

TWS Habitat Restoration and Conservation Working Group Meeting

January 13, 2022

In attendance: Krysten, Drew, Ray, Megan, Sara, Julien

1. Introduced executive committee (Sara, Ray, Julien and Drew) to new committee members (Krysten and Megan) and new committee members to executive committee
2. Program Planning for Conference Update – Sara (and Krysten and Megan)
 - a. This committee met on 1/11/2022 to start brainstorming conference ideas.
 - i. Decided, given the location and time of year, that a field trip may not be the most impactful way to participate in the conference. Open to ideas still for this.
 - ii. Spent a lot of time discussing the idea of a Habitat Restoration Project Planning Workshop. How to plan a habitat restoration project from start to finish. This would include how to start a project like this, potential funding sources, how to you center a restoration project around wildlife (wildlife surveys and adaptive management), and tribal consultations (in addition to other stakeholder involvement).

ROB – I sent an email to my co-authors on the RAD papers which were published over the past three years or so about teaming up on a workshop. I have not heard back from them as of yet, but will forward any response I receive.

Tito – Perhaps we should begin by providing a workshop focusing in one aspect of the Habitat Restoration Project Planning Workshop. There is so much that is needed to propose/apply, win, plan, execute and monitor a restoration project, and so many different skills and knowledge that partitioning each major component into a workshop might be more productive for participants and more doable for us to put together. Different people have different skills and experience, so focusing in one or two topics might be more useful for some. Provide practical knowledge, such as how many 1-gal containers can a staff member plant in a day? How many can a volunteer plant in a day? How many hours does it take to cut a 1-acre, non-native grass field using a weed-cutter, a push-behind or a tractor mounted mower? Knowing the answers to these questions is necessary for adequately budgeting a project, especially when it comes to the maintenance phases, which is usually the most difficult, long-term and expensive part of our work. One can spend a whole week just in Wildlife & Botanical/Vegetation Monitoring. Invasive Species Management is another complex issue especially now with the real and perceived dangers of herbicide use. Project & Financial Management is another topic that rarely gets much attention, perhaps because who likes financial/accounting reports! But knowing how to manage staff, volunteers, and contractors' efforts and how to comply with the grant's financial requirements is a critical component to successfully complete a project. If you think this

might be a good approach, I can propose a few focused topics during our next call/meeting.

- b. Feedback from the executive team:
 - i. Workshops require a serious commitment and effort for many people. A full day workshop like this will need a lot of support.
 - ii. It may be tough to make money on a workshop like this because TWS takes a big cut of the registration fee. Would need to look into sponsors to offset any potential loss of funds and set registration fees appropriately.
 - iii. Need to ensure there is a wildlife component to a workshop like this. It will help us stand out from other restoration project planning events (with SER and others). Krysten reiterated that wildlife surveys before and after restoration will help with project planning and adaptive management.
 - iv. Liked the idea overall if we can manage it.
 - v. Ray has a good friend, James G. Hallett, from the University of Montana who is on the board of directors for the SER. He would be a good place to start to garner what a workshop like this will look like and require. May help direct us to help with the workshop.
- c. Other ideas discussed
 - i. RAD symposium that Rob had suggested when we last talked.
 - 1. Concerns that this was done at the 2021 conference and don't want to repeat the same symposium with the same people. Maybe Rob has an idea on how to restructure it for 2022
[ROB - The discussion from the 2021 conference was more of an introduction to the RAD framework. We had some good attendance at the time, but I think with the recent publications in Bioscience and perhaps some implementing of the framework as new projects are developed, we may do well to continue putting what is turning into a paradigm shift at the front of discussions.](#)
 - ii. Reclamation field trip or symposium.
 - 1. This has been tried for a few years and hasn't worked out for various reasons. Worth looking into again.
 - 2. A former chair of the Habitat working group is a consultant in reclamation so she would be a good contact for this.
 - 3. **Megan will dig more into this. There are several mines on Spokane Indian Tribe Land that could be good options for us.**
 - iii. Salmon fisheries and habitat restoration
 - 1. Time of year could be a challenge
 - 2. Is TWS the right audience for this?
- d. **Next Steps**
 - i. Call for proposals will open any day now. Will probably have 2-3 months to put a solid proposal together. A lot of work to be done
 - ii. The Conference planning committee will meet again after the call for proposals come out to narrow down a decision.
 - iii. **Everyone keep brainstorming ideas and feel free to dig into these a bit to see if they are feasible or send them to Sara, Krysten or Megan so we can follow up on these.**

iv. **Sara will contact James Hallett to get his thoughts on the workshop.**

3. Scholarship/ Awards Committee – Drew

a. Perspective or direction on awards will be helpful

- i. Biological Diversity working group has a good program. Drew has gotten some information from them but because of changes in travel and virtual conferences the information wasn't super helpful for an in-person meeting.
- ii. Decided that \$1500 scholarship would be a good starting number for planning.

1. Last we know there is \$7500 in our bank account so \$1500 shouldn't be a problem
2. What would the scholarship cover?
 - a. Registration fees
 - b. Travel grants?
3. How many awards should we offer?
4. Who should these scholarships be given to?
 - a. Graduate Students
 - b. New Professionals – can get this information from our membership info
 - c. Minority students or professionals
 - i. Discussed Historically Black Colleges (HBC's) specifically
 - ii. Decided not to offer solely indigenous people because there are already a lot of resources for them to attend the conference.
 - d. **Mid-career professionals – this is a group that is often overlooked. Perhaps a few dollars for “professional development” opportunities or a similar investment?**

iii. **Next Steps**

1. **Drew will draft a proposal based around the early registration timeframe. This will be done by the March executive committee meeting**

4. Communications Committee - Julien

a. Did not have time to update website but will get on that soon

b. Social media - FB and Instagram

- i. Need help running these platforms
- ii. Julien may follow up with a few folks that showed interest but have been difficult to connect with
- iii. We have FB group and an linkdin that is active but we don't know who is running it (things are getting posted regularly)

c. **Next Steps:**

- i. **Julien with get the Facebook page under control**
- ii. **Julien will work on getting the website updated.**

5. Final Thoughts

- a. Committee Update Report for Council
 - i. This is only one of two times a year we can request things from council such as requests for our group or requests at the larger TWS level
 - 1. Ex: Krysten asked for extension added to AWB certification expiration
 - 2. **Ray** has a proposal that he wrote up years ago that he will attach to this. Society created a "restoration award"... this working group needs to chair who gets that award.
 - 3. **Sara** will start putting this together (Deadline is Feb 3).
 - a. **If anyone has anything to add to the report please send them by Feb 1.**
 - ii. **Krysten** needs info to get started on Audit
 - 1. She will read through the charter and we will go from there.
 - iii. Need to triple check everyone have access to our Google Drive Account
- b. **Next Meeting will be February 3, 2022.** Will get back on track to the first Thursday of the month.