**Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Quarterly Board Meeting**

**May 27, 2022**

**Notes**

NETWS Board

President-elect: Erin Considine

President: Andrew Little

Past-president: Will Inselman

Secretary: Jennifer Corman

Treasurer: Matthew Gruntorad

At-large board members: Sarah Nevison, Larkin Powell, Chelsea Forehead, Jon Soper

Attendance: Erin Considine, Jennifer Corman, Chelsea Forehead, Matt Gruntorad, Will Inselman, Andy Little, Sarah Nevison, Carl Wolfe

Andy Little called meeting to order at 12:05 pm CT.

Secretary’s Report – Jen Corman

* Summary of February 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting
* Nevison motioned to approve minutes. Considine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report – Matt Gruntorad

* Midwest Furbearer Workshop – we deposited a check from the 2022 hosting agency (Kansas TWS) into our account and then paid expenses out of that account on behalf of the Furbearer Workshop. We received the conference registration fees from attendees and will pay the hosting agency (Kansas TWS) back for any deposit and conference income that exceeded expenses. The actual budget impact will be net zero for NETWS.
* This quarter’s income is over $5,000.00, which is inflated because of the Furbearer Workshop fees and initial deposit.
* Overall total expenses: $1,172.60
* No discretionary spending yet for the first quarter.
* Gruntorad will move proceeds from the annual meeting’s Mallards in Flight auction item from the Income category to the Joe Gabig Scholarship fund.
* Considine motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Inselman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee reports

* Nominating – Will Inselman
  + No updates, will revisit in fall
  + Members should be thinking about nominations throughout the year, not just right before annual meeting.
* Programs – Erin Considine
  + We have signed the contract with the Younes Center in Kearney for holding our meeting for the next three years.
  + Committee will meet in August to plan for next year’s annual meeting. Would like to make it a fun, “Grand” event to celebrate the return to in-person annual meetings. We have funds to spend to make sure people can get there and have a good time, especially students
* Conservation Review – Eric Zach – not present, emailed the following.
  + Tom Welstead has been contacted as a potential advocate for NETWS and would not need reimbursement for time or expenses related to any work he does for NETWS.
  + Kristal Stoner (Audubon) has been contacted. NETWS would need to commit to $3,000-$5,000/year to join Audubon’s and Ducks Unlimited’s current lobbying agreement. The board budgeted $500 so the cost may be prohibitive. Stoner is willing to share information with us if we do not join the agreement, but we would not have access to the lobbyist.
  + We will discuss next steps at the next quarterly board meeting.
  + No updates on automated letter writing.
* Information and Education – Erin Considine
  + Newsletter will be distributed in the next week or two (thank you, Amanda Ciurej!).
  + Considine is putting final touches on the website update. Please let her know if there is anything you would like to add.
  + Student Travel Grants section on website says “more information coming soon.” Potentially could place a form on there. Corman will check for a student travel grant form on Dropbox. We will include dates for the next three years of annual meetings so that students can plan ahead
  + Little will send Considine the list of past NETWS award winners.
  + Considine will ask national TWS how to get analytics on the website’s usage patterns.
* Awards – Andy Little
  + Plaques were distributed to annual meeting award winners.
  + Planning to send out reminders for award nominations to members throughout this year, rather than waiting until shortly before the annual meeting.
* Certification – Carl Wolfe
  + Welcomes additional people to help with the Certification Committee.
  + Certification is now cheap and easy.
  + Wildlife professionals need to emphasize to student chapter members that wildlife and conservation is important for the state and that TWS certification is important for the students’ careers.
  + On July 23, the Wolfes are hosting a picnic for the Democratic Party and the Sierra Club to discuss water issues in Nebraska. Contact Carl for more info. Sierra Club is sponsoring the picnic.

New Business

* Student Chapter Engagement – Sarah Nevison
* How do we continue to expand the work that started last year?
  + The key to student engagement is having TWS members interact in-person with the students. Chelsea Forehead and Erin Considine have done an excellent job engaging with Chadron student chapter members.
  + Sarah is planning to meet in-person with Wayne State.
  + NETWS should send quarterly meeting agendas to students or one representative member from each student chapter to encourage interaction with the board and board meeting attendance. Both the student representatives and sponsoring professors should be on the Google email group.
  + Newsletter discusses this effort. NETWS needs membership perspective on the effort so that we can reach beyond the board members for ideas.
* State Chapter Activities
  + Little would like to be more proactive about meeting with student chapters on a regular basis, perhaps monthly, either virtually or in-person or incorporated into a student chapter event.
  + Feedback from members at annual meeting suggested NETWS should provide more training and workshop opportunities beyond those offered at the annual meeting. Additional workshops will keep NETWS relevant for members. Little suggested potentially creating a series of webinars.
  + There is a need for communications training. Wildlife professionals need training on how to connect with the general public about conservation topics. Academic coursework provides instruction in science and techniques, but does not offer much training for communicating and interacting with the public and landowners, such as farmers, even though that is a major component of the job for many wildlife biologists. Training opportunities are limited once people graduate, so students need it before they graduate!
  + Another aspect of communications training: how do we make ourselves relevant to urban populations?
  + Nevison shared a link to Dr. Taylor Ruth’s webinar on Communicating Science in the Disinformation Era hosted by the NGPC Education Division.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swoUtWvtdXM&list=PL5jnrlvrCTp2f0ksRmppXPl2E9eB70lOO&index=1>

* + Wolfe proposed providing a list of potential speakers to the student chapters to let the students choose what they want to learn from people in the “real world.”
  + Considine proposed that professionals present to students on who they work for, what they do, and what differentiates their agencies and organizations in the wildlife field.
  + The challenge with presentations for students is figuring out WHEN to do it to get good attendance.
  + Little will start an email conversation and may call an interim meeting to discuss further so that the chapter can organize some webinars in the near-future.
* Email listserv updates
  + Out of time. Board will discuss at next meeting.
  + Need a process for updating email lists regularly, so that people who want NETWS email updates receive them and people who are not members anymore do not receive email if they do not want them.

Wolfe motioned to adjourn meeting. Considine seconded. All ayes, no nays.

Little adjourned meeting at 1:06 pm CT.