

Fall Business Meeting Minutes
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society
Virtual Meeting
26 October 2020

ATTENDEES

Executive Board

Ray Iglay
Kelly Douglass
Mike Mengak
Dan Greene
Mike Conner

Position

President
President-elect
Past President
Secretary/Treasurer
SE Section Rep to Council

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

32 Participants (1 person dropped off at the beginning - unknown participant).

Members in attendance (23): Daniel Greene (yes), Katherine Edwards (yes) Eric Pelren (yes), Mike Conner (yes), Edward Entsminger (yes), Randy Spencer (yes) Matthew Chopp (yes), Mike Mengak (yes), Angela Larsen-Gray (yes), Ashley Gramza (yes), Becky McPeake (yes), Colleen Olfenbuttel (yes), Darren Miller (yes), EJ Williams (yes), Holly Whited (yes), Katy Callaghan (yes), Kelly Douglass (yes), Lisa Muller (yes), Matthew Harrell (yes), Mike Brasher (yes), Robin Boughton (yes), Derek Colbert (yes), Phillip Stephenson (yes).

Non-members in attendance (8): Cody Rhoden (no), Colby Griffin (no), Caroline Murphy (no), Jamie Alton (no), Bailey DeLozier (no), Olivia Munzer (no), Bez Sharkey (said yes but not in TWS roster), Mitzi Reed (said yes but not in TWS roster).

Quorum verified at 3:10 PM

NOTE: Membership status was based upon roll call and verified by the roster uploaded to the Members page by TWS as of 25 October 2020, thus members who paid dues immediately prior to this date might not show up on the roster until November 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. EST.

Welcome and Opening: Ray Iglay welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves, provide affiliation, and sign roll call. Quorum was met (23 members in good standing were present). Ray read a poem that he wrote about 2020.

Update from Caroline Murphy, TWS Government Relations Manager: 2500 attendees for the virtual TWS meeting this year. At present, TWS is planning for an in-person meeting in Baltimore. This can change due to COVID 19 and TWS is prepared to include a virtual component if needed. Updates will be on TWS conference.org. Operations and Professional Development are hiring interns (2) that will start Jan 2021 and run until the end of June 2021. Both will be remote - one - the Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Internship (under Caroline) will focus on policy and regulation - the other (Outreach and Development Internship) will work under Jamila Blake and alongside Mariah. This internship will lead diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, increase communication and engagement between TWS and organizational units, and develop and administer TWS's professional development offerings. Reach out to Caroline or other staff - or Jamila directly. Policy priorities - set new policy priorities. Currently wrapping up the second session of the 116th Congress - this will be about Mid November. Topics include the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and ESA overhaul. Other news: a reminder that the member magazine – The Wildlife Professional comes out 6 times a year. TWS is always seeking new topics. Send ideas to send to Keith Norris or Caroline. cmurphey@wildlife.org.

SE Section Rep to Council: Nothing new to add.

Meeting Minutes: Dan Greene itemized the main topics for discussion related to the last 6 board meeting calls in 2020. Minutes will be posted on the SETWS website. We currently have 588 members paid through TWS + 4 paid to the section = 592.

The board has discussed bylaws updates and members benefits – both topics are still being discussed and we will update membership early in 2021. In short, the latter includes membership communication and membership participation. Many state chapters have SE Section Representative, but we are limited in engagement with those positions and sometimes state chapters. Therefore, we will likely invite SE Reps to our meetings.

SETWS submitted nominations for two TWS Fellows Dr. Leslie Burger and Kelly Douglass, both awarded at the Virtual Meeting. The board continues to plan for the SETWS Field Course: 2020 was canceled due to COVID 19 and we are planning for

2021. Prior to cancelling the 2020 course, we received sponsorships from 6 state chapters.

We have/will have several changes for Committee Chairs positions: CW Watson, Conservation Affairs, and the Audit Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Greene provided an overview of the Section's finances. Current funds = \$20295.52. Of those funds, \$3,151.52 are being held for the Fur Resources Committee; therefore, SETWS funds are \$17,144.00. Expected expenses include Best Student Presentation and Poster awards and Newsletter Editor funds to be paid to Katie Edwards. No comments or questions were received.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Audit: Steven Castleberry is chair. A written report was submitted. The 2020 audit was conducted on or near 20 October 2020. The committee found that the financial records were in good order.

Conservation Affairs: Lisa Lord is chair - Nelson stepped down earlier this year. Very little activity. Like most people, the committee has been affected by Covid-19 which has challenged progress.

Membership: Chair is vacant. No report.

Nominations: Kelly Douglass is chair. No report needed - elections are next year.

Resolutions and Bylaws: Mark Smith is chair. No written report submitted but we have ongoing conversations among the board and will distribute updates by early 2021 for approval.

Special Committees - Permanent

Deer: Steve Shea is chair. Report submitted. There will be a Virtual 2021 Southeastern Deer Study Group Meeting hosted by QDMA. www.QDMA.com/SEDSG. Abstracts are due Dec. 1.

Fur Resources: Colleen Olfenbuttel is chair. Report submitted. Activities since the last annual report (October 2018) include the following:

- The SEAFWA Furbearer Working Group (FWG)/SE-TWS Furbearer Resources Committee (FRC) held their annual meeting during the 2019

Southeast/Midwest Joint Furbearer Meeting in Enid, OK from April 30th through May 2nd, 2019. Eight of 15 SEAFWA member states were in attendance, including Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Discussion items included:

- o Updates from the Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast Furbearer WGs
- o US Furbearer Conservation TWG Updates
- o Updates from SEAFWA Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)
- o Cooperative regional muskrat research
- o Coyote Synthesis of the Literature Task Force

Publications: Lora Smith is chair. 13 manuscripts were published in the 2019 *Journal of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. The committee is still reviewing manuscripts to determine the winner of the SEAFWA 2020 Outstanding Wildlife Technical Paper Award; the winner will be announced soon [the 2020 award is presented for 2019 manuscript].

Awards: Andy Madison is chair. There were no applications for student chapter of the year award. Otherwise, announcements will be made at the end of the meeting.

Wildlife Management Excellence Award (WMEA): Steven Castleberry is chair. No nominations submitted this year.

Special Committees - Joint Section-Association Committees

CW Watson Award: Lisa Muller is chair. Report submitted. They had a great pool of 8 nominees from every facet of SEAFWA. The winner will be announced at the SEAFWA awards banquet.

Minorities in Natural Resource: David Buggs is chair. Nothing new to report this year.

Wetland Wildlife: Jamie Feddersen and Dale James are co-chairs. Will forgo its meeting this year - concerns was attendance and time conflict with wildlife resource committee and lack of actional items. Co-chairs would appreciate any input for improving the committee. Will revisit objectives and goals and reignite and refocus for next year.

The Wildlife Professional Editorial Advisory Board: Matt Chopp is chair and submitted a report. TWP has two types of articles - cover features and focus series (3 articles per issue). If anyone is interested in submitting, all articles are welcome for consideration. The board is looking to use this magazine to highlight diversity, equity, and inclusion. They also hope to feature a TWS member from an

underrepresented group to help highlight and improve diversity within all levels of TWS and the wildlife field. TWP is published 7 times per year. The next issue of TWP will have a focus on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The cover feature is impact of a pandemic - impacts of COVID on wildlife professionals. Other topics include fire, Pacific carnivores, light pollution, and wildlife extension. There will be a July deadline for the Nov-Dec. issue. Other items include implementing relevancy of the roadmap that was published in 2019. In 2022, there will be a focus on citizen science/community science.

SEAFWA Editors: Dr. Robert Gitzen (Auburn University) is Associate Editor. Dr. Daniel Greene (Weyerhaeuser) is Assistant Editor. Daniel gave an update on the process - 6 manuscripts submitted this year. There were 15 wildlife manuscripts submitted on a variety of topics last year, so submissions are declining steadily and that is concerning.

Other Business

Katie Edwards, Newsletter Update: Always needing new news, photographs, and any information we can share on a quarterly basis. Looking into format changes - it is a PDF now, but we will make it easier to read on a cell phone.

Dan Greene, SETWS Field Course Update: Daniel Greene made an announcement about the upcoming SETWS Field Course to be held at the Jones Center at Ichuaway in Newton, GA June 1-14 2021. Applications will be accepted soon. We will renew conversations with universities, chapters, and advertise externally. Last year's cap was 24 students - we had 17 slots reserved with 14 students registered - 3 state chapters were pending. This year, we are deciding on how many slots to have opened but will likely be fewer (e.g., 20). Registration is first come, first serve, except last year's participants are being offered first chance to reserve. 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.

New Business

Mike Conner, Awards: Need to encourage submissions for awards at the regional and TWS section. Darren Miller echoed this statement and said with our membership size and the number of outstanding biologists, there should be at least one nominee for every award.

Adjournment: Mike Conner, motioned to adjourn the meeting; Darren Miller seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 P.M. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel U. Greene

Daniel U. Greene
SETWS Secretary/Treasurer