

## **TWS Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG)**

### **Minutes**

**Subject:** REWG All Members Annual Meeting

**Meeting Date:** November 3, 2021

**Time:** 16:00-18:00 (EST)

**Location:** Held virtually during the TWS 2021 Annual Meeting

**Attendees:**

Carl Howard	Karen Voltura
Ed Entsminger	Lindsey Hesch
Erin Hazelton	Mariah Beyers
Erica Christiansen	Megan Stohr
G. Bjonstrom	Mona Khalil
George Richottee	Patrick Walsh
Hanna Karevold	Sara Reif
Jasmine Kleiber	Scott Downes
Jason Damm	Sofia Agudelo
JT Layne	Susan Rupp
Karen Swaim	Tim Green

**Action Items:**

- Upload November minutes to the REWG website
- Upload REWG recently approved bylaws
- Send contributions for the newsletter (news, events, conferences, info) to REWG address and also post on LinkedIn
- If interest in contributing pieces for a potential REWG issue of The Wildlife Professional, contact Tim
- Get in touch with Michael if you have ideas for contributing to The Wildlife Professional
- To be discussed during the next meeting: Interest in REWG hosting/leading symposium or workshop during next year's TWS meeting?
- Looking for REWG volunteers to present/participate in the upcoming TWS Webinar Series on November 30, 2021. If interested contact Susan or Tim
- Register online at <https://wildlife.org/webinars/> to attend TWS webinar
- Send recipes to [srupp@envirosapes.org](mailto:srupp@envirosapes.org) to distribute
- Send any additional comments on the Working Groups Membership proposal to Tim or Susan. They will send them to Maria

**1) Welcome/Roll Call**

Susan P. Rupp - Envirosapes Ecological Consulting based in Northwest Arkansas, Biomass

Tim Green - Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island, NY

Karen Swaim - Swaim Biological Inc. SF Bay Area of California. Solar Energy

JT Layne - Stantec. Wind/Solar/Restoration

Mona Khalil - USGS. Energy and Wildlife Specialist in the Ecosystems Mission Area

Lindsey Hesch - National Grid Renewables

Erica Christiansen - Stantec

Edward Entsminger - Researcher, Forest and Wildlife Research Center, Department of Sustainable Bioproducts, Mississippi State University

Carl Howard - Field bio, construction bio, various consulting companies, wind, solar. CA, AZ, NV

Hanna Karevold - Ulteig Engineers based in Fargo, ND. Various energy forms.

George Ritchotte - Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Sofia Agudelo - Wildlife Ecologist. Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.

Jason Damm - Metric Environmental

Erin Hazelton - Ohio DNR. Assist with renewable energy projects

Sarah Reif - Energy Coordinator with Oregon Dept Fish and Wildlife. Interested in all renewable sectors

**2) Break out Rooms**

- a) "In a Perfect World" exercise. Why is membership to the REWG it important (i) personally, (ii) professionally, and (iii) for the world?
  - i) Bring questions and discuss ideas with others, motivation, awareness,
  - ii) Networking, professionals with interests in common, collaboration
  - iii) Learn from others/past experiences, accountability

**3) Old Business**

- a) REWG holds quarterly All Members meetings and monthly Executive meetings. Everyone is welcome to both, but only Executive Board members can vote during Executive meetings
- b) Review of previous Members' Meeting Minutes (April and July of 2021).  
Motion to approve both April and July minutes: Tim Green; Second by JT Layne  
*All in favor. April and July 2021 Minutes approved*

**4) Executive Board Updates**

- a) Recognition to those leaving the Board: Taber (Member-at-Large), Jenn (Secretary), Tim (Past Chair)
- b) Welcome to new Board Members: Mona Khalil (Member-At-Large), Sofía Agudelo (Secretary), Jenn D'Augustine (Chair Elect)
- c) Chair (S. Rupp)
  - i) TWS Executive Director Search: Dr. Ed Arnett
  - ii) New proposal in front of Council: Council has a proposal to have working group membership available to all members at no additional cost. All working groups would receive a set amount from TWS to offset the loss revenue from free membership to the groups.
- d) Past-Chair (T. Green)
  - i) Update to the bylaws was approved; they now align with TWS' bylaws. They will get posted on our website
- e) Treasurer Update: M. Whitby Not present
- f) Secretary Update: J. D'Augustine not present
- g) Transition of Funds to New Platform at TWS: TWS is being transitioned to a new platform that gives more flexibility for use.
- h) Budget Update: Approximately \$2,000 in account
- i) Member-At-Large (Taber Alison/Jason Damm/Lee Walston)
  - i) Solar Power and Wildlife/Natural Resources Virtual Symposium: December 1 – 3, 2021
    - (1) Agenda is being finalized.
    - (2) Symposium will include live and recorded presentations.
    - (3) More information available: <https://awwi.org/solar-symposium-schedule/>

**5) Break Out Rooms**

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  - i) Bring questions and discuss ideas with others, motivation, awareness,
  - ii) Networking, professionals with interests in common, collaboration
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**6) Committee Updates**

- a) In need of volunteers for all committees. More info can be found on the bylaws
- b) Operations/Audit Committee (Tim Green):
  - i) This committee deals with elections. It would be ideal to have more than one person to run for available positions.
  - ii) Treasurer has to submit a report; this effort is supported by the Operations/Audit Committee
  - iii) Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness (IDEA) will be rolled into all aspects of REWG By-Laws
- c) Communications Committee
  - i) Big push to increase REWG's outreach through newsletter and social media presence
  - ii) Seeking contributions for the newsletter (news, events, conferences, info)
  - iii) Send info to REWG address and post on LinkedIn
  - iv) The Wildlife Professional: Michael Fishman is the new REWG member (2-yr term) on the editorial board.
  - v) Get in touch with Michael if you have ideas for contributing to The Wildlife Professional
  - vi) If interest in contributing pieces for a potential REWG issue of The Wildlife Professional, contact Tim
- d) Conservation Affairs Committee (Jenn D'Augustine – Acting Chair)
  - i) Re-solicit participation: We want to make sure we have an Committee established working on the policy of RE development
  - ii) Hope to get kick-off call with Keith Norris
- e) Conference Committee: Decided not to pursue standalone symposiums/workshops this year
  - i) Any interest in REWG hosting/leading symposium or workshop next year?
- f) Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee
  - i) New “WeDidIt” platform through TWS will allow us to accept donations and other fees (e.g., registrations for conferences/trainings, etc.)
  - ii) Looking for members to participate in this committee
- g) Activities Committee
  - i) Logo Contest (Deadline September 3, 2021): Postponed (only one entry received)
  - ii) TWS Webinar Series: REWG scheduled for November 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM (EST)
  - iii) Title: The Intersection of Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Wildlife Conservation
  - iv) Presenters: Tim (Moderator), Susan (Biomass), Taber/Michael Whitby (wind), Jenn/Michael Fishman (solar)
  - v) Looking for additional REWG members to present. If interested contact Susan or Tim
  - vi) Register at: <https://wildlife.org/webinars/>

**7) Open Discussion by Membership**

- a) Proposal in front of Council (see item 4.a.ii above)
  - i) Break out rooms' discussion on the (i) pros and (ii) cons of this proposal.
    - (1) Increased participation, more members signing to TWS and working groups, more learning opportunities and networking for students and young professionals

- (2) Difficult to keep track of membership, some groups' budgets might be negatively affected, how will the money from TWS be used, potential decreased participation (more fluid groups with more members overall but less active participation)
- b) Send additional thought to Tim or Susan. They will send comments to Maria

**8) REWG Social: Recipe Exchange**

- a) Video presentation
- b) Send recipes to [srupp@enviroscares.org](mailto:srupp@enviroscares.org) to distribute

**9) Close Meeting/Set Date**

- a) Next Executive Board Meeting: November 12, 2021 at 1300 EST
- b) Next Members' Meeting: TBD
- c) Meeting adjourned at 18:00 (EST)

**Minutes approved by All Members** during the Annual All Members Meeting in November of 2022