NETWS Fall Quarterly Board Meeting – 2019

Conference Call (1-888-820-1398, 7358303#)

15 November 2019, 11:00 am CST

Members on call: Shaun Dunn, Shelly McPherron, Jessica Jurzenski, Mel Nenneman, Erin Considine, Carl Wolfe. Board members not available for call: Matt Steffl, Andrew Little, Mike Gutzmer, Mercy Manzanares.

Intro/Call to Order: Shaun Dunn

Treasurer’s Report: Jessica Jurzenski – Jessica reported that the chapter is in good financial standing at this time, but did not have any numbers available at the time of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

* + Nominating - Matt Steffl - Matt was unable to make the call as NGPC is busy getting check stations set up for the NE rifle deer season. It is time to recruit members to run for open board positions – President-elect, Treasurer, 2 at-large board members. Current members are President-elect Shelly McPherron, President Shaun Dunn, Past-president Matt Steffl, Treasurer Jessica Jurzenski, Secretary Mel Nenneman, and at-large board members Mike Gutzmer, Erin Considine, Andrew Little, and Mercy Manzanares. Shelly will become President and Shaun Past-president at the next membership meeting, with Matt Steffl, Jessica Jurzenski, and at-large board members Mike Gutzmer and Erin Considine reaching the end of their terms.
  + Membership - Shaun Dunn – Shaun reported that the number of members had remained steady and people had been renewing their memberships. Shaun also said he had been talking with Andrew Little about ideas to increase student involvement in the chapter.
  + Programs – Shelly McPherron – discussed in New Business
  + Conservation Review – Eric Zach and Bill Vodehnal – Eric and Bill were not available/ no report.
  + Information and Education – Mark Lindvall (retired, again); Jen Grauer (?) – Shaun reported to the board that Mark Lindvall had moved to SD, and is retiring as the chair of the Information and Education committee as well as the newsletter editor. Shaun has recruited Jen Grauer to step in as the newsletter editor, but will need a new chair for the committee.
  + Awards –Andrew Little – Shaun reported that he is working with Andrew on awards for the meeting, and should have plaques ready for the meeting.
  + Certification – Carl Wolfe – There was a small turn out for the certification workshop that we held following last years annual meeting. Committee working to find ways to help students work on certification. Erin Considine reported that Jamilia Blake (TWS) conducts remote presentations on what certification is and how to apply.

Old Business:

* Increasing Student Involvement – Andy Little – Andy has been discussing ideas to increase student involvement, and that he and Dustin Ranglack (UN-K) can share some ideas from their perspective as student chapter advisors.

New Business:

* Annual Meeting – Shelly McPherron – The annual meeting will be 25-26 February 2020 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney, NE. Theme is wildlife/science communication with Gerry Steinauer and Eric Fowler penciled in as speakers for writing and photography, respectively. Noppado Paothong will be the keynote speaker. Noppado is a nature/conservation photographer and is an associate fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers as well as a staff wildlife photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Planning the meeting for 1.5 days of presentations beginning on the 25th, and a half-day workshop on the 26th. Workshop will be a presentation by Katie Lampke of the Xerces Society about the Nebraska Bumblebee Atlas. This will provide members with information about wildlife species many of us rarely deal with, and provide an opportunity to become involved in the atlas project.

Next action step for annual meeting planning is putting out a call for paper and poster presentations. Shaun and Shelly were going to coordinate on this effort.

* Species specific clearing houses of information – Mercy Manzanares
  + - I have a drive folder with monarch/pollinator articles/information, what does everyone else have? How can we share these with our members? Especially for students these folders could be helpful, could be a good reason for NR/Biology students to join their local chapter if they get those resources as well.

Not much discussion was added to this topic.

RAWA, TWS is a major partner in this effort, what are we doing to get the word out about RAWA in Nebraska? What ideas does everyone else have? An event? Some sort of campaign?

Carl Wolfe suggested that NETWS should stress to our legislators that this is the most important legislation in the past 10 years for supporting wildlife in the USA. Shaun said he would draft a letter from NETWS to send to the NE delegation.

* + Discussion point of how to achieve more student involvement. Erin had a couple of ideas from the TWS meeting to share. One would have a student from the state universities sit on the board as a non-voting member, and another idea would be to rotate the location of the annual meeting between universities that have student chapters and involve the students in planning the annual meeting. Jessica mentioned that NETWS had tried the idea of having student chapter presidents attend board meeting as non-voting members, but had limited success due to difficulty maintaining contact information for the current president for the student chapters.
  + During the discussion of student involvement, it was brought up that at Chadron State College; one of the recent barriers to meeting attendance was a change in the University policy on use of vans. Shaun proposed contacting the student chapter advisors to ask what limiters their students have in coming to the meeting (e.g. lack of transportation, timing, funds for hotel, etc).
  + Jessica Jurzenski brought up the topic of the NETWS Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Operation. The Strategic plan was developed in 2015, and was scheduled to be revisited in 2020. The board wrote the first plan during a retreat held at the Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Ranger District near Halsey, NE. Shaun asked if it would be possible for the board to review this on Feb 24th, before the annual meeting. Jessica stated that the APO is probably the document with the more actionable items that needs to be revised. If all the board members could arrive early, this could be addressed prior to the annual meeting.
  + Shaun is planning to have a winter board meeting before the Annual Membership.

Call for Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:34