

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Summer Board Meeting
 Gladding Jackson Offices, Orlando, Florida
 2 July 2008
 FINAL

Attendees: Jay Exum, Dale Gawlik, Erin Myers, Steve Rockwood, Stefanie Nagid, Maria Zondervan , Rainer Shaw, Arnold Brunell
 Absent: Blair Hayman, George Tanner

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order	President Jay Exum called the meeting to order at 10:22 am.	
Reading of the Summer Board Minutes	M. Zondervan recommended <u>approving minutes with editorial revisions</u> . S. Nagid seconded. Motion approved.	Motion Approved
Report of Treasurer	M. Zondervan distributed report (see attached). Current working budget: \$30,956.56 which includes the \$1,200 made through the endowment from the original deposit. E. Myers motioned to approve, A Brunell seconded; Approved M. Zondervan mentioned that FL TWS was approved for the Florida State Employee Charitable Contributions Campaign. The Chapter needs to begin evaluating registration fee for meetings based on anticipated expenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget report approved ➤
Report of Committees		
<i>Audit</i>	No report	➤
<i>Awards</i>	No report	➤
<i>Budget</i>	No report	➤
<i>Certification</i>	No report.	➤
<i>Conservation</i>	<p>J Exum discussed how difficult it is to get the Board's involvement and input regarding current conservation issues due to quick turn around time needed by B Bolt.</p> <p>For instance the letter of support to the New Mexico TWS Chapter regarding the border fence issue to wildlife, a resolution which the FL TWS Chapter supported. Regarding the Bear Mgmt plan review, the Chapter commented to FWC through C Sekerak since the turn around time was one week.</p> <p>A Brunell commented about our relationship through the FWF, can we use that to get info in a more timely manner (become better informed) allowing the Chapter more time to review and comment, especially involving more board members. J Exum recommended a more formal way to post info from the FWF onto the FL TWS website. M Zondervan commented that someone should check FWF website to determine most current issues, and when we should comment. A Brunell mentioned fostering a better relationship with FWF, possibly becoming a part of the internal FWF viewing process—suggested B Bolt as point of contact. J Exum reminded Board that we do get summaries of FWF meeting minutes, but he is unable to circulate this confidential info. S Rockwood suggested that B Bolt be on the same email list as J. Exum, so she is aware of the issues early on.</p> <p>Florida Forever: has been funded at \$300M; Governor Crist signed it on 7/1/2008. This funding carries through until 2020, state will have 5 million acres by 2020; after 2020 planning to have an additional 2 million acres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ J Exum to appoint a member to monitor FWF website for current issues and report back to Board ➤ J Exum evaluate what Chapter can post from FWF initiatives to our website ➤ J Exum send detailed notes from FWF meetings to B Bolt. ➤ S Nagid (needs to

		confirm the FF numbers)
<i>Education</i>	This year is the 40 th year of the FL TWS chapter as well as the UF student chapter--Chapter received a certificate from Nat'l. S Rockwood will be attending the SEAFWA meeting in Corpus Christie where the certificate will be presented to the Chapter "officially".	➤ J Exum will scan and post Chapter's 40 year recognition certificate on website.
<i>Information</i>	Letter from Hutchins, regarding the Nat'l website update. They continue to increase their IT capabilities, which is promising if Chapter wants to link with their site	➤
<i>Membership</i>	No report	➤
<i>Nominating and elections</i>	A Brunell takes over in Spring 2009 as president; nominations needed for Fall 2008; discussed possible individuals for nominations—the committee will develop a panel to send out for election. Other election information, see below under "New Business"	➤ S Rockwood need to get election info out to members ASAP
<i>Program</i>	See attached document: paraphrased here Discussion: compare Homosassa, Fernandina Bch, Cedar Key. Others? Orlando, Gainesville Decided Orlando—downtown. Thinking late March	➤ J Exum will check Orlando vs. Kissimmee vs. ➤ A Brunell will check Sanford
<i>Scholarship</i>	M. Zondervan requested NWTF and FWF to increase contribution to the scholarship (5/19/2008); still has not heard back from them. New scholarship name is "Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship" Letter to families of Damion Marx, Phil Heidemann and Gareth Akerman regarding Chapter renaming Scholarship to the Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship in their honor	➤ M Zondervan and J Exum will follow up with NWTF and FWF regarding increased contributions for the student scholarship ➤ Letter to families informing of new scholarship name in honor of deceased members' memory
<i>Student Chapter Report</i>	R. Shaw Dr. Hayes approved graduate student's involvement with curriculum discussion. Therefore, UF students will be meeting with faculty to discuss the undergraduate curriculum. Still discussing field days with SCB (Society for Conservation Biology), but slow in development. New officers: Pres: Ashley Williams is a Senior in Wildlife dept (also secretary for SCB) 2 VPs: Mindy Stockman and Elise Brumer Sec: Christina Martin Treasurer: John Andrews Historian: Dawn Brumley	➤

	Webmaster: Clare Harwood	
OLD BUSINESS		
2008 National Conference	<p>Currently Chapter has raised \$94 K (including in-kind we have \$124K). Still awaiting pledge support from other agencies or companies.</p> <p>“Cup Club” idea still developing. Sell turvis tumbler for \$15.00 then use for reduced beverage costs—still awaiting Hyatt’s willingness to help with this; also looking at other vendors near the Hyatt.</p> <p>Welcome reception auction items—guns, fishing and hunting trips Critter control donating pens and over \$15 K; A Brunell discussed an issue with the program brochure individuals –they are NOT getting a full page –Good lineup of speakers</p> <p>i.Funding for student chapter (J Exum has a copy that C Sekerak put together for vote), how can the costs be split between FL TWS and student chapter funds. R Shaw clarified that UF students don’t want to take all the volunteer money allotted for conf, but set up for a certain amount. S Rockwood will make a recommendation to board based on results for the meeting with R Shaw and B Giuliano.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student rooms at the meeting site? J Exum mentioned this would include two rooms for six nights—is this possible through our Chapter? This would be > \$2000. R Shaw still deciding how many student volunteers are needed. 2. Provide travel \$/per diem to students 3. Use volunteer paid slots for students <p>ii.Memorial for FAU students/Maehr J Exum discussed how proceed with the memorial. Do we give recommendation to Nat’l or do we set it up? D Gawlik thinks that a public ceremony may be difficult on the families again. S Nagid suggested setting up a poster/display memorial for attendees to view during the conference (S Rockwood recommended during the welcome reception). This may include all members who have passed over the year, definitely the Everglades loss—and include UKentucky for Dave Maehr</p>	<p>➤ J Exum contact Disney regarding possible pledge (coordinate with Michael Hutchins)</p> <p>➤ S Rockwood will follow up and find out if sponsors who pledged for a full page will get it in the brochure</p> <p>➤ S Rockwood discuss Nat’l conference funding for student Chapter with R Shaw and Bill Giuliano, how much is needed?</p> <p>➤ J Exum contact UK to discuss including Dave Maehr memorial display with other TWS losses.</p>
Website	<p>See P Delaney email (attachment) Reviewed four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joomla (Nat’l uses) everything has to be .pdf 2. Bring the Bling—Chrissy Giddens 3. Combo of Joomla with Chrissy 4. Jenny Rutherford <p>Committee recommends “Bring the Bling” to the Board. Still need to inform/involve Information Committee on final determination. Want Chrissy to design html website and then the website committee, made up of a minimum of 5 members (B Hayman, R Shaw, P Delaney, S Nagid, Clare Harmon (student)) will add content and maintain the information. Need to inform membership to either add content through “contact us” button on website or email info directly to one of the committee members. >>> S Nagid motioned to authorize website committee to move forward with working with “Bring the Bling” as long as cost does not exceed \$2500. D Gawlik seconded; approved.</p> <p>*Since the Florida TWS website is the primary source of communication for the Chapter, the Board will make the final decision on developing a new html website. This decision regarding website development, management and</p>	<p>➤ Motion approved to work with “Bring the Bling” for Chapter Website design</p> <p>➤ S Rockwood Add website committee into By-Laws</p>

	location, will be based on recommendations from the website team, the information committee and the Treasurer.	
NEW BUSINESS		
Pathways to President	<p>S Rockwood presented proposed changes (see attached). Current system, main negative is a year of disconnect between VP and Pres; positive is the president elect for a year prior to presidency—</p> <p>M Zondervan does not like this system due to the year out.</p> <p>5 alternatives (paraphrased):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current system with no changes 2. Eliminate president elect (PE) and Past president (PP), vote all board members at same time. Hold elections once every two years 3. Keep PE and PP positions, but nominate PE the same year we nominate all other members 4. Eliminate VP position. Have board create a new position called “Director of Programs” to take on VP responsibility 5. Eliminate PP position, but conduct the PE election at the same time as all other positions. PE term would be modified to a two-year commitment <p>Board discussed removal of VP, and changes of VP to PE or “Director of programs”; also discussed changing the PE to VP or vice versa: --if PE replaces the VP and becomes Pres in two years—this is a four year commitment, therefore this person remains in office for 4 years whether worthy or not. However now within the board we can determine nominations that are worthy of the presidency.</p> <p>Board definitely agrees that a change is needed</p> <p>A Brunell recommends changing alternative 4 by not removing VP—but the PE and VP have different duties (for example one of the positions doesn’t plan the conferences).</p> <p>J Exum recommends holding all elections at the same time, for example Spring 2009, VP to PE, 2 years PE and 2 yrs as Pres. Do we keep PP? D Gawlik and A Brunell say yes. D Gawlik recommends comparing Chapter selection to Nat’l pathway.</p> <p>>>>E Myers made a motion to make all elections occur in the same year, change the VP position to a President elect position with the PE still in charge of planning programs. The PE will be a 2yr term that automatically transitions into the Presidency for two more years, followed by one year as past president, for a total five year term.</p> <p>S Rockwood and S Nagid will make the needed By-Law change; then send the By-Law change to the website committee (B Hayman) for submission to the membership for voting;</p> <p>J Exum will send proposed change to Nat’l for approval.</p> <p>Motion Seconded by S Rockwood and S Nagid; Motion approved</p>	<p>➤ Motion Approved: --all elections occur in the same year, --change the VP position to a President elect position with the PE still in charge of planning programs. --The PE will be a 2yr term that automatically transitions into the Presidency for two more years, followed by one year as past president, for a <u>total five year term</u>.</p> <p>➤ S Rockwood and S Nagid make By-Law changes</p> <p>➤ B Hayman submit proposal to membership via website</p> <p>➤ J Exum will send proposed change to Nat’l for approval.</p>
Raise Membership fees	<p>A Brunell made Motion to raise membership fee from \$10 to \$20, seconded D Gawlik; Motion approved;</p> <p>Submit proposed change to membership with written explanation as to why, including the updated website, workshops, endowment fund; AND haven’t increased since at least 1998.</p>	<p>➤ Motion approved to raise membership fee to \$20</p> <p>➤ Need to send proposed change to membership with explanation</p>
Fall Board Meeting	<p>J Exum set up the Board meeting at the Nat’l conference, either Friday before or Thursday morning after</p>	<p>➤ J Exum set up Fall Meeting</p>

		during Nat'1 Conference in Miami
Contacting Fundraising Chair	A Brunell discussed the difficulty in getting in touch with Fund raising chair. Proposal for Chapter to get a cell phone for Chair. Treasurer recommends sending receipts for calls made on behalf of FL TWS	➤ Fundraising chair send receipts to Treasurer for calls made on behalf of Chapter
Review By Laws		➤ S Nagid and S Rockwood complete By-Law changes by August 1 for Board review and commenting
Meeting adjourned	Meeting was adjourned at 1559.	

SECTION III. DETAILED SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES (1/1/08–6/30/08)

Expenses:

2008 Spring Meeting	\$ 1,574.24
Student Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00
Merchandise	\$ 927.70
Overhead	\$ 142.23
<u>Fire Course Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 2,723.62</u>
Total	\$ 6,367.79

Income:

Endowment Fund Change in Value	\$ 1,267.72
2008 Spring Conference	\$ 633.00
Membership	\$ 1,690.00
Merchandise	\$ 249.49
Petty Cash (not accounted for previously)	\$ 69.50
<u>Fire Course</u>	<u>\$ 3,950.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,859.71

NET GAIN **\$1,491.92**

WEBSITE REPORT

FLTWS Board,

At the spring meeting we talked about changing our existing SharePoint website into a more navigable, flashier website for the upcoming national conference. A few of us got together and formed a website committee. The committee was asked to see what options were out there and how much it was going to cost. From what I remember, the chapter agreed that we could spend upwards of \$2,000 on the website and the board would vote on whatever the website committee recommends. Below are some conversations and info about some options we narrowed it down to.

Option 1: Joomla (this is who national uses) <<FW website info..htm>> <<FW TWS online services update.htm>>

I spoke with Ruxandra (National's web person) and she gave me a bunch of info on how to use Joomla and set it up. Everything looks real easy to work with, but not very customizable. Take a look at Alaska's site: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/alaska/index.php?CFID=14542533&CFTOKEN=44007197> - This is what Ruxandra wanted us to look at as an example of what we could do.

Cost: Free

Pros: Easy to add content, easy to navigate, National recommends us using this, drop-down menus, works with ecommerce, search engine optimization.

Cons: Very basic, not as flashy as other options.

Links: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/>

Option 2: Chrissy Giddens (<http://www.bringthebling.com/>) <<Chrissy from Bringthebling.com quotes and idea.rtf>>

Cost: \$1500-\$2000

Pros: After initial design - very easy and free to add content and edit by ourselves, very good-looking website, easy to navigate, works with ecommerce, search engine optimization, very professional look.

Cons: Cost

Links: <http://mckeegarden.org/>, <http://davidcoxconsulting.com/>

Option 3: Joomla/BringtheBling <<RE TWS Website.htm>>

I think it was Rockwood who came up with idea of hiring Chrissy from BlingtheBling to help design the Joomla site. Talked to Chrissy and she was willing to do this, and spoke with Ruxandra and she said this could work as well. It would be less expensive than hiring Chrissy to design the whole site, but she said we would still be limited on customizing the site.

Option 4: Jenny Rutherford (<http://sleepingfish.com/>)
Sleeping Fish Web Quote(s).htm>>

<<FWC Revised Quote_040308.pdf>> <<FW

Cost: Around \$4800

Pros: Very easy to add content and edit by ourselves, very good-looking website, easy to navigate, works well with ecommerce, Search Engine Optimization, very professional look.

Cons: Cost, cost for editing and adding content.

Links: <http://www.craft-design.com/>

After everyone from the website committee got a chance to look over the options and have multiple email discussions, the majority voted to recommend Chrissy with BringtheBling. If you need anymore info on any of the options feel free to call or email.

Thanks,

Patrick Delaney
Reptile & Amphibian Research
Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

2009 SPRING PROGRAM REPORT POSSIBLE CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

1. Homosassa/Crystal River

- Homosassa Riverside Resort
 - Historic lodge overlooking river
 - Banquet room 150-200 people \$450 rental
 - Smaller meeting rooms 35 people
 - Std room rate \$65/day
- Activities
 - Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park
 - Chassahowitzka NWR
 - Refuge tour and Whooping Crane introduction talk
 - Shallow water boating and fishing
- Possible themes – ecotourism, coastal development, conservation of springs, endangered species
- Possible workshops:
 - Survey methodologies: WMA vegetation monitoring, scrub jay survey, wading bird surveys
 - GIS: laptops with ARCGIS software. Need computers, software, plus instructor
 - Plant ID /restoration technique workshop topics: Withlacoochee; salt marsh, shell middens, mangroves

2. Fernandina Beach

- Hotels
 - Best Western Inn at Amelia Isl.
 - Meeting room 250 people
 - Room rates \$90/day
 - Hampton Inn & Suites Amelia Isl.
 - Meeting room 150 people
 - Room rates \$125/day
- Activities
 - Bird watching
 - Saltmarsh management field trips
- Possible themes – coastal development, saltmarsh restoration and mgt,
- Possible workshops:
 - Survey methodologies: WMA vegetation monitoring, scrub jay survey, wading bird surveys
 - GIS: laptops with ARCGIS software. Need computers, software, plus instructor
 - Plant ID /restoration technique workshop topics: invasive management success, coastal beach, dunes, maritime hammock, salt marsh

3. Cedar Key (with comments from Peter Frederick)

- Meeting will require that people are spread out among hotels and restaurants - no places with rooms to hold 100 at once, but everything is close proximity.
- Meeting facilities
 - No hotels that have a meeting room to accommodate 100 people for presentations.

- Can rent the Lion's Club Community Center located centrally in town
 - AC and apparently can handle over 100 people.
 - Rented by the town of Cedar Key, call 352-543-5132.
 - Peter Stefani potential caterer - runs the restaurant in Cedar Cove, good chef, and knows everything going on in Cedar Key - 352-543-6520.
 - The Community Center is an easy 5 or 10 minute walk from any of the hotels in Cedar Key, and less than 2 minutes walk from good breakfast place, Annie's.
- Hotels
 - About 15 small but good hotels – reasonable rates.
 - Cedar Cove Hotel – largest - 23 rooms and 3 townhouses.
- Restaurants
 - Higher end restaurant located in the same building as Cedar Cove, up to 40 people.
 - Many good restaurants easy walking distance (Annie's breakfast - grilled mullet with tomatoes and grits really gets you up in the am).
- Activities
 - Cedar Key is all about a sustainable fishery,
 - Possible talk about clam farming there, and its effect on damping housing development on the nearby mainland.
 - Peter can line up someone to talk. Maybe also a tour of the local clam hatchery.
 - Two pontoon boats take people out to the nearby islands
 - Birding is excellent in spring, knowledgeable guide does boat birding trips for up to 36 people (Captain Doug, see <http://www.tidewatertours.com/>).
 - Two good museums - one the state museum and the other the product of the Cedar Key Historical Society.
 - UF Marine station on Seahorse Key (partially located in a Civil War era lighthouse on the highest point of land on the west coast of Florida – Peter can facility:
 - Lower Suwannee NWR, which mostly surrounds Cedar Key. John Casbohm Refuge manager
 - Encourage members to bring any type of shallow watercraft
- Possible theme – sustainable fishing, coastal development
- Possible workshops:
 - Survey methodologies: WMA vegetation monitoring, scrub jay survey, wading bird surveys
 - GIS: laptops with ARCGIS software. Need computers, software, plus instructor
 - Plant ID /restoration technique workshop topics: Cedar Key WEA good restoration sites: scrub, mangroves, depression marshes, hydric hammock, salt marsh

“PATHWAY TO PRESIDENT” ALTERNATIVES

Structure of Presidential Path	Pro's	Con's
<p>1) Current system with no changes.</p>	<p>Individuals who served as VP and elected as PE the following year have 1 year “off” before they commit for another 4 years.</p> <p>Purpose for serving 1-year term as PE is to allow time to re-adjust to Chapter/Board activities.</p> <p>Allows nominations and elections committee time to evaluate how well the VP performed their duties and whether or not they would make a good P candidate</p>	<p>One year of disconnect for individuals that previously served as VP and were and elected as PE the following year.</p>
<p>2) Eliminate PE and PP positions and elect all board members, including P at the same time, that is, once every 2 years.</p> <p>An exception to this could be that the P would serve a 1-year term as PP, to guide the incoming P, especially if the incoming P has minimal board experience (i.e., didn't come up from the board ranks.)</p>	<p>VP's could run for and be elected P without year of disconnect.</p> <p>Elections would only be held once every 2 years.</p> <p>Nominations and elections committee has time to evaluate VP.</p>	<p>If individual serving as VP does not get elected P, new incoming P may have little or no board experience (the down side of eliminating the PE position). However, if Outgoing P serves a 1-year term as PP, this could help alleviate those concerns.</p> <p>May be difficult to transition into this new system. For instance, Brunell comes in as P in spring 09 with new board members. Outgoing VP (Gavlik) would have to wait 2 years to run for P and compete with the outgoing VP at that time. This could domino in that Gavlik and each of his successors could actually be elected for P after having been off for 2 years – which is worse than the current system.</p>
<p>3) Keep PE and PP positions, but nominate PE the same year we nominate all other board members.</p>	<p>Simplifies election process.</p> <p>If outgoing VP gets elected to PE, avoids year of disconnect.</p> <p>If another individual gets elected instead of the outgoing VP, that individual would still serve as PE for a year to gain experience.</p>	<p>P term would have to be reduced to a 1-yr term, thus total commitment would be 1 yr as PE, 1 yr as P, and 1 yr as PP.</p> <p>May not allow enough time for P to accomplish his/her personal goals for the Chapter.</p>
<p>4) Eliminate VP position. Have Board create a new position called Director of Programs to take on VP responsibility.</p>	<p>Avoids year of disconnect.</p>	<p>The role of the VP has expanded tremendously over the last 10 years. The VP position traditionally has been used to evaluate how well the individual will perform as P. How will eliminating the VP position and calling it a Director of Programs be any different?</p> <p>May complicate hierarchal process in that if the Director of Programs does a good job, they may be viewed as next P candidate.</p>
<p>5) Eliminate PP position, but conduct the PE election at the same time as all other positions. PE term would be modified to a two-year commitment.</p>	<p>Smoothest transition for future elections. VP's could run for and be elected P without year of disconnect.</p> <p>Elections would only be held once every 2 years.</p> <p>Nominations and elections committee has time to evaluate VP.</p> <p>No increase in total time commitment compared to current system (4 yrs.).</p> <p>Should an inexperienced person be elected, they would have 2 years to learn the ropes. The need for a PP to provide guidance would be minimal or eliminated.</p>	<p>Might seem like a long time to wait to be P.</p>