



Meeting Minutes
San Joaquin Valley Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Redding, CA
February 6, 2020

Call to Order & Introductions. Call to order 2040, Introductions. Tory Westall (president elect) running mtg; Erin absent.

Executive Board and Committee Chair Reports:

President (Erin Whitfield): Not Present

President-elect (Tory Westall): Tory and Randi attended chapter leadership mtg. Items discussed how hard to get people to run for president. Discussed officer recruitment. Some Chapters have 3-year terms, they like ours as model. Many other Chapters are large and spread out, hard to get everyone engaged. Some Chapters have county reps whom host local events in far flung reaches. Brian said for some perspective, many other states have one Chapter for the whole state, so we are doing pretty well. Longer terms would impact recruitment, but would be more efficient. Having more committee involvement would help, having people become involved a little a time. Larry: really helps to have functioning committees, not a committee of one. Some Chapters are thinking about Facebook streaming Chapter meetings; might be good to try to help with Chapter mtg participation. Also discussed using technology to track decisions/votes. App called Slack to archive messages/votes. Free version of Slack only archives so much. Another way to find potential people, reach out to repeat WS attendees. Also could have "interest" column on sign in sheet. ACTION ITEM: Julie will look into use of Slack. How many members can access, could do notifications too. Will need to evaluate payment options.

Past President (Larry Saslaw): NR

Treasurer (Ryan Lopez): NP, report submitted via Skip. \$46,704 beginning bank balance. Income was \$14,318, outgoing \$12,442. Balance as of Dec 1: \$48,579

Secretary (Julie Vance): Purchased \$300 REI items for Western Section silent auction/raffle. Got backpack, water bottle, hammock, and camping chair.

Chapter Representative (Randi McCormick): Letter sent out from HSU professor (Dan Barton) to TWS, protest letter because 2020 conference is in KY and State employees cannot travel to/attend, including students. Means HSU can't attend quiz bowl. TWS response was dismissive. Asked Chapters to consider writing letter to TWS re welcoming policies and to avoid having conferences in this state (and other banned states) in the future. We will have to decide if we want to send letter, maybe after WS letter drafted. Another TWS member brought up that TWS should consider Jewish high holidays and was dismissed. TWS-WS now has \$70K reserve, which will not be tapped into. TWS-WS has close to \$500K pre expenses for 2020 Redding mtg. Next year

(2021) in Riverside, then Tenaya in 2022. Randi on professional development committee meetings, have monthly calls for one hour. Pres elect (Erica) will cover the calls.

Granting Committee Chair (Lori Bono): Gave out 7 travel grants for \$600 per, students and early professionals. Also have \$ for research grants, need more applicants.

Membership Coordinator (Renée Robison): NP, submitted report via email: 234 members.

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster (Howard Clark): Newsletter was published end 2019. Next one could be post NCC with NCC highlights, need pics etc. ACTION ITEM: Julie will take pics etc.

Registrar (Linda Connolly): NP/NR

Conservation Affairs (Skip Moss): Conservation Affairs can aggregate voices, speak on behalf of the membership. If see issues at local, state, or fed level, bring to Skip. Kelly Holland is TWS-WS Conservation Affairs committee chair (and president); see theme of this meeting.

Historian (Jeff Davis): On website, have chronological history, just updated. ACTION ITEM: Jeff will send to Howard for website update and we will be caught up.

Program Development (Erin Tennant): NP/NR

Outreach Coordinator (vacant): Nicole Deatheridge is CSU Bakersfield outreach. Elizabeth McNamara willing to help with CSU Bakersfield. ACTION ITEM: Lori will follow up.

1. **Workshops Planned**

CESA/CEQA workshop:

Summer 2020, CDFW willing to host. Early October, during the week. Hodels about \$100/per person. Much discussion about setting the fee for the conference. Need to release to membership first. Need to discuss fee more. \$275 for AEP CEQA WS as comparison. Don't want to mix with NEPA/Fed ESA. ACTION ITEM: Need committee to work on pricing. Lori will help with pricing/location.

Side Note: Diversity Committee Chair stopped by the Chapter mtg. Wants to grow the Diversity Committee. Encouraging Chapters to have Diversity Chair. Wants events with Chapters. TWS-West Diversity Instagram page, also starting YouTube channel. In response to the *Diversify Wildlife* video. Should review and give feedback. Can tell own story and upload to channel.

Other Workshops

Small Mammal or Soil Workshop in Fall 2020? Larry explored ideas for soil workshop. One day WS to interpret soil surveys for WL potential. Soils as foundation for WS. Fall 2020 or next spring. Jesse Bahm at NRCS, Terry Ruiz retired would maybe help. Possible one day in field.

Much more handling needed for state and federal permits. Still interest in small mammal? Yes

Mojave Ground Squirrel Workshop in 2021? Last one in Ridgecrest in 2005. Would Chapter be involved in partnering with Kathy Simon, or have western Section be point on? Some interest in having Western Section do it. Ivan Parr could handle for WS. Could maybe reserve for our members? We can help.

2. Field Trips and Activities

In 2020, put on condor stakeholders workshop. In fall would members be interested in seeing condors? Yes. ACTION ITEM: Larry will pursue, likely only 30 people. Active members (board members, etc.) first priority.

Camping trip: reserve and pick date, invite members. ACTION ITEM: Randi will make reservation.

Social Mixers: Defer for next meeting

3. Old Business

Membership Management Software – Renee, still investigating will update the board when information becomes available. Defer to next Chapter meeting

Natural Communities Conference update: conference set for March 26th, 2020. Also reserved Rusty's for Chapter meeting to follow. Call for abstracts out. Photo contest? ACTION ITEM: Tory can order camera and will talk to Ryan re mugs. Will check with café press for tote bags (for members). ACTION ITEM: Rainey running the photo contest. Erica doing auction, will put out calls for items. Will also have table for repurposing books, publications. Everyone interested in field gear exchange.

4. New Business

- Budget: need time to eval and want more board members to weigh in.
- Appointment of new officers: New Chapter President: Tory Westall, Erica Kelly new President Elect.

Mtg adjourned at 1016 pm. Larry motioned, Lori seconded.