

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
 Fall Business Meeting  
 Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida  
 October 22, 2009

Attendees: Larry Perrin, Maria Zondervan, Stephanie Rousso, Mark Ausley, Becky Bolt, Tim O'Meara, Arnold Brunell, Jay Exum, Brian Scheick, Stephanie Weiss, William Bruce, Jason Thompson, Kimberley Wright, Patrick Delaney, John Humphrey, Laramé Ferry, Dale Gawlik, Fred Loher, Eric Tillman, Erin Myers, Stefanie Nagid, Paul Moler, Phil Brouse, and Bill Giuliano.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Call to Order	President <b>A. Brunell</b> called the meeting to order at 1:22 pm, thanked <b>M. Zondervan</b> for all of her hard work pulling the meeting together, and he discussed the good meeting turnout.	
Reading of the Winter Board Minutes	<b>M. Zondervan</b> motioned to approve with editorial revisions, <b>L. Perrin</b> seconded.	Approved
Report of Treasurer	<b>E. Myers</b> reviewed the attached report, Addendum 1. She explained merchandise sales and the upcoming prescribed fire course will help our income. There was a motion to accept treasurer's report; <b>B. Bolt</b> seconded.	Approved
Report of Committees		
<i>Audit</i>	<b>A. Alshouse</b> conducted the annual audit and reported everything was fine.	
<i>Awards</i>	<b>T. O'Meara</b> reported Dr. Thomas Kaplan was approved for the Paul Moler Herpetological award and Dr. David Maehr for the Herb W. Kale, II Award. He said it was about time to send out a request for award nominations again. <b>P. Moler</b> continues to volunteer, which is appreciated.	
<i>Certification</i>	<b>B. Giuliano</b> will stay as Certification Committee Chair. Since he is now the program director at the University of Florida, he has limited time. He will remain the Southeast Representative and will coordinate certification information requests. Bill said there could be changes coming in certification (coursework may change). They have a working group and are discussing at this time. He will leave for the southeast meeting next week and will learn more.	
<i>Education</i>	This either needs to be included with Information or eliminated. <b>A. Brunell</b> and <b>L. Ferry</b> will define, move, and/or eliminate.	
<i>Conservation</i>	In May, we sent letter to the Senate that addressed climate change legislation. The committee is currently working on submitting comments to FWC on the imperiled species listing process. Comments are due by November 6 <sup>th</sup> , so everyone is to submit comments to <b>B. Bolt</b> by end of October. <b>A. Brunell</b> suggested we send out request in an e-mail for others to submit comments. <b>B. Bolt</b> can do. Also, <b>B. Bolt</b> noted the FWS has 90-day public comment period regarding possible federal listing of the gopher tortoise (GT). They are seeking GT data.  <b>B. Bolt</b> wants to be certain that we understand before we sign on to things.  We could potentially comment on the proposal of offshore drilling and/or photovoltaics/renewable energy systems to fund Florida Forever. <b>A. Brunell</b> said whatever we decide as our position, if we should even have a defined position, should be science-based. We need to define what our concerns are. The Florida	* <b>B. Bolt</b> to send out request for comments regarding imperiled species listing process.  * Determine and outline specifications for our position statements.

	<p>Wildlife Federation (FWF) sent out an e-mail on this, and we forwarded, so we were conduit. <b>A. Brunell</b> asked if TWS had a position on this topic (<a href="http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/20-Petroleum%20Development.pdf">http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/20-Petroleum%20Development.pdf</a>). <b>S. Nagid</b> stated that we could assemble a listserve w/ two questions (e.g., 1. Would you be willing to support offshore drilling if it supports conservation?) This needs more research and discussion.</p> <p><b>D. Gawlik</b> stated there is a proposal to expand oil drilling in Big Cypress National Preserve. We have commented on this before and might need to again. Platform could include more than offshore drilling.</p> <p><b>L. Perrin</b> said there may be data already available, which would make this task a little easier. <b>A. Brunell</b> said we should include sources of our information throughout our position statement. <b>J. Humphrey</b> said this could get sticky due to science that could support both sides. <b>S. Nagid</b> wondered if we could write our position statement differently, as to not reflect science... thinking in way of cost/benefit ratio (e.g., money used in short-term would be productive for ten years vs. using those years to aide renewal energy).</p> <p><b>B. Bolt</b> knows there are many different positions within the chapter (even exotics position statement took a long time). Membership could provide information.</p> <p><b>J. Humphrey</b> wondered what the difference in impact would be - chapter letter vs. individuals submitting comments.</p> <p><b>A. Brunell</b> thinks we should take available information, decide whether it's meaningful, be objective, and assemble an opinion. Look at the science and determine what our biological concerns are.</p> <p><b>J. Exum</b> said that this is an advocacy issue and can be discussed when the strategic plan is reviewed. We can determine certain specifications for our position statements that can be outlined in order to deal with issues as they come up.</p>	<p>* Develop position statements as necessary (e.g., oil drilling, listing process); request comments/input from membership.</p>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<p><b>L. Perrin</b> requested a co-chair and would like to get a bigger committee (maybe 15 – 20 people). Two months prior to the spring conference, we need to ramp up fundraising efforts.</p>	<p>* Seek Fundraising Committee volunteers.</p>
<i>Information</i>	<p>Information request for the FLTWS newsletter will be sent out soon. <b>P. Delaney</b> created a listserve for nonmembers so they could receive the newsletter announcement. We hope to get more members that way. Currently working on the Facebook page. <b>L. Ferry</b> requested members submit wildlife pictures, videos, events of interest, etc. for posting.</p>	<p>* <b>Chapter</b> - Submit news, events, photos, videos to <b>L. Ferry</b> for inclusion on Facebook page and/or newsletter.</p>
<i>Membership</i>	<p><b>B. Scheick</b> said we have 210 members (last year 216); 250-300 seems to be a good goal. We had a peak in the charts of 315 when did a combined conference with another group, and many of those people did not renew the following year. A letter will be sent to TWS conference participants that are not FLTWS members.</p> <p><b>B. Giuliano</b> asked if FLTWS have to be TWS national members. <b>A. Brunell</b> spoke with Hutchinson in Monterey regarding “unified dues.” There is some concern that this could hurt our membership; TWS is looking into it and are very excited about the idea. We feel this would prove difficult with members financially. <b>B. Scheick</b> noted that ~60-70% of members pay through TWS.</p> <p><b>B. Giuliano</b>, as Southeast Representative, could ask TWS (approaching from regional level).</p>	<p>*<b>B. Scheick</b> to send letter to TWS conference participants that are not FLTWS members.</p> <p>* <b>B. Giuliano</b> to contact TWS regarding TWS membership requirement.</p>

<i>Nominating and elections</i>	<b>S. Rockwood</b> will make list of nominees for our next election. Results will be announced at spring conference. Get out to members as required before the spring conference.	* <b>S. Rockwood</b> will assemble election nominees' information for e-blast prior to spring conference.
<i>Resolution and Public Statements</i>	No report.	
<i>Scholarship</i>	<p>Greater Everglades Memorial Scholarship Fund – now has new name and is \$2,000 instead of \$1,000. FLTWS contributes \$1,000 and FWF and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) contributes \$500 each. NWTf could not participate this year. Waiting for answer from FWF. We have now committed \$1,000 and may have to find another \$1,000 sponsor. We are still hopeful to receive the funds from FWF.</p> <p><b>M. Zondervan</b> said we indicated that “we hope to fund up to \$2,000 but could be less.” <b>M. Zondervan</b> took contributions at meeting and said all merchandise sales and raffle money from this meeting will be earmarked for scholarship fund.</p> <p><b>S. Nagid</b> said that we should go to other organizations to seek additional support.</p> <p><b>M. Zondervan</b> said any organization that contributes is invited to review applications and be on the scholarship committee, so we need to think of our selection criteria and whether the organization we contact would mesh well.</p> <p><b>B. Giuliano</b> said we should create a scholarship fund and save money throughout the years, for years of financial difficulty.</p>	
<i>Student Chapter Report</i>	<p><b>B. Giuliano</b> said the student chapter is doing so many activities, it has been difficult for them and they are missing some school. He told them not to attend this meeting. We need to have discussions between the State Chapter and Student Chapter. Beast feast will be in February; they say it has lost its historical appeal. It's expensive and they have to collect ~2,000 pounds of meat, but students would like to continue the dinner but want to stop accepting people when attendees reach ~750. <b>B. Giuliano</b> suggested that maybe the State and Student Chapter could coordinate the event together. Money is an issue. University funds were cut to the club and funds have dried up, and the State Chapter used to give more. Students usually make ~\$7,000, and this money supports their conclave competitions (can cost a few thousand), Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies participation, camping, and other expenses. The beast feast is their main source of revenue, so they would like to keep it going. It's currently \$12/head. Don't want to increase, which could drive students away.</p> <p><b>B. Giuliano</b> noted that they received protest letters from PETA.</p>	* <b>Student Chapter</b> and <b>State Chapter</b> need to meet to discuss topics such as the beast feast, funding, etc.
<i>Website</i>	<p>Since we had a virus, there has been additional security added to the website. Purchases are secure. <b>H. Dutton</b> is helping with the store. We are trying to get an inventory module that can update itself. <b>P. Delaney</b> is looking at calendar and photo website for the website.</p> <p>E-mail or call <b>P. Delaney</b> with any updates, job postings, outdated material, etc.</p> <p>For newsfeed, we could possibly tap into FWF's news.</p> <p><b>B. Scheick, S. Stiegler,</b> and <b>P. Delaney</b> are currently approvers of e-mails that go out to members.</p> <p>We added a “library” link on the website that includes “topics of interest.” We can add topics such as feral cats, land use planning, and more.</p>	<p>* <b>P. Delaney</b> coordinating website calendar and photo options.</p> <p>* <b>Chapter</b> – continue to send info for the website to <b>P. Delaney</b> (e.g., job postings,</p>

		notify if material is outdated, etc.)
NEW BUSINESS	Dr. Ron Labisky, FLTWS member, won the Aldo Leopold award.	
TWS Conference	Board supported <b>M. Zondervan</b> \$500 towards attendance at TWS conference.	
Membership Services	We are coordinating a prescribed fire for wildlife course with Jim Schrotemeyer, which will be a 3 ½ day course. This will be an educational opportunity where groups develop a prescribed burn plan for species, habitat, etc. Field trips will be held prior to creating your plan. Course does not give certification but attendees can get continuing education units. Next one will be in Port St. Joe. <b>P. Delaney</b> will put course information on website; registration will be thru our website. The Natural Areas Training Academy offers courses too that we can post.	
Florida Wildlife Federation	We need to strengthen ties with FWF. New President-elect will serve as liaison for chapter to the FWF. Make to board meetings or delegate in their absence. <b>A. Brunell</b> spoke with Manley Fuller, and he liked that idea. When we communicate, our chapter will have four sources of contacts (President-elect is the primary contact but others include the Resolutions and Public Statements Chair, Conservation Chair, and President). Those positions will e-mail or call Manley or Preston Robertson to deal with chapter matters.	* Continue to strengthen ties with FWF.
UF Curriculum	Things are changing at UF, and many professors do not have wildlife background. UF is seeking input in various areas of curriculum. <b>B. Giuliano</b> is tasked with revamping undergraduate curriculum. He noted that you can look up current curricula on the web and suggest any input (e.g., focus area, internships) to <b>B. Giuliano</b> and <b>Dr. John Hayes</b> . They currently have a working group with FWC on the matter. Dr. Tanner retired and his replacement will be selected by the faculty. Also, Dr. Sunquist is retiring and they will not replace him. UF now has a climate change ecology position. Please tell them if you have any recommendations on who the University should hire or if you have any input on what the curriculum should be. Dr. Hayes will decide within ~four weeks what type of person (habitat, social scientist) the new hire should be, even though they will be teaching the same courses that Dr. Tanner and Dr. Sunquist taught. <b>B. Giuliano</b> said they are slowly improving, and he's working on new curriculum model. <b>M. Zondervan</b> and <b>S. Rockwood</b> will coordinate commenting on curriculum and possibly send letter with our input. <b>M. Zondervan</b> feels like we should get serious about student mentoring/ job shadowing – help open eyes to research/management. She said mentoring is important and maybe we can sign-up students on our website. <b>P. Delaney</b> could send out an e-mail asking for members to volunteer if they're willing to be a mentor. We could also post in the newsletter.	* <b>M. Zondervan</b> and <b>S. Rockwood</b> to coordinate comments on UF curriculum.  * Determine whether we should add student mentoring/ job shadowing information to our website; send e-mail to members to sign-up if willing to volunteer.
Spring 2010 Conference	We could possibly do a joint meeting with the Georgia Chapter. <b>L. Perrin</b> and <b>A. Brunell</b> had meeting with Georgia chapter president and they said they were interested. Will they be allowed to travel out of state? We need to contact Orlando regarding our prior obligation. Can dedicate conference to Laura Lowery and hold up near Tall Timbers. We could possibly host with Tall Timbers and/or Longleaf Alliance. Need to have a room/ride share opportunities posted to the Facebook page. Board has asked <b>S. Nagid</b> and <b>J. Humphrey</b> to Co-Chair the program committee. We may try to work in recognition/dedication for charter members (40 year celebration).	* Contact Orlando meeting facility regarding our obligations.  * Recognize charter members at spring conference?

		* <b>L. Ferry</b> to add room and car sharing info. to Facebook page.
Historian	<p><b>M. Zondervan</b> proposed a Historian position in order to keep a continuous record of what is going on with the organization and its evolution; keeping a timeline and photographic records. We could add it on to another committee. <b>B. Bolt</b> will try to contact Camille Sewell.</p> <p><b>B. Giuliano</b> suggested that student chapter members could catalog and digitize documents.</p> <p><b>D. Gawlik</b> said we should make this information available and open to others. We could hook this to the website as much as possible. Archive electronic versions.</p>	* Find volunteer to serve as <b>Chapter Historian.</b> Historian should coordinate with <b>P. Delaney</b> to make sure as much as possible is accessible to members on the website.
Strategic Plan Review	Broke into committee groups to review and discuss the strategic plan and our current and proposed future efforts to accomplish the goals identified. See the breakout summary, Addendum 2.	
Meeting adjourned	Meeting was adjourned approximately 5:30 pm.	

Addendum 1

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
FLORIDA CHAPTER  
Fall BOARD MEETING  
October 22, 2009  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

**SECTION I. GENERAL SUMMARY (1/1/09-10/21/09)**

Balance as of 10/21/09	\$29,319.03
<u>Balance as of 11/6/08</u>	<u>\$20,091.41</u>
Net Change	\$9,227.62

**Allocation of Assets**

Checking Accounts	\$ 8,195.94
Morgan Stanley Endowment Fund as of 10/19/09	\$20,950.09
<u>Petty Cash</u>	<u>\$ 173.00</u>
TOTAL	\$29,319.03

**SECTION II. 2009 SPRING MEETING SUMMARY**

*Expenses:*

Meeting Facilities at Orlando (plus credit)	\$ 343.56
Hotel rooms not used	\$ 133.88
Catering	\$ 1,656.44
Awards (Plaques)	\$ 55.85
Student Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00
<u>Credit Card Processing Fees</u>	<u>\$ 13.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,202.73

*Income:*

Registration (minus credit card fees)	\$ 1,445.90
Merchandise sales	\$ 148.00
<u>Scholarship (NWTF +FWF )</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,593.90

**NET LOSS** **-\$ 1,608.83**

**SECTION III. DETAILED SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES (1/1/09–10/21/09)**

*Expenses:*

2009 Spring Meeting	\$ 2,189.73
Student Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00
Merchandise	\$ 65.09
Overhead	\$ 374.90
2009 TWS Conf Attendance support	\$ 500.00
<u>Contribution Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 479.96</u>
Total	\$ 5,609.68

*Income:*

2009 Spring Conference	\$ 1,458.90
2009 Fall Conference	\$ 544.00
Membership	\$ 2,000.00
Merchandise	\$ 312.00
Scholarship Sponsorship (NWTF+FWF)	\$ 1,000.00
FSEC Campaign	\$ 755.15
<u>Miami Conference Income</u>	<u>\$ 4,588.00</u>
Total	\$ 10,658.05

**NET GAIN** **\$ 5,048.37**

## **Addendum 2**

FLTWS Strategic Plan Review and Discussion  
Fall Business Meeting  
Archbold Biological Station  
October 22, 2009

### ➤ **Fundraising**

**Leader: Larry Perrin**

**Committee Members: Maria Zondervan, Stephanie Rousso, Mark Ausley**

- What is it for?
- What are our goals?
- How do we get there?

1. Increase dues - on track – FLTWS increased dues to \$20
2. Identify funding events; training courses (e.g., tie in with FWC certification); fix on website.
3. Seek opportunities for sponsorship (symposium/function); keep expanding and enlarging fundraising committee.
4. Conduct specific fundraisings (e.g., student scholarship, training, annual TWS conference travel).
5. Interest investment - endowment fund.
6. Capital growth - amount decided/cannot reach either change or add.
7. Fundraising via donations on the website is available.

### ➤ **Conservation/Advocacy**

**Leader: Becky Bolt**

**Committee Members: Tim O'Meara, Arnold Brunell, Jay Exum**

- Should we do it, and when?
- Who leads our efforts, and decides what our positions are?
- Is our advocacy as technical experts, or as agents of social change?
- Do we advertise our availability as advocates?
- How do we monitor wildlife policy issues in the state, US?

1. We are advocates (confirmed by by-laws and strategic plan).
2. Continuum between science and pure social issues.
3. Develop sideboards to provide guidance to committee (when and how to become involved and respond).
4. Advocacy committee established: Becky Bolt, Jay Exum, Tim O'Meara, and Arnold Brunell.

### ➤ **Membership**

**Leader: Brian Scheick**

**Committee Members: Stephanie Weiss, William Bruce, Jason Thompson, Kimberley Wright**

- Do we still want to have 400 members?



- How do we diversify?
- If so, what do we do to get there?
- What is the outline of the Implementation Plan?

1. Increase membership.
2. Encourage membership by word of mouth.
3. Contact and reach out to County natural resource conservation groups.
4. Advertise student rates to Universities.
5. Reach out to memberships of other professional organizations (e.g., Native Plant Society).
6. Advertise spring meetings in Environmental Digest or other professional newsletters.
7. Utilize electronic media to reach out to private sector (e.g., SunBiz).
8. Co-host other educational/training opportunities (e.g., fire, gopher tortoise, scrub jays).
9. Possibly offer two to five year membership rates.
10. Utilize the FWF conservation directory.

➤ **Web-site/e-communication**

**Leader: Patrick Delaney**

**Committee Members: John Humphrey, Laramie Ferry, Dale Gawlik, Fred Loher, Eric Tillman**

- Is the website OK now?
- Do we distinguish TWS members effectively?
- Do we want to be better linked with other websites?
- Do we highlight our expertise?
- Have we posted our Code of Ethics?
- Do we host freeware, and an updated wildlife bibliography?
- Do we highlight policy issues and advocacy?
- Should we be active in a listserve?
- What other types of e-communication should we be involved with?

1. Establish guidelines for a member's only site. Potential site could include chapter member's contact information and expertise, which could benefit the Advocacy Committee.
2. Establish protocol for submitting items for inclusion on the website.
3. Add a search link to the website.
4. Monitor advancing e-technology.

➤ **Workshops/Member Services**

**Leader: Erin Myers**

**Committee Members: Stefanie Nagid, Paul Moler, Phil Brouse, Bill Giuliano**

- What's next?
- Do we need another questionnaire to determine member needs? If so, what does it say?
- How do workshops help recruit new members?

1. Complete surveys to determine what people are interested in and which groups people would like to coordinate with for future meetings.
2. Potential workshops include
  - a. GIS - survey for requested topics – basic use or specific data questions?  
Individual workshops – start once a year and hold in the summer
  - b. Plant ID (~12-20 people, SA)
  - c. Fire (setting objectives and using fire to accomplish those objectives)
  - d. Animal taxa
  - e. Wildlife technologies
  - f. Private landowner assistance
  - g. Survey methods (e.g., specific techniques, species)