

Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group Meeting
26th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society
Wednesday, October 2, 2019 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Atlantis, Room Treasures D
Reno, Nevada

Meeting Facilitator: Ray Dueser - Chair-elect

Introductions and sign-in sheet

A quorum shall be 25% of the membership (69) or 25 members in good standing, whichever is less.

Meeting minutes recorded by: Alexis Noble

Officers and Board Members:

Ray Dueser – Chair. ray.dueser@virginia.edu
Marcia Wolfe – Past Chair. mwolfe@mhwolfeassoc.com
Eric Darracq – Chair-elect. eric.darracq@usda.gov
Michelle Ford – Secretary/Treasurer. mfordwetlands@gmail.com
Jody Bremner – Canadian Section Representative.
jody.bremner@jacobs.com
Vacant – Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative.
Vacant – North Central Section Representative.
Ashley McGinnis – Northeast Section Representative.
amcginnis@gfnet.com
Vacant – Northwest Section Representative.
Sandra Patrick – Southeastern Section Representative.
Vacant – Southwest Section Representative.
Vacant – Western Section Representative.

Meeting Started: 12:00

Attendees:	Ray Dueser	ray.dueser@virginia.edu
	Jon Haufler	jon_haufler@emri.org
	Erin Considine	erin.considine@usda.gov
	Jaron Kolek	jaron.kolek@gmail.com
	Jordan Heiman	jordanheiman89@gmail.com
	Ben Wishnek	benwishnek@gmail.com
	Eric Darracq	eric.darracq@usda.gov

Buddy B. Fazio bfazio@usbr.gov
Donna Bruns Stockrahm stockram@mnstate.edu
Kaesey Browne kaesey.browne@att.net

Discussion:

- A quorum was not present for the meeting.
- There are 5 (possibly 7) WHRWG section rep Vacancies
- The 2019 call for nominations/volunteers for WHRWG elective positions attracted little attention (i.e., one candidate).
- We identified an excellent candidate for Chair-Elect from among those attended the 2019 WHRWG business meeting in Cleveland. Eric Darracq will be appointed to that position in December.
- The minutes of the 2019 WHRWG business meeting are available on our website.
- The WHRWG has 275 paying members as of September 1, 2019. This is an increase of 46 since last year. 47 states, 5 Canadian provinces. Australia, Finland, Germany, Romania, South Africa No active members in Kansas, Vermont or West Virginia. 47 students (+14), 45 new professionals (+11), 11 retired
- Treasury report submitted by Michelle Ford, September 16, 2019: \$5,299.29 in the WHRWG account.
 - We need to start expending these funds for the benefit of the working group members.

Old/New News:

- Last year 8 people attended the WHRWG annual business meeting. This year the count is 9. Most of the other working groups also have the issue of low turnout for their business meetings.
- WHRWG sponsored a symposium this year on the use of beavers and beaver dam as a restoration tool for the greater riverscapes.
- 2019 was devoted to developing a WHRWG “action plan.” What are the tasks we need to do and how do we complete those tasks. Work on the draft action plan was shelved because of the realization that the WHRWG Charter needed to be revised first.
- There is a critical need to revise the charter to identify tasks that need to be done by a specific person and to align our elective and volunteer positions with those tasks. This will be a major task prior to the 2020

- annual conference. We have been told that any Charter revision will require the approval of the TWS Council.
- We're looking for ideas to move the group forward: organize symposia and workshops, sponsoring field trips, produce a newsletter, and utilize the website more effectively
 - We will offer student travel grants of \leq \$500 to attend the 2020 annual conference.
 - Rangeland Wildlife Working Group would like to collaborate with the WHRWG on a symposium at the 2020 annual conference in Kentucky.
 - WHRWG will consider organizing a symposium and/or a field trip on mine land reclamation for the 2020 annual conference in Kentucky.
 - We need to identify someone that will take on the task putting information on the WHRWG website.
 - It was suggested that we should send out a survey to solicit ideas on what type of information we should put on the WHRWG website.
 - Suggestion to get people to take a survey would be to offer the possibility to win a \$50 gift card.
 - Suggestion to have a social event after the annual business meeting. Perhaps make alcohol available and offer a raffle.
 - Have to be careful with state gambling laws.
 - Eric Darracq mentioned making a draft of what the website could look like.
 - Tools including what a habitat type means, and things that people have been using for multiple years and is a success.
 - Separating out the restoration protocols that will be put on the website by state.
 - Asked Mariah about the rules of the quorum. She said that she would investigate it in the upcoming weeks.
 - Look into getting a link on the Society for Ecological Restoration webpage.
 - An inquiry was made by a prior chair into making webinars and posting them onto the Society for Ecological Restoration.
 - Add job board links to the website to allow people to look into jobs in our fields.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:21 P.M.