

FLORIDA CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WINTER BOARD MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

11 January 2018

10:00 am – ~1:00 pm?

Bio-Tech Consulting, 3025 E. South Street, Orlando, FL 32803

Remote call in option: 888-670-3525; enter 404-732-9527# after connecting

Attendees: Mark, Monica, Holly, Becki (in person), Dan, Tim, Sam, Jodi, Jen (phone)

- Call to order (10:05 AM ET)
- Reading of summer business minutes – **vote**: Monica motion, Becky second. All agreed.
- Treasurer report; update on the audit process (Sam)
- Committee reports
 - Audit (Maria, Sam) Will have everything to Maria by next Wednesday. That's the old record. For the past 4-month period. Maria has stepped down from this role due to a lack of progress. Sam will phone Maria to see if she can stay on, otherwise Sam will get information to Holly. Also need the annual report to National. That was due on the 31st.
 - Awards (Tim)
 - Committee recommendations on award nominees – **approved with modifications.** Two nominations received, both for Educator of the year. One person was recommended by the committee, but it was a difficult decision because both were very deserving. Steve Johnson's contributions to the field of herpetology made him an ideal candidate for the Paul Molar award and everyone felt that, despite being an outstanding educator deserving of that award, the herpetological award would be a bigger honor. This was agreed up and the nominators were asked for their opinion (they agreed and modified their application).
 - This also allowed for the second person to receive the Outstanding Educator award. And everyone voted yes, although Jodi preferred we award one and encourage the nominator to submit their application again next year.
 - We had very few nominations. Monica suggested extending the nominations deadline and the board could make recommendations. It was voted to stick with the two.
 - How do we increase # of nominations in the future? Tim – We had this discussion 3 years ago, and as a result we shortened the process to submit, making it easier to apply. And we put it in the chapter newsletter. First year – we put in just a couple nominations. After the changes, we received 8, 11, and now 2 nominations. Only difference is we forgot to put it in the newsletter. Holly – we will make sure it goes in the newsletter in the future.

- Monica – It might be that the timing of deadlines is when everyone is busy with year-end tasks. There was discussion of changing it to summer or later in the spring, but no decisions were made.
 - Can ask **Mike** to put a banner on the website and **Jen** put it on Facebook.
- Certification (Brigham) Did not make the call. **Monica and Brigham** will make a topic for the newsletter. Can cover a committee function in the newsletter as what we do; i.e., a regular column that rotates between the committees. They will work with Mike to put information for certification on the website. CEUs can be on the website, and then downloaded for recertification. That will increase traffic to the website.
- Conservation (Becky): FWF – Jay is our representative and has agreed to remain in that role. Jay is already on the board through the wildlife federation, but that really leaves a spot where we could have a representative and he could move to an alternate role.
 - FWF rotates where their meeting occurs. Jay suggested we could approach Manly, Preston, etc., and see if we can send another TWS rep to the meeting, such as whoever is closest. If they approve of that approach, we should do it, but whether they like the idea of a different person each time is uncertain. Their meetings are quarterly. Meetings are 2 days, but the bulk is a 1-day. **Becky** will contact Jay and ask him to either bring that up at the next meeting or call Manly and ask for a schedule of meetings if that's available.
 - Beyond, not a lot has happened, so this would plug us in better and to be more active.
 - Becky asked if we could post something about candidates who are pro-environment? Because FWF does that, it was agreed that we should stick with the science. Sam said we could send links to connect people to that information.
- Education and Information (Jen)
 - Due date for submissions for next newsletter – all should provide at least once per year.
 - Commitments for contributions to the next newsletter.
- Fundraising (Mark, Larry)
 - Update on conference fundraising Now that we have a location and theme, we can generate letters and start circulating those to request funding. We have connected with bigger people this year - Bass Pro Shops and Costa sunglasses. It's just Mark and Larry, and additional help is welcomed.
 - Plans to sell gamebird collectibles? Current plan is to include it in the raffles, gift bags, some on the craigslist/eBay type deal. And the silent auction.
 - Becky – suggested we could donate remaining items to the Florida Ornithological Society, but we should look back at the letter from the donor; we believe she gave them specifically to FLTWS to support

students through scholarships, etc.

- Membership (Jodi)
 - Update on changing membership form to request info on expertise. As of last run for fall meeting, it was 189 members. Betsy Hailey is updating the welcome letters. Still need to update on membership expertise. Holly - hoping to open membership registration within the next week. Kristi is still involved, but at a limited capacity due to her schedule. Jodi – still haven't gotten information on member location – Holly needs that to help contact people for information on fieldtrips local to the conference.

- Nominations and Elections (Erin) Erin sent an email and said since we're not having elections this year there's not much that needs updated.

- Student Scholarship (Monica): Distribution list for scholarship announcement has 65 emails for 24 entities. This year we added FWC supervisors of volunteers and internships for nominations. An announcement went out a little late (late Sept.). Requirements are awardees attend the meeting and give a presentation.
 - We're getting applications from new areas. Becky – we should see who the source is for the energy behind these new applications and see if they would consider starting a new student chapter. e.g., Florida Southern College, who also had student presenters at the meeting last year.
 - Number of applicants:
 - **Last year:** we had 27 undergrad applications, and it was hard because there were some issues related to eligibility. That was particularly true for grad students, and most were marine/invertebrate focused. Also, fisheries related. Some reviewers therefore discounted them and ranked them low, even though they were among the most qualified. Last year, Holly proposed to resolve some of these issues, and make sure reviewers don't reflect that in their scoring. Also, there was a very wide discrepancy in scoring for undergrads last year.
 - **This year:** 17 undergrad applicants, 5 were from UF, 12 were not. Of all, 6 were easier to drop out, and we forwarded 11 onto the committee. Final scoring is due Feb 1. Generally, students who attend the meeting in the years past seem to have higher quality applications and have a leg up. For graduates, 12 applications for grad program, and 7 of those are from University of Florida. Others are from FAU, FIU, UCF, and USF. 6 are for Ph.D. students and 6 are for MS students. 5 of 7 UF are M.S. students. Last year we had 16 grad applications and 17 the year before that. So, there's a general decrease. A drop off isn't a bad thing given the time to review them, but not sure if the drop-off in number of applications is a concern.
 - Changes to scoring rubric Dan and Monica helped develop a rubric for undergrads, Holly reviewed, and we'll test it this year for undergrads to see if it resolves some of those issues.

- Student Chapter (*Jay Morgan, Tiffany Rivera, Nathan Dzikowski*) No students are on the call. Therefore, no update. Holly sent these three a personal invite to this meeting and none responded. Bill Giuliano and Christina Romagosa are still the faculty advisors, but there remains a severe disconnect from the student chapter and the State Chapter, despite our continued efforts to reach out to them.
 - Beast Feast. No update.
 - Student contributions to our newsletter. No update.
 - Visit from FLTWS to student chapter meeting to promote conference?
Sam – it has been offered.
- Website (*Mike*) Mike – not on the call. We’re making lots of changes here soon, so we will update during the next call.
 - Set up registration for spring meeting
 - Species spotlights **Dan** – updating now every 1st of the month. Will work with Mike to keep all of them on the website, so they cycle through, although they are all accessible now.
- Program (*Mark, Becky, Holly*)
 - 2017 Fall workshop participant feedback ~36 participants. Broad mix of people from academia, agency, industry, and students. 25 gave very good rating of excellent. **Topics for next meeting** – lots around restoration and wetlands. Holly has a long list. In this workshop, it was a surprise that there was a bigger agriculture focus and that was likely due to the expertise of the instructors. We should have an idea of the instructors before we select a title.
 - 2018 Fall meeting/workshop plans
 - format? location? One option could be ground cover restoration. **Holly** will discuss with Brigham and Erin and see if there are issues with certifications that we could request.
 - 2018 Spring conference planning Mark – we have a date and venue and got a liaison assigned yesterday. The liaison has an updated list of food, drinks, AV, etc. Monica has provided the list of costs for previous years, and AV was done through a different vendor last year.
 - Food, drinks. How many people came to the banquet who didn’t have a ticket? That was a problem last year. They have an onsite menus list/buffet. People can do breakfast on site.
 - AV – this cost was not planned for and pushed us over our limit last year, which we could have included in registration.
 - Plenary and Symposium speakers; panel discussion? Holly has made progress. For the **Plenary**, we talked about Bill Pine and Peter Frederick. Bill said he could talk about the oyster topic, but he said the water wars might be a better topic. He gave the name of 3 other people (Ann Birch from TNC – she said yes). **Symposium** – Michael Brothers said yes. Beach mice – Jeff Gore couldn’t, but Terry Doonan said yes. Raya Pruner is a possibility. Franklin Perceval would be a good person and was an award winner earlier. *Lorraine Margeson* – the woman who wrote an article on a ruddy duck said yes. Billy Causey might be a good person to consider as

a 6th speaker to discuss coastal zone management. Monica – suggest that next time we could target people who we want to get involved more who can plug in students. We can add to the invite that they might consider bringing their students.

- Student breakfast. We could swap to a student lunch or just assign a mentor-mentee for the entire thing, involve them in the natural history quiz, and the on-site scavenger hunt. Before the social on Wednesday might be a good time slot. Could be the first thing we do and serve as an icebreaker. Could be 10-noon.
- Natural history quiz. Kristi Nolte had done it in the past, but we're not sure if she can still take it on. Otherwise, someone else can arrange it. The format can even be different if preferred.
- Field trips and workshop. Make a fieldtrip coordinator for the scavenger hunt. Ideas:
 - USFWS and manatee conservation. People management.
 - Kings Bay: Getting submerged vegetation to grow and issues with manatees who eat it all. Habitat management, springs, and manatees.
 - Jen – could have people volunteer with her coworker to collect samples.
 - Manatee fieldtrip to see them – via a boat.
- Workshop: there is a grad student (Andrew Marx) in the Department of Wildlife, Ecology, and Conservation at UF who has given workshops to other grad students and has several topics of interest. He uses a different operating system on his computer, SQL workshops, teaches a lot of data carpentry. 3D printing. This could serve as a good workshop in house that's not off-site.
- Everyone's duties and timeline for their contributions. Looking at the list together and fill in blanks. Mark is handling the AV issues and such. Sam and Mike are receiving payments, Monica sets things up on website.
- Mark – board trip on a cruise down the river on Tuesday.

Program

- Speaker/Poster/Printed Program – Last year, Paul Moler approved/edited paper and poster abstracts and sent them to Dan for the printed program. Monica arranged the talks into sessions. Who will do that task this year? **Becky** volunteered.
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- Travel Grants and Free Student Room – Last year the travel grant program was coordinated by Erin, whereas the free student room was coordinated by Monica. This is problematic because students contacted both of them and tried to get a free room from Erin if Monica didn't award it. **Monica** volunteered to coordinate both options this year. She'll adjust the due date for the travel awards, so both can be decided simultaneously.
- Old Business
 - Re-ordering merchandise (*Erin*): Erin indicated prior to the meeting that she plans to coordinate with Sam to re-order merchandise.

- Increasing diversity in our membership and awards (*Dan*). We could offer diversity awards, such as minority, Native American, etc. We have a severe disconnect with Native Peoples. National does a better job at this and we should follow their lead.
- New Business
 - FLTWS representative needed to attend a meeting of the FL Environmental Literacy Working Group (FELWG) to discuss increasing environmental literacy in FL. In St. Petersburg on Friday, February 16, 10AM - 3PM (*Holly*): We've been invited to send an FLTWS representative to a meeting convened by this group. The meeting is in St. Pete on Feb 16, 10am-3pm. No board members volunteered to go. Jen Korn, as Education Chair, was asked if she's willing to go. She agreed but is unsure if she would need to take a day off work to attend. Holly will send an email to the entire chapter to see if anyone else has an interest, and Jen will serve as back-up if needed.
 - New representatives for FWF needed (currently Jay, Hugh, Becky, Holly) (*Becky*): Becky covered this earlier in the meeting
- Adjourn

TO DO LIST

Dan

- Organize meeting minutes.
- Species spotlight – aim for monthly updates.
- Work on a program design.
- Determine if an app is feasible.

Becky

- Contact Jay and follow up about our participation in the FWF meetings.
- Arrange talks into sessions for the conference.

Monica

- Coordinate both free rooms and registration

Sam

- Contact Maria about the audit. Send information to Holly for our Audit and National.

Holly

- Chat with Brigham and Erin to determine if there are gaps in certifications that we could use for workshop topics.

Longer term

Mike – banner on website for awards nominations

Jen – Facebook posts about awards

Monica and Brigham – work on Certification topic for the newsletter.