NETWS Quarterly Board Meeting

Chances R restaurant

20 February 2019, 6:30 PM Central time

Intro/call to order- Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by President-elect Shaun Dunn. Present were board members Dunn, Jessica Jurzenski, Mel Nenneman, John Denton, and Caroline Jezierski. Also attending were board member elect Mercy Dinwiddie, TWS Council Representative Bob Lanka, NETWS member Mark Lindvall, and Jessica Alderson, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Past President Jenny Prenosil, President Matt Steffl, and at-large board members Mike Gutzmer and Erin Considine were unable to attend the meeting.

Dunn started the meeting by introducing board members and thanking outgoing board members John Denton and Caroline Jezierski. New board members include President –elect Shelly McPherron, and at-large board members Mercy Dinwiddie and Andrew Little.

Secretaries report: Nenneman emailed a copy of the last board meeting minutes (meeting held 12 Dec 2018) to the board on 19 Feb 2019, and the board had looked them over and saw no changes or additions. Jess Jurzenski had previously provided a few additions/edits to the minutes. Jurzenski moved to approve the board meeting minutes , seconded by Denton. Motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurers report (attached at end of meeting notes): Jurzenski presented the end-of-year budget for 2018. The money the chapter spent during the year was quite close to the actual expenses, with the budgeted amount somewhat higher than the actual costs. The chapter came out quite well for the year, with a balance of $25,515.32 in checking, $5,529.12 in savings, and $4744.87 in the Joe Gabig Scholarship CD. Nenneman moved to approve the 2018 budget, second by Jezierski, passed by voice vote.

Jurzenski also provided copies of the proposed budget for 2019. The board discussed several options and ideas for using chapter funds to help members become certified as Associate Wildlife Biologist (AWB) or Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB). Suggestions included providing reimbursement for half of the application costs (AWB cost $115, CWB cost $155), capping the amount we make available for reimbursements, using a 1st come, 1st serve provision of these funds and reimbursing members for only one application per person.

Recommendation: NETWS will offer a reimbursement of 50% of the application cost to members applying for certification with TWS (either as a AWB or CWB). This reimbursement will be offered one time/person. NETWS will set aside $1025 for this purpose, and will reimburse applicants until this funding is used up.

Dunn moved to approve this recommendation, seconded by Jezierski, and the motion passed.

Discussion: Lanka said that other chapters provide funding to send someone from their chapter to the TWS annual meeting. Suggested that it may be good practice to send an incoming president or other board member. Registration at the annual meeting runs about $425, and hotels probably $200/night. Jurzenski suggested that NETWS consider setting aside $1000 to help send an approved member to the TWS annual meeting. It was also suggested that the attending member then provide a report back to the general membership about their experience at the meeting.

 Jurzenski moved to add professional travel expense to the 2019 budget to assist a board member (or members) to attend the TWS annual meeting, and that the attending member or members would report back to NETWS about their experience at the NETWS annual meeting. These funds would be limited to board members. Jezierski seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote.

Both motions for budget items will need to be approved at the membership meeting.

Committee Reports

Nominating- Prenosil was not present, but a slate of candidates was identified, elections were held, and we have new board members!

Membership- Dunn reported that he had not run the membership numbers, but that as of last check we had just under 100 members, and that we are holding pretty steady.

Programs- Dunn said that he had gotten a lot of great help pulling the meeting together, and there are currently about 86 people registered for the meeting. Also said that we might want to consider other options instead of using Eventbrite. This service works great for tracking registrations, but Eventbrite takes a pretty good cut of the registration money.

Lanka suggested contacting several of the surrounding Mountain and Plains Section states to see what system they use for registrations; said he knows that CO, WY and UT all use online registration. Lanka also suggested could ask Marriah Simmons if we could run our registration through TWS in some way.

Dunn indicated that if anyone had a suggestion for location and topic for the 2020 annual meeting, ideas would be welcomed.

Certification- Carl Wolfe chair, Mike Gutzmer indicated an interest in helping on committee. Wolfe suggested that Certification could be a good topic for the student-professional workshop.

Conservation Review- NETWS sent 3 letters out 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.

NETWS also sent a letter opposing LB 126, a bill which would have expanded landowner deer licensing in NE without much consideration of deer biology.

Education and Information committee – Lindvall said that with the help of David Baasch and Jason Clark, 3 NETWS newsletters had gone out to 250 email addresses, with a 22% opening rate. Jurzenski continues to serve as Facebook administrator, Jessica Barrett as Google Groups administrator, and posting to the website done by sending a request to Marriah Simmons.

Student Chapters – No report

Awards committee-Badura has stepped down as chair of this committee after 20 (?!) years. Andrew Little has agreed to chair the committee, but in the shuffle there were no nominations and thus no awards this year. Mike Gutzmer joined NETWS as a Legacy member and will be recognized.

Old business:

Dunn reminded the board about the Google Groups protocol (introducing self, then provide message). He also said that we would be encouraging members to utilize the Google Group to share job announcements, wildlife news, etc.

Feral cat issue- Left off after the annual meeting last year stating that NETWS would form an ad-hoc committee to explore options to create guidelines for researchers to apply for funds to conduct research or public outreach on the impacts of feral cats here in NE. Dunn said that this has been on the back burner, but believes there is enough interest to move forward in 2019.

New business:

NETWS Strategic plan is due for review in 2020. Jurzenski said she would send a copy of the current document to the board members. The strategic plan provides high level goals and objectives for the chapter, and the APO is crafted to address how the chapter committees and members will reach the goals and objectives laid out in the strategic plan.

Dunn received a request from TWS to support the annual TWS conference. Board planning on adding a line to the 2019 budget to provide $500 to TWS for the annual conference. Lanka said that the chapter could specify where we would like to see the money used (eg travel, provide food/snacks at a break, use where needed).

As mentioned earlier in the minutes, board discussed providing assistance/reimbursement to members applying to become AWB or CWB with TWS.

Lindvall suggested that a potential theme for the next annual meeting could be “on the ground management”, with the idea of encouraging wildlife professionals to provide presentations on projects getting work done on the ground, either through habitat restoration, partnership projects, and management implementation.

Dunn called to adjourn the meeting, and the motion passed.

2018 End of Year Report

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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 | 1,761.40 | 2,600.00 | -838.60 |
| Event Support - income | 513.88 | 0.00 | 513.88 |
| Exhibitor Booth Fee | 776.50 | 0.00 | 776.50 |
| Interest Income | 2.07 | 1.50 | 0.57 |
| Joe Gabig Scholarship Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Lifetime Memberships | 737.88 | 150.00 | 587.88 |
| Membership Income | 941.27 | 700.00 | 241.27 |
| Workshop Auction Income | 3,522.70 | 2,400.00 | 1,122.70 |
| Workshop Cash Deposit | 450.00 | 500.00 | -50.00 |
| Workshop Registration Income | 11,039.71 | 8,600.00 | 2,439.71 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **19,995.41** | **14,951.50** | **5,043.91** |
| **EXPENSES**  |
| Chapter Operation Expense | 0.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| CMPS Membership Dues | 0.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 |
| Education and Information Expense | 0.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Event Support | 0.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| 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 | 98.60 | 200.00 | 101.40 |
| 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 |
| TWS Donation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Workshop Cash Withdrawl | 450.00 | 300.00 | -150.00 |
| Workshop Catering Expense | 10,787.15 | 9,500.00 | -1,287.15 |
| Workshop Expense | 410.10 | 500.00 | 89.90 |
| Workshop Facility Expense | 825.00 | 500.00 | -325.00 |
| Workshop Speaker Expense | 500.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **13,731.13** | **14,405.00** | **673.87** |
| **OVERALL TOTAL** | **6,264.28** | **546.50** | **5,717.78** |

**Account Balances, as of 12/31/2018**

# Checking = $19,495.50 + $6,019.82 (PayPal) = $25,515.32

Savings = $5,529.12 Joe Gabig CD = $4,744.87