**Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Quarterly Board Meeting**

**February 15, 2022**

**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

Attendance: Erin Considine, Jen Corman, Chelsea Forehead, Matt Gruntorad, Will Inselman, Andy Little, Shelley McPherron, Sarah Nevison, Eric Zach

Will Inselman called meeting to order at 12:04 pm CT

Secretary’s Report – Jen Corman

* Summary of December 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting
* Clarification on Furbearer Conference: TWS will receive attendance fees and will pay bills for the conference out of those funds. Whatever is left over will be sent back to Furbearer Conference organizers. No financial burden for TWS.
* Gruntorad motioned to approve minutes. Nevison seconded. All ayes. No nays. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Matthew Gruntorad

* Budget Update and End of Year Report to be shared at annual meeting. See Treasurer’s Report. Highlights:
  + Total income: $7,593.05 from donations, interest, the Joe Gabig Scholarship income (transfer + interest), memberships, annual meeting auction and registration. Some registration funds we received this year were delayed funds from NGPC for the 2019 and 2020 annual meetings.
  + Total expenses: $515.00 for membership dues to CMPS, photo contest awards, Joe Gabig Scholarship expense, and online platforms (Woobox for photo contest and 32Auctions for web auction). Very few expenses because our annual meeting was virtual.
  + Discretionary funds: one TWS certification reimbursement for $77.50.
* Still need an accounting audit.
* 2022 budget is similar to last year. Total expenses budgeted: $1060.00. Total income budgeted: $2,400.00.
  + Annual Meeting Facilities Expense line item is $275 for web auction and Woobox photo contest platforms.
  + We are still depositing $100 into the savings account; we might consider not this year since our expenses are so low.
  + We have not spent any money on lobbying so far. May want to discuss adjustment to budget.
  + Need to add Gabig award expense ($100) and plaque expense to the budget.
  + Need to add a new line item for purchasing auction items for annual meeting, and then potentially adjust budgeted auction income.
* Auction Items to Purchase
  + Nevison can purchase four items: a day trip to the Omaha zoo, a day trip to the Lincoln zoo, a state park permit, and an overnight stay at a state park. Estimated cost for all four is about $400. Gruntorad will add to budget.
  + Plans to purchase four $25 Cabela’s or REI gift cards to giveaway for students. Gruntorad will budget $100 in Miscellaneous Expenses for the gift cards.
  + Special auction item for the Joe Gabig Scholarship fund: income from the auction item returns to the Scholarship account to replace the awarded funds. No auction donations were specifically donated for the Gabig award, so we can choose any of the auction items for this purpose.
  + There has been some discussion about other potential auction items, but with the four items described by Nevison and the donated artwork, there are already about 10-11 items for the auction and that number will keep bids competitive.

Committee Reports:

* Programs – Andrew Little
  + Annual meeting agenda has been emailed out, including to wildlife club members at UNL.
  + Sarah Nevison is organizing the student-professional lunch. Eight professionals and one student are signed up for now. More students will likely sign up closer to the meeting or during the meeting.
  + Will Inselman is organizing the raffle and auction. Everything is registered on the same platform as last year for the web auction. We are using the free version this year, which has some ads.
  + Erin Considine is organizing the photo contest. On-track to get submitted photos online. Need a Jamboard link, which Nevison will send out.
  + Shaun Dunn is working on trivia night.
  + Representatives from CMPS are presenting an award to Andy Bishop. They will formally present the award at the NETWS meeting.
  + Dennis Ferraro received a national TWS Conservation Education Award and Greg Schenbeck received a national TWS Distinguished Service Award. We will incorporate those awards into the meeting as well, likely as a slide with photos and information.
* Nominating – Shelly McPherron
  + Elections end tomorrow. We have some clear winners. Shelly will announce winners at annual meeting.
* Membership – Shaun Dunn – not present
* Conservation Review - Eric Zach – not present
* Information and Education – Erin Considine
  + Finishing page updates and updating personal emails.
* Awards – Andrew Little – no update
* Certification – Carl Wolfe – not present

Lobbying status – Eric Zach

* Ad hoc committee consists of Carl Wolfe, Jenny Prenosil, Mercy Manzanares, and Eric Zach. Will Inselman offered to join committee as well.
* Lobbying is expensive, so NETWS could not be effective without some sort of cooperative arrangement. They discussed goals with Kristal Stoner. She would support TWS joining the Ducks Unlimited lobbying agreement. He does not know yet how much we would contribute to be part of the agreement.
  + Inselman asked how much we could afford to commit to lobbying efforts. Gruntorad needs to review numbers and report back, but if we return to in-person, higher-expense meetings, $500/year would be a reasonable minimum.
  + Zach: if entering an agreement, NETWS should commit to more than one year; 3-5 years would allow the organization to learn how to make effective use of the lobbyist. The agreement should also allow flexibility to disengage if it does not work financially.
  + After discussion, board concluded that Zach will proceed to ask Kristal Stoner and Ducks Unlimited what we need to offer for an agreement and how they envision our participation.
* Because many of our members are state and federal employees, it would be good to identify a retired member to testify on behalf of NETWS. Other states that use this strategy cover expenses associated with testimony for the member. Tom Welstead (retired NGPC) is willing if we provide the testimony for him. Carl Wolfe thought that a female voice would be good in this role.
  + Discussion by members concluded that this is a low-cost strategy that we can implement in the near-future and Zach should pursue discussions with interested retirees.
* We need a better system for advocacy, such as notifying members about relevant legislation and encouraging members to voice opinions to legislators. Automated letter writing is an effective way to encourage people to contact their legislators.
  + Inselman: we can reach out to national TWS and ask them about automated letter writing.
* Current legislative session has been relatively light on issues directly impacting NGPC.

Student Engagement for Annual Meeting

* + To members who interact with student wildlife clubs: ensure that the clubs are present at annual meeting and are ready to provide a brief update on their activities.

Looking forward to the annual meeting next week!

Nevison motioned to adjourn meeting. Gruntorad seconded. All ayes, no nays.

Inselman adjourned meeting at 1:06 pm CT.