NETWS Third Quarter Board Meeting

Conference call

06 September 2017, 2:00 pm

Conference call number 612-900-0516 passcode 2866477#

Agenda:

Intro/Call to Order

President Jenny Prenosil starts meeting with a roll call of board members. Present are Laurel Badura, Caroline Jezierski, Shaun Dunn, Shelly McPherron, Mel Nenneman. Matt Steffl, Adam Jones, and John Denton were unable to make the call.

Secretary’s Report: Nenneman sent out the minutes from the Second Quarter Board meeting held on 10 April 2017 prior to the meeting. We did not take time to read through the minutes. Shaun Dunn offered that the minutes looked complete, and moved to accept the minutes, Caroline seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Jones did not have time to get a treasurer’s report ready before the meeting. Nenneman asked if there were any substantial changes to NETWS accounts since the last meeting, and Prenosil indicated that she didn’t think so. Prenosil said that Jones has taken the position of Superintendent at Indian Cave Park, and has asked to resign as treasurer. There was some discussion about how to fill the position. Treasurer will be up for election on the next ballot to serve in 2018-2019. Badura suggested that it might be good to see if someone from Lincoln could fill the position due to logistical concerns with the bank. Juzierski suggested that the board might want to find someone interested in running for the position on the next ballot. The board can appoint someone to fill the position when it is vacant. This was not resolved, but board members were going to try to identify a NETWS member to fill this role.

Committee Reports:

* + Nominating - no updates
  + Membership - Dunn had a pretty good response in membership renewals after the last newsletter. He indicated there was a small drop in memberships following the Midwest Meeting since some people that attend the NETWS meeting did not attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. One of the action items in the APO is to maintain and build membership, and Dunn indicated he will continue to work on reminding lapsed members to rejoin the NETWS Chapter.
  + Programs – Steffl reported that the programs committee is moving forward with planning for a spring meeting with NETWS/CMPS combined. Andrew Pierson has joined the committee to help out with planning. Still hoping to secure a location in the Kearney area to provide attendees with an opportunity to see the sandhill crane migration. Steffl asked for feedback from the board as to preference on the meeting dates and schedule – have the meeting run from Wed-Fri, with Fri as the student/professional workshop, or plan a mid-week meeting to leave Mon and Fri as travel days for CMPS folks attending from out of state. Badura spoke in favor of maintaining the tradition of the student/professional workshop on the last day of the meeting.
  + Conservation Review – no updates
  + Information and Education – Mark Lindvall sent out the latest newsletter to 239 people, of which 62 opened the newsletter for a 26% opening rate. Mark said that Jason Clark and David Brasch had agreed to help him with the newsletter.
  + Awards – no updates, but Badura indicated that she would like someone else to take over as the chair of this committee since she has been in this role for a really long time (>15 years).
  + Certification – no updates

Old Business

* Email Listserv protocol – The board discussed a protocol for NETWS members to use when posting to the NETWS Google Groups email. One part of the discussion involved what to call the protocol since the google group is technically not a listserv. Suggested to simply call it the NETWS Google Group protocol. The Board thought it was good to have written guidelines for members regarding posting to the NETWS Google Group. Badura moved to approve the protocol with suggested changes, Dunn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
* APO review – President Prenosil wanted to have the Board revisit the APO document to insure that the Board still approved of the APO as written. Prenosil and Dunn talked briefly about ideas for getting more people to attend the annual meeting and become members. Ideas included outreach to lapsed members or other wildlife professionals to get them to attend the annual meeting and join NETWS. One suggestion was to explore the option of getting sponsorships to reduce the costs of the meeting and/or reduce the cost of the registration. Dunn commented that it is difficult to seek sponsorships as someone has to do the groundwork (approaching potential sponsors). Jezierski suggested that it might be worthwhile to send a questionnaire to members to assess barriers to attending the annual meeting. Prenosil will email the APO to committee chairs for their input, and will be looking to vote on accepting the APO at a later date.

New Business

* Feral Cat Research Grant – Dunn led a discussion of the potential for NETWS to provide some seed money for research on feral cats in NE. The idea started with a paper presented at the Parent TWS meeting that used kitty cams to assess the impact on wildlife of both domestic pets allowed to roam freely and feral cats in trap-neuter-release (TNR) colonies. Dunn suggested that NETWS consider the possibility of replicating this research in a large community in Nebraska to provide an opportunity for student research and to provide an opportunity to educate the public about the impact of free roaming cats on wildlife. NETWS would not fund the project entirely, but perhaps could provide some starter money to provide some interest from potential partners. Badura suggested that Brian Peterson from University of Nebraska – Kearney might be a good contact and that UN-K has a cat colony. Prenosil mentioned that this could be an avenue to tap into undergraduate research funding at UN-K or UN-L. UN-L has the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience program (UCARE) and UN-K has a Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities program (URCA) that may be able to partially fund a project. This could also be an opportunity for several student chapters to collaborate among schools. There was also a bit of discussion about the type of collar to use (what type of data gets collected) and how to retrieve data from the collars. Free roaming pet cats are much easier as the owner can attach and remove collars, while free roaming feral cats would need to be captured at least twice. No vote was taken on this issue, but the board generally seemed in favor of moving forward with this possibility. Next steps should probably include determining an amount of money NETWS is willing to set aside for a project, and contacting student chapters and/or chapter mentors to determine if there is interest in this type of research.
* Honoring Joel Sartore – request by Carl Wolfe. Discussion of providing Joel Sartore with an NETWS award at the annual meeting, and the possibility of getting Mr. Sartore to speak at the annual meeting. With his work at National Geographic and the Photo Arc Project, Mr. Sartore has raised public awareness of species in danger of disappearing. Dunn though it would be great if we could get him to speak, and Jezierski said that she saw Mr. Sartore give a great conservation talk. Need to get dates set for the spring meeting and contact Mr. Sartore as soon as possible as he undoubtedly has a busy schedule. No vote was taken, but the board seemed in favor of this action.

Pres. Prenosil asked if there was any other business. None was brought up, so she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dunn so moved, Badura seconded and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.