**Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Quarterly Board Meeting**

**December 9, 2021**

**Minutes**

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, Matthew Gruntorad, Shaun Dunn, Larkin Powell, Andrew Little, Sarah Nevison, Jenny Prenosil

Will Inselman called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

Secretary’s Report – Sarah Nevison on behalf of Jen Corman

Summary of September 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting. Jenny motioned to accept and Larkin seconded. No nays.

Treasurer’s Report – Matt Gruntorad

2021 Budget Update, see Treasurer’s Report. Overall minimal activity, some gained interest.

* Overall expense $7,077.74. Total balance in Checking $21,301.49, Savings $15,535.36, and $4,920.86 in Joe Gabig CD. $41,757.71 net worth.
* This year’s conference likely low cost

Committee Reports:

* Nominating – Shelly McPherron
	+ Not in attendance, no report.
* Membership - Shaun Dunn
	+ National TWS December roster not up yet, but November roster listed approximately 86 people; local (not national) members approximately an additional 22. Total membership approximately 105. Members usually renew around the new year and annual conference; Shaun will send reminders in January to those who don’t renew.
	+ Will - UNK might charge for wildlife club dues. Dustin wondering if they charge for UNK membership, can we provide a free student chapter membership for national. Shaun – we’ve don’t different things in past, sometimes dues is just conference fee dues; he will look at bylaws. Maybe we can figure something out for state membership. Matt – might want to look at how many student memberships we get each year.
* Programs – Andrew Little
	+ 2022 Annual Conference will be held on virtual platform. Andy will meet with planning committee, hopes to make the conference engaging especially for students. Welcome ideas for moving forward, innovative creative activities for engagement being sought. Will figure out conference’s focus soon – hopefully call for presentations out by end of year.
	+ He notified Teresa at Younes Center to postpone this year; she will write up contract for the following 3 years (2023-25), otherwise contract is set.
* Conservation Review - Eric Zach
	+ Not in attendance, report read by Will: The ad-hoc committee for Conservation Advocacy has been gathering information related to a lobbyist.  The plan is for the group to have recommendations to the Board prior to the annual meeting for consideration and a vote.
	+ RAWA hearing in Senate Environment and Public Works Committee yesterday (December 8, 2021). Four panelists: in opposition was Dan Ashe (AZA and past USFWS) in support was Collin O’Mara (National Wildlife Federation), Sara Parker Pauley (MO Dept of Conservation) and Jonathan Wood (Property and Environment Research Center). Overall, much support, opposition is tied to wanting more money for USFWS. S2372 has 16R, 15D, 1 I; very bipartisan. Sarah will report back with next steps.
* Information and Education – Erin Considine
	+ Not in attendance, report read by Will: Amanda and I had hoped to get a newsletter out late summer/early fall but with fire season and other commitments, we couldn't get it pulled together. Aiming to have one out in early January. If there is anything folks want to add please send it to us ASAP. Andy - is there anything in particular for the meeting (other than dates) that you would like us to mention?
* Awards – Andrew Little
	+ He will share which awards we have and ask for nominations soon; we always struggle with nominations; submit ideas for award nominees.
	+ Shaun – ensure they actually write a nomination (not just list of names)
	+ Past winners should be updated, but perhaps not all-inclusive. He will include list when he sends out nomination request, <https://wildlife.org/nebraska/awards/netws-past-award-winners-3/>
	+ Will – wants to recognize Dennis Ferraro for TWS Conservation Education Award and Greg Schenbeck for TWS Distinguished Service Awards, at annual conference and in newsletter.
		- <https://wildlife.org/dennis-ferraro-earns-conservation-education-award/>
		- <https://wildlife.org/greg-schenbeck-recognized-for-his-service-with-tws/>
* Certification – Carl Wolfe
	+ Not in attendance, no report.
	+ NETWS did pay for one certification in past 6 months (Jenny, now CWB, congrats!)

New Business

* Student Engagement Task Force Update – Sarah Nevison
	+ Jenny with Peru State: in contact with staff member but no movement yet, they have wildlife club but not associated with TWS.
	+ Chelsea and Erin with Chadron State College: met on two occasions (bird banding event and resumes/careers), plan to meet a third time. Barriers for club members include permission to attend meetings, academic conflicts, finding work in field of study. They would like to have new speakers to help bolster attendance. Interest in watch party for TWS meeting.
	+ Sarah with Wayne State College: tried to meet twice (Nov and Dec), both met with technical difficulties on Zoom. Student president and staff advisor sound interested in meeting.
	+ Will with UNK: met with Dustin Ranglack who is involved nationally too and does a lot of great things. They want to sit in on meetings outside of the annual conference – to present to group, see us, and feel more connected. Idea for student mentorship program with a professional for a year leading up to the annual conference, but meeting regularly one on one too. We can all discuss as a group. Also talked about student membership and chapter dues (discussed earlier under “Membership.”)
	+ Andy with UNL: club is engaged in various things (deer check, Dennis Ferraro lab, planning Spring Banquet), but difficult to meet in person with COVID. The Student President wants to see more participation at the state level and opportunities, but very little interest from students (what is state chapter, what is the value?).
	Survey is ready to disseminate, has been busy, anticipate before annual conference. Input from professional members and also a new survey for students and their perspectives. Grace (PhD student) designed both surveys and she will analyze. Sarah – could Grace present at Annual Conference? Matt – hasn’t seen results yet. Matt and Andy will visit with her.
	+ Overall, there is interest in how we could set up regular meetings with student chapters for more engagement, perhaps they are invited to all board meetings and can join and report at will? Will – next meeting is annual meeting, lets start there. Shaun – we’ve tried in past and its chaotic to organize, maybe we just post the meeting times and they are welcome to join if they want.
* Student Chapter Dues/Membership
	+ See Will’s comments under “Membership” above
* Furbearer Workshop Assistance
	+ Will – We’ve assisted Sam Wilson NGPC with Furbearer Workshop in past by cutting checks for workshop hosting and other fees, then Sam paid us back afterward; Sam isn’t able to pay on front end before registration fees collected. Sam asking for 2022 Workshop. We did this 14 years ago; no one on current board recalls, but likely in support, should do a Board vote.
	+ Will made motion to assist, but instead he will get answers to many questions Board has and will respond to Board and get vote through email. We want to know anticipated registration numbers, cost of registration, timeframe for repayment, total cost estimate and cost of venue, etc.

Open Discussion

* Shaun: looked into bylaws regarding student dues, there is flexibility for dues for students vs professionals. Thinks we could charge $12, with $1 going to Central Mountain Plains region and $1 to our NETWS Chapter, and then $10 for the student chapter.
Matt: likes this idea but we should probably open up to all the universities (not just UNK). Long term if we make this move, we will be locked into it, so what would happen if we pull it back, what will that look like, if and when?
Shaun: will look at how many students we have and estimate monetary impact. Will draw up proposal to talk in executive committee meeting and present to membership as a whole.
Will: it will be good for student groups to provide input at annual conference meeting. Jenny agrees.
* Good luck and congratulations to Jenny on the upcoming birth of her baby.

Will made a motion to adjourn, Shaun second, no nays; at 1:01 pm.