**Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Quarterly Board Meeting**

**September 23, 2021**

**Notes**

NETWS Board

President-elect: Andrew Little

President: Will Inselman

Past-president: Shelly McPherron

Secretary: Jennifer Corman

Treasurer: Matthew Gruntorad

At-large board members: Sarah Nevison, Jenny Prenosil, Larkin Powell, Chelsea Forehead

Members present: Will Inselman, Chelsea Forehead, Eric Zach, Matthew Gruntorad, Shaun Dunn, Shelly McPherron, Larkin Powell, Jen Corman, Andrew Little, Sarah Nevison

Will Inselman called the meeting to order at 12:05pm

Secretary’s Report – Jen Corman

Summary of the May 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting. Larkin motioned to accept and Sarah seconded. No nays.

Treasurer’s Report – Matt Gruntorad

Budget Update. See Treasurer’s Report. Highlights since last update:

* Only new expense since last meeting was a single reimbursement for TWS certification.
* Meeting auction income: $1109
* Total expenses: $515, Total income: $7,441, Overall balance: $6926
* Net worth: $41,606

We can begin adding line items to the budget for annual meeting and act on some expenses between now and next meeting as they come up.

Committee Reports

* Nominating - Shelly McPherron
  + Looking for nominations. Positions open for election: president-elect and two out-going board members.
  + Treasurer position can be held for two terms. Matt will remain in role for second term, so Treasurer position will not be open.
* Membership – Shaun Dunn
  + In the past, PayPal and online payments worked well; this year we will take membership payments digitally in-person at the annual meeting and at the beginning of the calendar year.
  + No lapsed memberships and a few new people have joined, so membership numbers and associated income are about the same.
* Program - Andy Little
  + Discussion resumed on the 3 year contract with the Younes Conference Center that includes a financial incentive from Kearney’s Visitor Bureau. Andy will email out contract and the conference center’s explanation of how the contract will be handled if the conference goes fully virtual due to Covid. They also explain the potential for a hybrid in-person and virtual conference to facilitate participation by people who cannot travel to the meeting, including students. Board will vote by email on whether or not to approve the contract.
  + By first week of November, board will vote by email on whether the upcoming meeting will be virtual or in-person given status of the Delta variant of Covid. Note: there is no deadline in the contract for NETWS to decide if the conference will be virtual or in-person.
* Conservation Review - Eric Zach
  + Drafted a Letter to the Editor on the 30x30 Initiative. It was well-received and published in at least seven different large newspapers and additional smaller newspapers. Eric, Carl, and Larkin received positive comments on it. The letter prompted Ariana Brocious to interview Larkin about the 30x30 Initiative for an episode of the ClimateOne podcast, which can be found here: <https://www.climateone.org/audio/30x30-land-whose-land>
* Awards Committee - Andy Little
  + We had no award nominations last year and are hoping for more proactive nominations this year.
  + Website is up-to-date on past award recipients. Would like to ask membership to double-check for errors and ensure we have not missed anyone.
* Certification – Carl Wolfe
  + Carl is not present. We will send him a virtual Get Well Soon card.
* Strategic Plan – Shaun Dunn
  + Are we using it? Although we do not read it on a regular basis, we generally follow it. An annual review and update is a useful exercise to remind us of our intentions, especially for engaging students. Shaun will upload to Dropbox. We will review the Strategic Plan before the annual meeting.
* Lobbying ad hoc committee - Eric Zach
  + Gathering more information. North Dakota, Texas, and (we think) Oregon are states that already have similar lobbyists in place. Planning to have something arranged by next quarterly board meeting. We may have options to choose from. Ducks Unlimited has a lobbyist and Kristal Stoner is exploring the possibility of partnering with them. Mark Brohman has been hired as Wachiska Audubon director and, with his connections, might be another possible resource.
* Newsletter – Erin Considine – not present

New Business

* Incorporation under parent society – Will Inselman
  + Nebraska TWS is not incorporated. The national group would like state chapters to incorporate, primarily so that the parent society can provide liability protection for our individual members – for example, if someone sues us. There may also be benefits for tax exemption. Because every state treats TWS chapters differently, incorporation is the best way to ensure protections. Will will email information on incorporation to board members for review and we will discuss next meeting. TWS will help us navigate the process and have guides available.
* Student Engagement Task Force – Will Inselman
  + Student Engagement Task Force met August 3rd and nominated Sarah Nevison to be Chair. The task force assigned individuals to meet directly with student chapters at specific universities and colleges to learn about each student chapter’s needs and how we might meet those needs. Sarah will send out notes from this meeting.
    - UNK - Will Inselman – currently working to set up the meeting.
  + Wayne State – Sarah Nevison – contacted Mark Hammer and student president and will meet after school starts.
  + Chadron State – Chelsea Forehead
    - Met with club president and staff sponsor. Club activities are focused on hunting and fishing; would like to facilitate more non-consumptive wildlife activities to interest more students.
    - Steep barriers to attending annual NETWS meeting. Recordings of presentations would enable a student watch party.
    - This Saturday, arranged an event for students to learn how to band birds and chat with the bander and Chelsea about conservation careers.
    - Résumé reviews useful prior to seasonal job market openings.
    - Looking for new speakers: anyone interested in providing a virtual or in-person talk for them?
  + Andy Little: survey is ready to email to students to help us target our student engagement. School club officers helped develop survey and compile questions. Looking forward to results.
  + National TWS Slack account – Will Inselmen
    - * + Will has created an account for NETWS. Provides an instant messenger and discussion platform to facilitate communication among chapters and regional groups.
* Annual national TWS meeting
  + Virtual this year and presentations are recorded. Consider registering.
  + Nebraska TWS can subsidize student attendance and watch parties.
  + Donations – Andy Little
  + Contacted by an individual wishing to make a memorial donation to chapter. Will ask Mariah Beyers to place Donations tab on the website. In the past, people have just given us checks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm