

The Wildlife Society, Southwest Section
Board Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2024, 9:00–10:00am MST

Board Members

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

Old Business

- Newsletter
 - Nicole will follow up with Taylor regarding the newsletter editor role – done
 - Look for potential candidates for the newsletter editor role – done
- Officers' Operations Manual
 - Update as needed – ongoing
- Awards
 - Nicole will send an email to the membership about upcoming award nomination deadlines – done
- Mexico Chapter
 - Sponsor Mexico chapter members to come to a meeting in the SW United States – ongoing
- Conservation Affairs Committee
 - Look for a new committee chair – done

Current Business

- Mexico Chapter
 - Planning to support financially, probably ~\$2,000, to attend chapter meetings in NM or TX.
- Newsletter
 - Two potential candidates for the Editor role. Will see if they want to be co-editors.
 - Robert is a grad student in Texas, and he has experience as a newsletter editor
 - Madeleine works for NMGFD
- Awards
 - Section awards were given to recipients last week
 - Jim Heffelfinger was the TWS Fellows Award recipient
 - Leland Pierce was the Distinguished Service Award recipient
- Scholarship
 - Nicole will send the announcement for applications
 - The deadline will be bumped up to November 30 this year
- Elections
 - Need to elect a President-Elect and a Secretary this year
 - The President-Elect candidates may not be from the same state as the incoming President so candidates may not be from TX
 - Scott Sprague told Nicole that his wife, Tiffany, may be interested in running for a position
 - Kay will talk to Tiffany
- Conservation Affairs Committee

- The SWS had been looking for a new committee chair. Nick Forman has now taken on that role.
- Fund Students for Chapter Meetings
 - The Board decided to fund up to two students per state at \$200 each
 - Nicole will send out the announcement that the Section is now accepting applications
- Treasurer's Report
 - Megan just deposited \$1,145 that came from Texas
 - Section account balances total \$1,780
 - Discussion on whether to open a Zelle account. There was consensus in the group that an electronic deposit option would be helpful.
 - Megan was sent a credit card and wondered whether there was a need for a credit card
 - Megan will ask Erika Nowak
- Bylaws
 - Nicole noticed some discrepancies
 - There is no geospatial committee anymore – remove from the bylaws?
 - We now have a webmaster – add that position to the bylaws?
 - The bylaws mention a November 30 deadline for elections, but in another place it just says 30 days are needed to allow members to vote, making it sound like the election period can happen anytime before the new officers would take office.

Action Items

- Nicole will send out the announcement for scholarship applications
- Kay will talk to Tiffany Sprague about running for an officer position
- Nicole will send out the announcement that the Section is accepting applications to fund students wishing to attend their chapter meeting
- Review the Section bylaws and determine if any changes are needed (All)