (53 pages) emailed 1 February 2018, May/June issue (30 pages) emailed 12 June 2018, and September issue (33 pages) emailed 1 October 2018. Katie has been paid for her service.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Endangered Species & Nongame Wildlife Formation: Jeanne Jones is chair. No report. Darren Miller suggested removing Jeanne Jones as chair because she is retired. This is an ad hoc committee and is there is no need for it right now, we can dissolve it. The reason this committee was resurrected was to provide support for sponsoring symposia at conferences.

Liaison: Steve Rockwood is chair. No report. The purpose of this committee was associated with providing support for the transition of the SEAFWA Proceedings to a journal, and to provide a reminder to prevent calendar overlap with TWS. Mike will follow up with Steve.

After further discussion, President Mike Mengak disbanded these two ad hoc committees. Kelly Douglass will contact Mariah Simmons to remove them from the SETWS website.

Other Business

Student Representative on SETWS Executive Board: In 2017, the SETWS was approached by Phillip Stevenson (Student Liaison to Council, TWS) requesting a non-voting student representative serve on the Executive Board. The Board conceptually approved the idea but had many discussions about how to proceed with creating and implementing such a position. Discussions in 2017 included having the students attending the Southeast Wildlife Conclave elect a representative, but not all student chapters are present at conclave and would not get a vote. There are several other logistical issues with this approach, including term of office compared to the student's academic year and timing of conclave. Thus, Mike Mengak, in consultation with Mike Conner (Southeast Section Representative to Council, TWS), developed a new proposal. In summary, 10 of the 30 student chapters in the SETWS (rotating through the next 10 chapters every year, on a 3-year cycle) can nominate one individual to the SETWS Executive Board. The Board will then select the two best candidates which will be sent to all SETWS members for electronic voting. The individual with the highest number of votes will become the Student Representative to SETWS at the spring Board meeting. Term of office: one year: 1 August – 31 July [not 1 January – 31 December, as listed on proposal]. Deadline for nominations: 1 April. The purpose of this position would be to provide an experience for students to interact with Section officers (Mike Mengak read the formal proposal from Phillip Stevenson). Assignments of this position include: attending the SEAFWA Conference and SETWS Executive Board and Annual Business meetings, reaching out to the SETWS students, after SEAFWA, to report back on Section activities, and provide a newsletter article for the spring issue. The Board would like to test out this position for 2-3 years. The bylaws will need to be amended for this position to serve on the Executive Board, even if it is a non-voting Board member. Discussions were also had about possibly providing a student travel grant to SEAFWA for the elected representative.

SETWS Summer Field Course: The Northeast TWS Section sponsors a summer field course, and the SETWS would like to host something similar. The Board likes the idea of hosting a course but will need to figure out logistics – location, instructors, cost, etc. Mike Conner offered the Jones Ecological Research Center as a potential location. Possible course length: 10-12 days. Students will need on-site lodging and meals. The Board would like to use the Northeast Section's course as a model, working with John McDonald to help establish it, and hopes to start

the course in 2020. The course would be a money maker for the SETWS and would provide an opportunity for students at smaller colleges to get field experience, techniques course, and more. Course credit units will need to be established. The Board would like to see the course rotated around the Southeast Region, with potentially 2-3 locations in which the course would rotate among. This course is not meant to take the place of existing field techniques courses, like the one offered at NC State University, but would augment or provide an additional opportunity for students. Mike Mengak will bring a formal proposal to the Board for consideration.

Short Workshops: The Board discussed briefly the idea to host other shorter workshops in the future as well, like one on wildlife movements and R.

Pop-up Reminder on TWS Dues Renewal: Back in 2017, the SETWS Board approached Mike Conner about seeing if there was a way to get a pop-up reminder to TWS members renewing their membership to consider membership in the SETWS or other subunits. Mike discussed the idea with Ed Thompson but TWS has not acted on the suggestion yet, according to Caroline Murphy. Mike Conner will follow up with Ed Thompson again about this idea.

On a similar note, the Northeast Section recently offered a new dues structure for members, as part of a 2-year pilot project, in which members of TWS in the Northeast Section's geographical boundaries would automatically become a member of NETWS unless the member decides to opt out of the NETWS membership. TWS and the NETWS negotiated a specific membership rate per person for the project that was substantially less than normal Section dues but provides slightly more revenue the Section overall because of the increase in membership. The NETWS membership increased from 350 to over 1,200 since implementing the change. The SETWS Board would like to find out more about the successes and shortcomings of this program and wondered if something similar could/should be implemented in the Southeast. More information is needed, such as the price/person (the negotiated membership fee), if members become more active in the Section, and if (or how many) members begin opting out of the "automatic" membership over time.

Kelly Douglass motioned to adjourn; Mark Smith seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Douglass
SETWS Secretary/Treasurer