

Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Hilton Head Marriott Resort Hotel, Hilton Head, SC
29 October 2019

ATTENDEES

Executive Board Position

Mike Mengak President Ray Iglay President-elect Mark Smith Past President Kelly Douglass Secretary/Treasurer Mike Conner SE Section Rep to Council

Members in attendance: Collin Stanley, Lisa Muller, Sara Schweitzer, Cherie Leslie, Noel Myers, John McConnell, Darren Miller, Andy Madison, Daniel Greene, Katherine Edwards, Greg Yarrow, Emily Jo Williams, Eric Pelren, Edward Entsminger (via Webex), Phillip Stephenson (via Webex), Mariah Simmons (via Webex), and Joe McGlincy (via Webex).

Non-members in attendance: Natalie Montero, Allison Glover, Jennie Kate Conley, Brooke Mueller, Jordan Wilson, Bobby Mueller, Jordan Ramey, Caleb LaMontagne, Clint Beel, Alex Leggett, Colten Snyder, Brent Howze, Ashley Smith, Kathryn Grebner, Lauren Jarboe, James Wren, Luke Adams, Elizabeth Medlock, Blake Rummage, Matthew Chopp, Angela Larson, Mercedes Bartkovich, Caroline Murphy, Jim Ozier, Lisa Lord, Josh Brewer, Eric Rosenthal, and Robin Boughton (via Webex).

NOTE: Membership status is based on the roster uploaded to the Members page by TWS as of 27 October 2019, thus members who paid dues immediately prior to this date might not show up on the roster until November 2019.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. EST.

Welcome and Opening: Mike Mengak welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves, provide affiliation, and sign roll call. Quorum was met (22 members in good standing were present).

Caroline Murphy, TWS Government Relations Manager, spoke briefly. The TWS Annual Conference in Reno, NV this fall was the first time TWS held a joint meeting with American Fisheries Society (AFS), and there were 4,338 attendees. The TWS Annual Conference in 2020 will be held in Kentucky. TWS is advocating for funding bills at Congress, including Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). Caroline gave a brief overview of the Conservation Affairs Network activities. TWS has a new policy website. Caroline had an exhibitor booth at the SEAFWA conference and encouraged attendees to visit it. Emily Jo Williams thanked TWS for having populated the policy website and found it very useful for the American Bird Conservancy.

Darren Miller, TWS Immediate Past President, also spoke. He encouraged everyone to attend the 2020 TWS Conference and to stay involved and engaged, especially students.

Daniel Greene made an announcement about the upcoming SETWS Field Course to be held at the Jones Center at Ichauway in Newton, GA 26 May – 10 June 2020. Applications are being accepted now. Mike Mengak said last week we received official acceptance of course credits from Castleton University. Eric Pelren asked if the registration is first come, first serve, and the answer was yes. Mark Smith said the tuition and credits were run through Castleton University to reduce costs, which include food, lodging, and instruction which is a great deal. If State Chapters would like to sponsor a student, they can, they just need to email Dan to reserve a spot. Katie Edwards will send the registration/Eventbrite link to all SETWS members.

Meeting Minutes: Kelly Douglass distributed copies of the meeting minutes from Spring 2019 Board meeting (16 July 2019), which was approved by the Board at their 27 October 2019 meeting. No comments or questions were received.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Douglass distributed copies of and reviewed the Treasurer's Report, covering the calendar year to date (1 January 2019 – 27 October 2019), which was approved by the Board at their 27 October 2019 meeting. No comments or questions were received. Mike Mengak informed Kelly that she will soon be receiving an invoice from TWS for \$216.67 for partial registration for TWS staff to attend the 2019 SEAFWA Conference (to staff the TWS exhibitor booth), which will need to be paid and added to the budget expenditures.

SE Section Rep to Council: Mike Conner summarized recent Council actions. The Western Section will purchase and distribute AWB® and CWB® pins to all TWS members. The Bylaws Subcommittee is revising existing bylaws to remove unnecessary items which will be placed into an Operating Procedures document. The Certification Committee is working on defining “unofficial transcript” so it may be used for certification purposes, and is developing a license with the Canadian Section. Current TWS staff has reviewed. The 2022 TWS Conference location was not approved because dates conflicted with holidays.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Audit: Steven Castleberry is chair. A written report was submitted. The 2019 audit was conducted on or near 10 October 2019. The committee found that the financial records were in good order.

Conservation Affairs: Nelson Lafon and Lisa Lord are co-chairs. A written report was submitted late September 2019. Lisa Lord now co-chairs the committee. The SE CAC fulfilled TWS request for a list of policy priorities, continues to focus on RAWA including participation in a July webinar, and serves as a communication hub for SE states regarding regional and local

issues including the potential de-listing of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Membership: Chair is vacant. No report.

Nominations: Ray Iglay is chair. We had 3 nominees for President-elect (Chris Moorman, Lisa Muller, and Kelly Douglass) and 2 nominees for Secretary/Treasurer: (Daniel Greene and Jay Butfiloski). Election results were presented at the end of this meeting (see Other Business).

Resolutions and Bylaws: Mark Smith is chair. Mark reviewed the changes to the bylaws. Darren Miller suggested calling the Past President the Immediate Past President, so as not to confuse them with Past Presidents from years prior; this is the label TWS uses. Bylaws will be sent out to the membership for a vote. Darren Miller suggested running the bylaws by Mariah Simmons first, before sending them out to vote; SETWS will need a formal letter of approval from TWS.

Special Committees - Permanent

Deer: Steve Shea is chair. Report not reviewed.

Fur Resources: Colleen Olfenbuttel is chair. No report.

Publications: Lora Smith is chair. A written report was submitted. Ten manuscripts were published in the 2018 *Journal of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. The committee selected as the winner of the SEAFWA 2019 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award: Schummer, M.L., A.M. Smith, R.M. Kaminski, K.M. Hunt, and S. St. James “Achievement-Oriented Effects on Waterfowl-Hunt Quality at Mississippi Wildlife” for the SEAFWA 2019 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award. Mike Mengak has the award plaque [the 2019 award is presented for 2018 manuscript].

Awards: Andy Madison is chair. Andy will be submitting a report soon. Judging concluded today, and award winners will be announced at the SEAFWA awards banquet tonight.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA): Steven Castleberry is chair. A written report was submitted. One nomination was received this year for the WMEA. The winner will be announced at the SEAFWA awards banquet tonight.

Special Committees - Joint Section-Association Committees

CW Watson Award: Emily Jo Williams is chair. Report submitted. They had a great pool of nominees from every facet of SEAFWA. The winner will be announced at the SEAFWA awards banquet tonight.

Minorities in Natural Resource: David Buggs is chair. Mercedes Bartkovich gave the report. This committee had a meeting yesterday and Mercedes was elected as the new Secretary. David

Buggs remains chair. The committee sponsored students to attend the 2019 SEAFWA Conference; they had 33 applications, and 23 students were accepted. During the student/mentor lunch, 3 of the students with the highest number of business cards were MINRC sponsored.

Wetland Wildlife: Jamie Feddersen and Dale James are co-chairs. No report.

The Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board: Matt Chopp is chair and reported. The next issue of TWP will have a focus on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and they continue to solicit for articles on a regular basis. TWP is published 7 times per year.

SEAFWA Editors: Dr. Robert Gitzen (Auburn University) is Associate Editor. Dr. Daniel Greene (Weyerhaeuser) is Assistant Editor. Daniel gave an update on the process. There were 15 wildlife manuscripts submitted on a variety of topics, but mostly game species focused. All but two of the accepted manuscripts were sent to the copy editor.

Newsletter Update: Katie Edwards reported on the newsletter/website. She needs updated contact information for the Southeast Section Reps from state chapters, and she announced to attendees to contact her to update email addresses if they are not getting the newsletter. She also encouraged the student chapters to submit material for the newsletter.

Other Business

Elections: Ray Iglay reported the election results. We received 83 votes/ballots from members, after removing for duplicate votes. Of our 570 members, that means 14.6% of our membership voted. It was a very close race. The membership elected Kelly Douglass as SETWS President elect and Daniel Greene for Secretary/Treasurer for 2020-2022.

New Business

Upcoming Conferences: Mark Smith made two announcements: the 2020 Wild Pig Conference is 6-9 April 2020 in Jacksonville, FL and the 2021 Wildlife Damage Management Conference will be in WI; date and location to be determined. Mike Mengak made two announcements: the 2020 SEAFWA Conference is 25-28 October 2020 in Springfield, MO and the 2020 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave is 12-14 March 2020 in western North Carolina (jointly hosted by Haywood Community College in Clyde, NC and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC).

Matt Chopp said the SEAFWA Wildlife Resources Committee will provide financial support, and will encourage state agencies, to support attendance at the Wild Pig Conference, so if you are interested in funding assistance, talk to Matt.

Women in Wildlife: Emily Jo Williams asked the room how many attended the Women in Wildlife social at the 2019 TWS Conference in Reno, NV; about 5-6 individuals raised their hands. She offered for anyone to contact her with ideas, and reported that their attendance at the

social was over 100 men and women. They would like to have a session during the main part of a TWS Conference, at some point, on accepting culture.

Award Nominations: Mike Conner mentioned that the Southeast has 21-22% (roughly 2,300-2,400) of the entire TWS membership (more than 11,000 members) within its region, so we should be nominating our own Section members for awards every year. Award nomination application deadlines vary but are usually around early summer. This year, the Group Achievement Award & TWS Fellows nominations are due by 1 February 2020; the Wildlife Publication Awards nominations are due by 1 March 2020; and all other award nominations are due by 1 May 2020.

Adjournment: Erin Pelren motioned to adjourn the meeting; Greg Yarrow seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 P.M. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Douglass', written in a cursive style.

Kelly Douglass
SETWS Secretary/Treasurer