

The Wildlife Society, Southwest Section
Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024, 1:00–2:00pm MST

Board Members

- **Present:** Nicole Tatman – President, Kay Nicholson – Past President, Ryan Luna – President-Elect, Megan Clayton – Treasurer
- **Absent:** Masahiro Ohnishi – Secretary

Old Business

- Connecting Section Members
 - Working on integrating the Mexico chapter this year. See additional notes in Current Business.
- Officers' Operations Manual
 - Kay updated the manual
- Conservation Affairs Committee
 - The SWS is still looking for a new committee chair.

Current Business

- Workloads throughout the year
 - In the past, the end of the year gets very burdened for the President with scholarship application reviews and the election process
 - Consider September deadline for scholarship and Oct/Nov deadline for elections
- Website
 - Now that sections are responsible for maintaining their own websites, considering adding a webmaster position within the Section
 - Kay has been doing this role and is interested in continuing
 - Items to post
 - Letter (Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Committee)
 - Board meeting minutes
- Newsletter
 - 2x/year: spring & fall
 - Jamie is stepping down as one of the co-editors, we have an option with Taylor (USFS person from NM). Anna Ladd is co-editor.
- Officers' Operations Manual
 - It's a working document that should continue to be updated
- Awards
 - President of TWS Bob Lanka reached out and asked us to get some interest surrounding 2 awards, Distinguished Service Award and TWS Fellows Award
 - Nicole will send out an email that includes some information on the awards and directs members to website
 - TWS Distinguished service award: "recognize dedicated individuals who have provided exceptional service primarily to Chapters and/or Sections"
 - [DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - The Wildlife Society](#)
 - 20 years of membership and long term commitment to TWS

- Deadline for nominations to be submitted to SWS: April 1 (then deadline for SWS to submit to TWS is May 1)
 - Anyone can nominate deserving individuals. The Board chooses the winner.
 - TWS Fellows Award: “for those who have provided exceptional service to the wildlife profession, who have been TWS members for at least 10-years and who are known to be ambassadors for TWS”
 - [TWS FELLOWS AWARD - The Wildlife Society](#)
 - Up to 10 recipients per year (2/section)
 - Work with Kathy on who we are nominating as she will have to discuss nominees with Council
 - Deadline for nominations: May 1
- Treasurer’s Report
 - Amount of money brought in by the SWS each year: 400-500 members at \$5 each
 - Expenses last year:
 - Graduate Student Scholarship: \$1,000
 - Student chapter meeting travel grants: up to 3 per state at \$150 each
 - There was some feedback that this amount was not enough. Consider giving fewer grants (2 students per state?) and raising this amount (\$250 per student?).
 - Requests for sponsorship
 - 2023
 - Texas Chapter meeting refreshments: \$300
 - WAFWA Deer & elk workshop: \$500
 - ~\$13,000 in account now
 - Options to bring in more money
 - John Kinsey said we could donate an item or 2 for silent auction or raffle at the TX chapter meeting and funds generated would go back to the SWS.
 - This might be an option at the AZ/NM JAM as well
- Nicole’s interests/initiatives for the coming year
 - Mexico involvement
 - Mexico has their own conference that happens every other year (or so), but desire more involvement in regional collaboration
 - Mexico chapter will be incorporated sometime this year, this is what they need to move forward in their country (like LLC in states)
 - TWS Council has paperwork also and is reviewing
 - It was determined through discussions with Ed Arnett, Fidel Hernandez, and professors in Mexico that possibly the best thing to do now is sponsor some travel for Mexico students to an chapter meeting in the SW United States next February
 - NM/AZ JAM
 - Ask NM Chapter to waive registration fees
 - The SWS would need to write a letter "sponsoring" them to come into US temporarily for the conference
 - Students can participate in conference, posters. Language might be an issue.
 - Estimate of sponsorship amount: \$2,000 total (lodging, food, transportation)
 - Possible sponsorships from other Chapters if funds are problematic

- Conservation Affairs Committee
 - Late 2023 we had outreach with TWS on submitting a comment to the Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Committee

Action Items

- Nicole will follow up with Taylor about the newsletter editor position
- Nicole will send an email to the membership about upcoming award deadlines
- Update the Operations Manual, as needed (All)
- Work with the Mexico chapter to sponsor their members to come to a SW chapter meeting in the U.S. (All)