

2020 Business meeting

Friday, February 21, 2020

Call to order by Terri Brunjes, KYCTWS president at 11:00 am

- First order of business was the approval of 2019 minutes. Motion by Dr. Elliott, seconded by Cody Rhoden. Motion passed by vote of membership.

- Secretary report presented by Kathy Terry
 - There were 104 attendees at the 2020 annual meeting comprised of 52 students and 52 professionals.
 - The current KYCTWS Membership stands at 179 members, comprised of 79 students and 100 professionals.

- Treasurer report presented by Cody Rhoden. See attached Treasurer Report for details.
 - Current account balance is \$25,794.19 (\$9,761.55 available). Funds unavailable are pass-through funds for the USFWS Partners Program and WBS Private Lands Project.
 - Reasons for loss of income include less funding through the USFWS Partners program, and no workshop in 2019.
 - Current funds are above our operating budget for last 3 years, including 2019 internship payment.
 - Investment Account – Report by Bill Balda (in absentia). In 2019, \$10,000 was deposited. 14.7% on return in 2019. The 2019 ending balance is \$43,207.75. Membership will need to decide what to do with these funds.
 - 2019 audit complete, in process of completing 2020.
 - Square transactions cost 2.5% at each transaction. This system makes payments easy, but the fees add up. KYCTWS must determine if we should charge a processing fee for people to use credit cards to recoup the fees.
 - Discussion about why intern wasn't 50/50 on the KYCTWS accounting books.
 - USFS payment to the intern was passed through KYCTWS in order to pay the student intern. Since USFS cannot pay with a check, there was a fee charged by Square for the transaction resulting in a loss.
 - KYCTWS must determine the best course of action for compensating each intern, and each year will be different according to the Partner organization's policies and procedures for hiring and distribution of funds. Universities are taking overhead costs out of funds. KDFWR does not have mechanism for interns.
 - The amount of \$3150/internship was determined by the Student Development Committee so the hosting agency would not have to pay benefits.
 - Could it be a scholarship? Need to determine tax implications.
 - Suggestions included talking to the Clarks River Friends group to see if they are set up to transfer funds for this sort of activity, check with the National TWS organization to see how other states might be handling this issue. Bottom line, KYCTWS cannot hire the intern. A third party contracted to hire the intern would increase costs due to overhead and HR, and it is generally agreed that it would be better for the student to receive the funds than to pay overhead.
 - Meeting – brought in \$4138, \$383 from silent auction, \$3,755 from sponsors and meeting registration/dues. Cody will calculate the costs of the meeting.

- RLewis requested student chapters to bring donations for the silent auction. Discussion about silent auction income being tied to funding for student cabins – this is not the case, but the funds from the silent auction do support the cabins sponsored by KYCTWS.
- A good job was done on keeping costs down on planning side for annual meeting
- Update on SE section – Dr. Elliott
 - Watson Award to Alvin Taylor from South Carolina
 - Student Chapter of Year – U Tenn Martin
 - SE Excellence Award – Georgia DNR – Bobwhite
 - SE Biologist of Year – Gary Norman, VA Dept. Game and Fish.
 - SE Section sponsored field course will be held this summer.
 - SE Student Wildlife Conclave will be co-hosted by Western Carolina University and Haywood Community College on March 12-14, 2020.
 - Dr. Elliott would like KYCTWS members to contribute updates and Information for the SE Section newsletter. He compiles information from the KDFWR Commission newsletter at this time.
- Student Prof Dev Committee – Rob Lewis
 - No apps for Grant, not going to award it in 2020. Need to be sure students apply for this next year.
 - SE Section field course – Chapter will give 3 scholarships of \$100 each
 - 2019 internship was successful, want to continue in future. Interviews for 2020 Elk Internship will be held immediately after this meeting.
 - Best Student Presentation Kiersten Youngquist, Murray State University – “Effects of Asian Clams on Adult, Freshwater Mussels.” Kiersten was awarded \$200.
 - Best Student Poster Jacob Pease, Murray State University – “American Chestnut (*Castanea denate*) in Kentucky: Spatial Information and the Future of our Forests.” Jacob was awarded \$100.
- Unfinished business – NONE
- Election
 - Member at Large – Rob Lewis has moved to TN and has resigned his position. In accordance with the KYCTWS bylaws, the Executive Board appointed Gregg Janos to complete the 2-year term. This position will be elected in 2021.
 - Treasurer – one nomination for Cody Rhoden. There were no additional nominations received by the Election Committee and none from the floor. Dr. Elliott moved to approve Cody Rhoden for the Treasurer position by acclamation, The motion was seconded by Mike Morton . Passed by membership
- Audit Committee – Matt Springer
 - Springer and Rhoden reviewed the accounting books prior to the business meeting and have a process in place for future audits.
 - Books are approved for 2019.
 - Looking for additional person for audit committee

Additional items of discussion:

- National TWS meeting – Louisville in September/October of 2020. It would be great to have KY Chapter members attend. The registration costs are high, and the National Chapter will not lower registration costs for volunteers. There was discussion about how KYCTWS is helping with the National TWS meeting. ECU and MSU will bring students as they usually do.
 - Eric Darracq is the Chair-elect of the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Working Group and is looking for assistance with planning a field trip during the TWS meeting.
 - Matthew Springer is the Chair of the Urban Wildlife working group and is also organizing a field trip for the National TWS meeting.
- Please consider nominating colleagues for National TWS awards
- KYCTWS will be hosting a biennial workshop with a topic of Pollinators and their habitat. Hope to have at ECU Farm in late summer or fall. It was suggested to schedule the workshop around National meeting and advertise nationally.
- There was discussion about increasing student involvement, especially with KDFWR CWD sampling. KDFWR wildlife division are aware that students may be contacting staff to request experience. In addition, KDFWR staff should be asking for students to volunteer for field work.
- Terri Brunjes thanked our 2020 meeting sponsors: Murray State University Watershed Studies Institute, Roundstone Seed, and the KY state chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. She asked for ideas for a theme for the 2021 annual meeting. Ideas included wetlands and turkeys. The meeting will be held in western KY next year.

Meeting was adjourned by Terri Brunjes at 11:41am.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Terry, KYCTWS Secretary