FLORIDA CHAPTER - THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING – MINUTES

10 April 2019

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

*Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront, Melbourne, FL*

* Call to order (*Holly*) (4:07 PM)
* Reading of minutes from the Fall Board Meeting (*Dan*)- **vote to approve**
  + Motion Mark Ausley - Seconded by Hugh Boyter
* Treasurer report (*Sam*)
  + See Treasurer’s report. $34,811 as of 4/1/19, but that’s before payout for spring meeting, so it’ll go back to $26k. At present, we have $72,053, but again, that’ll go back down to ~$65k.
  + Had strategic planning meeting to decide what to do with this money.
  + Summary of income and expenses – Rx Fire, Registration, Sponsorships, memberships.
  + Endowment Fund – Current at $36,573.31. It’s been stationary for a while. Hopefully new Treasurer can work with financial advisors to figure out what to do to advance the goals of the funds.
* Committee reports
  + Program
    - Fall 2018 Strategic Planning Session report (*Holly*)
      * Will cover tomorrow after the plenary session. Last plan was developed in 2006 and was supposed to be revised every 2 years. We had a session to talk about where the chapter is and what we might want to do differently. Discussed goals and objectives. Importance of engaging members came out as one of the top items. We have ~200 members, but only 12 or so are most active. Really want to have more people involved, regardless of level. Diversity (More than just FWC) is going to help strengthen the Society.
    - Spring 2019 meeting
      * Note unique aspects of meeting that honor 50 yr milestone (*Holly*)
        + Symposium was a big part of this celebration. Also, Larry’s story telling session.
        + Gifts for members who have been members for 20 or more years.
      * Report on # students and # professionals registered (*Sam*)
        + Diversity – 41 different entities this year in attendance. We have 118 total attendees, 84 professionals and 34 students.
      * Thanks to sponsors (*Mark, Larry*)
    - Plans for Fall 2019 meeting – topic and location (*Mark*)
      * Still being planned
    - Plans for Spring 2020 meeting – potential locations (*Mark*)
  + Audit
    - Audit - 2017 and 2018 (*Alexis*)
      * Alexis Cardas – No issues found. Possibly change to doing the audit every year instead of every two years. Better way to organize petty cash.
    - Request member vote to change bylaws (*Holly*)
      * Needed to have an Audit Committee, which formalized the process (Mark Hayes and Robin Boughton members, with Alexis as the chair).
      * Tim Hall – questioned whether we need to specify this as 2 members, just in case we have vacancies.
        + We wanted to formalize this process with hard dates and to reduce risk, so that’s the reason for the 2 members.
        + With 200 members, we should be able to fine 2 people in case this happens.
      * Carrie Sekarak discussed the reason why we had two conservation committees – it was during a time that a lot of conservation issues were being resolved, letters drafted, etc., esp. from the USFS.

Strategic Plan covers a lot of the details for the committee differences and staying on task.

* + - * Motion to approve (Rosi), Seconded by Hugh.
  + Awards
    - Report on award nominees/winners (*Tim*)
      * 10 nominees for 6 people
    - Reminder to submit nominations anytime (*Tim*)
  + Certification (*Brigham*)
    - Dan Greene, Jen Korn, Monica Folk, Brigham (Chair)
    - Met with student chapter to talk about benefits of membership in the society. Covered benefits of certification and working on your application of working on your application while being a student versus not.
    - CEU’s available for this and other meetings. Newer members need 80 CEU’s for renewal
  + Conservation (*Becky*)
    - Periods of activity and inactivity. Need to know what the expertise is of our membership.
    - We added a question in registration if people wanted to be involved – 11 people said yes.
    - FWF – Manley Fuller has left his role and moved out of state. We’re an affiliate with FWF and they’re a large group, not all professionals (public members). We like to view ourselves as the we can’t provide answers. Jay is now the Chair, and Preston took over Manley’s position.
    - FWF identifies 3 key areas that needs to be addressed. Habitat conservation. Water resource protection. Growth management.
    - Deer Urine Ban letter of support. Randel Rainey, to our knowledge, still has not, to our knowledge, put this in front of FWC.
    - Bear Management issues – Mike Orlando brought up the idea of partnering with the Chapter for helping to promote bear wise communities. Helping funding cans, and distribution of the cans. Holly is passing this to the Conservation Committee.
  + Education and Information (*Jen*)
    - Select deadline for submissions for next newsletter
      * 3 (4?) new people expressed interest.
      * We’ve only been getting 1 article out per year, which has to do with Jen’s work load and difficulty of getting content.
    - Solicit commitments to write article
      * Need articles, could have a section of photos.
  + Fundraising (*Mark, Larry*)
    - 3 new people expressed interest.
    - Recognition for sponsors.
  + Membership (*Jodi, Betsy*)
    - Betsy Haley is now chair. Betsy does all the data entry and management, Jodi does the database management.
    - 194 current members as of Monday. We have a rolling membership year, TWS has a calendar membership.
  + Nominations and Elections (*Erin*)
    - Announce election results
      * Erin couldn’t be here.
      * SE Rep is Robin Boughton.  
        Members at Large – Tyler Pitman, Don Hardeman
      * Secretary – Sam Baraoidan
      * Treasurer – Amanda Lindsay
      * President Elect – Monica Folk
  + Scholarship (*Monica*)
    - Announce winners
      * Recognize committee members. Use developed rubric for ranking applicants.
      * Undergrad – 14 applicants from 4 schools. 12 female applicants, 2 male applicants. 6 of those also applied for the minority scholarship. Joanna Ennis
      * Minority – Camya Robinson
      * Graduate Scholarship – 13 applicants, from 7 schools. 2 schools were first time applicants. Jacksonville University, and FGCU. 9 female, 4 male. 7 MS, 6 Ph.D. Simona Picardi.
    - Discuss naming the new award to encourage minorities
  + Student Chapter (*Joanna*)
    - Student chapter has been active for >50 yrs.
    - Two trips to Tall Timbers.
    - Full funding for 6 people to Cleveland meeting.
    - An event almost every weekend.
    - Last weekend – 30 women went out and shot skeet and trap (Gators, Guns, and Gals).
  + Website (*Mike*)
    - Mike can’t be present.
* Old Business
  + Deer urine lure issue (*Holly*)
    - Already covered
  + Prescribed Fire for Wildlife Workshop (*Holly*)
    - 38 members, in its 18th year
  + New committee: Merchandise (*Sam*)
    - Too much work for the treasurer and Erin for her other duties. IF anyone is interesting in being on committee or chairing the committee, talk to Sam. Should partner with Education Committee.
* New Business
  + Recruiting for committee members and committee chairs
    - Already covered during each committee section
* 5:30 Adjourn; begin Networking Social (5:40 PM)