

FLORIDA CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

FALL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

18 October 2017

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

UF Range Cattle REC, 3401 Experiment Station Rd, Ona, FL

On the phone: Dan, Monica, Holly, Tiffney Rivera (UF). In person: Jodi, Mark, Brigham, Jenn

- Call to order – 12:15 PM ET
- Introduction: Tiffney – one of 2 VPs at the student chapter. Her role is to primary coordinate preparation for Beast Feast. Holly introduced each of the present and absent members.
- Reading of spring business meeting minutes – **vote**
 - **Winter notes – Monica made motion, Second by Jodi).**
 - **Spring notes: motion by Jodi, Second by Monica. All provided.**
- Treasurer report; update on Merchant Services Account issues (*Sam*).
 - Sam was unable to attend the call – will obtain the report and distribute.
- Committee reports
 - Audit (*Maria*) - Holly spoke to her yesterday – reported we have failed the audit because they have not received the report. Holly will contact Sam to discuss.
 - Awards (*Tim*)
 - Not on phone, but he recently sent out a reminder that we are accepting award nominations.
 - Certification (*Brigham*)
 - The renewal is being done differently now as previously discussed. Grass ID workshop is giving CEUs for those who need them.
 - Conservation (*Becky, Holly*)
 - Holly – from summer, we had a request to provide input on issue related to trapping regulations from Florida Trappers Association. Randell Rainey requested a letter of support for policy changes, and FWF asked us to provide scientific input on request of changes. FTA is seeking for a loosening of regulations on when, and what types of leg hold trappings that can be used. Our letter supported flexibility on what type of leg hold trap to be used. Overall, we supported 1 of 2 of the requests – we didn't support the other request, but we were not entirely opposed to it either.
 - We still don't have a mechanism in place to communicate with specific members on given topics.

- Dan – we could blast an email to members and asking them to weigh in if they're qualified.
 - Jodi – said no to that idea. We could possibly could get information from National. Jodi will follow up with National.
 - Mark – We could set up a committee to reach out to members.
 - Jen – it would be preferable to get expertise from 2-3 people for thoroughness.
- Education and Information (*Jen*)
 - Newsletter has been distributed. It included scholarship info, meeting info, hurricane update. Field photos went to the end, and we'll continue to include those in the future. The next newsletter will be spring/summer. Perhaps after the annual conference.
- Fundraising (*Mark, Larry*)
 - Mark – they'll start ramping up fundraising soon, especially after we have the conference theme. Requests will primarily start towards the end of the year, after holidays.
- Membership (*Jodi, Kristi*)
 - 189 current members. A dip, but that's not abnormal. 2/3 of our members sign up with National and not us.
 - Sent out a report that will accompany the minutes in e-mail.
 - 2016 – 242 members, in total, 355 for the calendar year. Kristi – Betsy Hailey has been taking over most of Kristi's duties.
 - Jodi has someone who wants to help us out with logistics for the spring meeting.
 - Need to follow up on previous meeting's tasks. Hurricane slowed things down.
- Nominations and Elections (*Erin*)
 - Erin spoke to Holly – nothing to discuss.
- Scholarship (*Monica*)
 - Monica – announcements have been sent out.
 - All reviewers from last year agreed to stay back. Dan will help tweak rubric, especially for undergrads. Larry suggested to narrow down pool to 15 or less and Holly will help Monica with first level of filtering. Due date – Dec 15. Feb 1 is deadline for rankings.
- Student Chapter (*Jay Morgan, Tiffany Rivera, Nathan Dzikowski*)
 - Tiffany – goal is get involved in the community to build relationships and skills for employment. Trying to be proactive with beast feast to raise funding. Approximate date is mid-Feb, will be on a Saturday.

- Jen – have students send information to her and it'll get in the newsletter and website.
 - Dan – Students could send bios of their summer internships and such for the newsletter to introduce them to the membership and help maintain open channels of communication with the student club and State Chapter.
 - Holly – Likewise, is there something the state chapter can do to help the students out, let us know.
 - Website (*Mike*)
 - Mike isn't on, but there is nothing specific that needs to be addressed. So far, things are going great for online registrations.
 - Dan – species profile will be done soon.
 - Program (*Mark, Jen, Holly, Becky, Monica, others*)
 - 2018 Spring conference venue (*Mark, Jen*)
 - Venue is selected, and we're ready to submit our deposit.
 - 2018 Spring conference theme (*Holly*)
 - Mark – Climate Change, Climate Impacts.
 - Jodi - Use "climate impact" rather than "climate change"
 - Dan – might be best to not use the word Climate at all given some resistance from state
 - Monica – Possible theme: Living (and working) In Dangerous Times
 - Symposium: Making A Difference: Effective Collaborative Wildlife Management.
 - Becky - Addressing Difficult Questions in a Difficult Environment. This could include climate change, sea level rise, funding cuts, population growth, working with other countries/partners that are suddenly not welcome here, etc.
 - Jen - Wildlife adaptations to natural disasters
 - Environmental Impacts - Repercussions from extreme events
 - Sessions: - Earth/air/fire/water: hurricanes, fire, flood, drought
 - Brigham – Career Paths in The Wildlife Profession: How to make a difference?
 - Professional Wildlife Culture - navigating the maze of multi-organization cooperation
 - Professional Wildlife Culture - how to move forward in the digital world?
 - 2018 Spring conference invited speakers (*all*) – we will follow address soon.
 - 2018 Spring conference duties (*all*) – we will follow address soon.
- Old Business

- Increasing engagement with UF students (*Sam*) – Sam not on call, but it's not clear if she's followed up with previous meetings assignment to meet with the student chapter.
- FWF meeting representatives (*Becky*)
- Re-ordering FLTWS merchandise (*Erin, Sam*)
- New Business
 - Collaborating with Native American Tribes for 2019 conference (*Dan*)
 - Student scholarship for Native Americans (*Dan*)
 - Something to consider. Additionally, the National Chapter has a Native American scholarship, which almost never has applications from the southeast and nearly always goes to the Southwest.
 - Joint Membership – *Did we discuss??*
 - Joint Conference
 - Dan – Joint FL/GA meeting.
 - Was previously suggested several years ago, but didn't happen because of potential travel restrictions across state lines.
 - Mark – let's table conversation for future discussion.
- Adjourn – (1:30pm)

Action Items

- Sam – Provide and distribute Treasurer's report.
- Holly – doodle poll for finalizing theme
- Jodi – Contact National to see if we can get information from them on member specializations.
 - Jodi will work with Kristi and Mike on updating website and interface on signing up.