NETWS Quarterly Board Meeting

Conference call

12 December 2018, 3:00 PM Central time

Call in number 605-475-4829, passcode 278045#

Intro/call to order

Steffl called the meeting to order with announcement of board members present on the call: Matt Steffl, Shaun Dunn, Jenny Prenosil, Jessica Jurzenski, Mel Nenneman, Caroline Jezierski, and Mike Gutzmer were all accounted for. Board members John Denton and Erin Considine were unable to make the call.

Meeting minutes: Nenneman sent a copy of the board meeting minutes from the 28 Feb 2018 board meeting out prior to the conference call. Jurzenski reviewed these and made a few corrections and additions. Nenneman read a summary of the minutes as amended by Jurzenski. Jurzenski moved to accept the minutes, Dunn seconded and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurers report (attached at end of meeting notes): Jurzenski presented the current status of the NETWS budget that was approved at the membership meeting. She sent a summary of the current budget to the board via email prior to the meeting. Jurzenski said overall the budget is looking pretty good. She noted several places in the budget where some bookkeeping needed to be done to replace estimates that were included in the budget with the actual money received or money spent. Steffl mentioned that the Catering expenses came in higher than estimated because he was told when he asked that the 20% gratuity for catering was included in the cost estimate that NETWS received, and it was not included which resulted in a higher actual cost. All told the chapter is in the black for our 2018 budget, and our financial accounts are in good shape as well.

Jurzenski asked if anyone on the board knew the origin of a $500 donation from Watertown, SD. Steffl looked at his notes and it was determined that this was likely a donation from the Elk Foundation to our annual meeting in Kearney. Jurzenski also asked about how much award plaques had cost, and where they were in the budget so that she could do proper accounting for this expense. Steffl indicated that he had paid for them out of reimbursements money.

Jurzenski brought up the question of whether or not we should leave the funds for the Joe Gabig scholarship in a CD as the return is pretty low ($5 and $11 the past couple of years). Suggested the chapter might want to consider other investment options. The CD matures in March 2019 and can be rolled into another CD or pulled into another type of investment. No action was taken.

Committee Reports

Nominating- Committee chair Jenny Prenosil sent an email to NETWS membership seeking nominations for the open board positions (President-elect, Secretary, 2 At-Large). She has gotten at least 1 nominee for each position, and is looking for a few more candidates. Jess Jurzenski and Mel Nenneman are nominating committee members, and are going to see if we can round up a few more candidates. If the board members have anyone that they can recommend to the nominations committee as a potential candidate, please contact Jenny, Jess, or Mel and we can reach out to them.

Membership- Committee chair Shaun Dunn said that membership numbers have held pretty steady, and that he would be sending out renewal reminders soon as this is about the time that many of our state chapter memberships expire. Current membership is about 105.

Programs- Committee chair and President-elect Shaun Dunn reported that we have a date and venue for the meeting. Dunn will be sending out a request for paper presentations and poster presentations soon, probably next week. The theme of the meeting is “What we do matters: Local science and why you should talk about what you do”. Dunn has contacted a keynote speaker from Texas. The speaker is an urban biologist who does a lot of public outreach. Dunn is coordinating with her to see what costs her agency is willing to cover, and what NETWS will need to contribute for her to attend our meeting. Dunn indicated that he will be seeking some help to look into getting a caterer lined up for the meeting. Jurzenski suggested to Dunn that finding someone to spearhead setting up a workshop would be a good idea. There was brief discussion of having a workshop to get people started on the TWS Certification process to become a Certified Wildlife Biologist.

Certification-No report. Committee chair is Carl Wolfe.

Conservation Review- Committee chair Eric Zach sent the following information regarding the Farm Bill (which the House of Representatives was voting on around the time of the NETWS board meeting, so Zach was not able to make the board meeting).

Overall the Farm Bill looks pretty good and funding for most of the important conservation programs increased. A few highlights:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

 -the CRP cap increases from 24 to 27 million acres

-of the 3 million acre increase, 1 million acres can be enrolled in General and Continuous practices, and the other 2 million acres are allocated to Grassland CRP

-the bill maintains, though at reduced levels, several incentives offered to landowners

Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentives Program (helps pay for hunting and fishing access on private lands)

 -Reauthorizes VPA for $50 million, an increase of $10 million

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

 -Increases funding for EQIP

 -The amount of EQIP funds that go toward wildlife related practices increases from 5% to no less than 10%

 -The Working Lands for Wildlife program is put into statute which strengthens its ability to provide conservation

Agriculture Conservation Easements Program

 -the bill increases funding to $450 million per year

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

-the bill makes RCPP a stand-alone program and provides $1.5 billion in funding over the 5 year life of the Farm Bill

Steffl said that NETWS sent out two letters during the year. One was to the USFS in support of moving a biologist station location from the Nebraska National Forest-Bessey Division to Valentine. This would give the USFS a better presence at the McKelvie National Forest. This move happened, and the biologist is now in Valentine.

A second letter was written in opposition to a proposal to move water from the Platte River basin into the Republican River basin. NETWS opposed this action because of the potential negative ecological consequences which range from reducing the flow of water in the Platte River for wildlife that use this water, to creating an avenue for the spread of invasive species.

Education and Information committee – No report. Lindvall (Jason Clark and David Baasch) have continued to work on producing a chapter newsletter. Badura is still the webmaster, with Jurzenski monitoring the NETWS Facebook page, and Jessica Barret doing the same for the NETWS Google Groups.

Student Chapters – No report. Steffl asked if the board had requested that a student chapter representative sit in at board meeting to provide input as a non-voting member. Also wondered if we need to do anything formal to allow this. The board didn’t think that we needed to create a formal position for doing this, just need to find a student willing to do this and communicate with other student chapters.

Awards committee-Laurel Badura has stepped away from this committee as chair, and two individuals have expressed interest in chairing the committee. Steffl asked if any of the board members knows either Dr. Andrew Little or Jessica Barrett. Prenosil offered that she had been working with Dr. Little, and that he seemed to be interested in NETWS and a good person. Steffl suggested asking Dr. Little to chair the committee, with help from Jessica Barrett and Badura. Jurzenski moved to do this, Dunn seconded and motion passed.

Steffl said that Mariah Simmons had updated the Nebraska TWS website to provide a location to house NETWS policy papers and letters. Steffl asked where we might find these documents, and several board members indicated they might have some of this information available. Additionally, some of the NETWS documents were scanned and are available in the UNL digital commons (?). Jezierski suggested that we might be able to put a link to the scanned documents in the UNL web archive and then add more recent postings directly to the website.

Revising the APO – A note from the previous board meeting indicated that Prenosil had asked committee chairs for feedback on the current APO, and that she would send these comments to the board for consideration in an updated APO. Prenosil said she would look for these notes and share them with the board. Jurzenski said that the last version of the APO that she found was dated 2015, and suggested that we might consider doing a review of the APO and the chapters Strategic Plan at the same time. The Strategic Plan is due for revision in 2020.

Steffl will plan on obtaining committee reports for the Annual Meeting.

Jurzenski reminded the board members to look at the Bylaws before the next meeting as this document should guide the board actions and outlines the duties of each board position.

Prenosil moved to adjourn the meeting, Dunn seconded and the motion passed.

Budget - Current Year

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1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018

Category Description Actual Budget Difference

|  |
| --- |
| **INCOME**  |
| CMPS Income | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Donations | 1,261.40 | 2,600.00 | -1,338.60 |
| Exhibitor Booth Fee | 776.50 | 0.00 | 776.50 |
| Interest Income | 1.91 | 1.50 | 0.41 |
| Lifetime Memberships | 484.90 | 150.00 | 334.90 |
| Membership Income | 912.31 | 700.00 | 212.31 |
| Unknown | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Workshop Auction Income | 3,439.77 | 1,500.00 | 1,939.77 |
| Workshop Cash Deposit | 450.00 | 500.00 | -50.00 |
| Workshop Registration Income | 11,058.20 | 7,100.00 | 3,958.20 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **19,134.99** | **12,551.50** | **6,583.49** |
| **EXPENSES**  |
| Chapter Operation Expense | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| CMPS Expense (50% of Auction income | 2,302.00 | 0.00 | -2,302.00 |
| CMPS Membership Dues | 0.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 |
| Education and Information Expense | 0.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Event Support | -607.28 | 500.00 | 1,107.28 |
| Finance Charge | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Joe Gabig Scholarship Expense | 100.00 | 0.00 | -100.00 |
| Membership Development Expense | 0.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Photo Art Contest Prizes | 250.00 | 200.00 | -50.00 |
| Professional Award Expense | 0.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Student Poster Award Expense | 200.00 | 400.00 | 200.00 |
| Student Travel Award Expense | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Student-Professional Workshop | 110.28 | 500.00 | 389.72 |
| Workshop Cash Withdrawl | 450.00 | 300.00 | -150.00 |
| Workshop Catering Expense | 10,787.15 | 8,000.00 | -2,787.15 |
| Workshop Expense | 508.70 | 500.00 | -8.70 |
| Workshop Facility Expense | 825.00 | 500.00 | -325.00 |
| Workshop Speaker Expense | 500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **15,425.85** | **12,905.00** | **-2,520.85** |
| **OVERALL TOTAL** | **3,709.14** | **-353.50** | **4,062.64** |

**Year-to-date Account Details**

category error in

Quicken (to be fixed) - should be an income category from Paypal deposit associated with 2017 MAFWA meeting

Checking $19,495.34

Savings $5,528.89 Joe Gabig CD $4,744.87

 Paypal $6,019.82 (to be deposited into checking)