

**Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Spring Conference Business Meeting**

**Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront
Melbourne, Florida
April 10, 2013**

Final Minutes

Attendees: Dale Gawlik, Erin Myers, Laramé Ferry, Kristee Booth, Arnold Brunell, Holly Ober, Alan Alshouse, Patrick Delaney, Becky Bolt, Larry Perrin, Maria Zondervan, Mark Ausley, Stefanie Nagid, Hugh Boyter, Tim O’Meara, Kimberly Tillman, Tim Hall, Dale Meryman, Mona Francis, Brad Gruver, Greg Hendricks, Robert Mindick, Brigham Mason, Phillip Brouse, Kimberly Schlachtu, Monica Folk.

Absent: Samantha Baraoidan.

| Topic | Discussion | Action |
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| Call to Order | President D. Gawlik called meeting to order at 3:35 pm. | |
| Reading of the Fall Minutes | <p>E. Myers motioned to approve with edit discussed. L. Ferry seconded.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. O’Meara asked about A. Brunell’s idea on FLTWS hosting a meeting of county governments. A. Brunell explained that FLTWS could host a meeting of leaders from county government natural resource organizations to facilitate discussions about issues, ways to deal with those issues, etc. and promote discussion amongst county governments. It is in FLTWS bylaws to promote science-based natural resource management. • T. O’Meara asked about the Affiliated Meeting Support Working Group – D. Gawlik explained that FLTWS developed a policy to help manage FLTWS assistance with other group’s meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved. |
| Report of Treasurer | <p>L. Ferry provided Treasurer’s Report (Addendum 1) and discussed gains from spring conference, and small loss from fall meeting. We gained \$1,750 from the fire workshop and \$1,364 from merchandise sale. Currently there are 80 registered for the Spring Conference.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Perrin asked about balance in bank account – is that all ours? L. Ferry stated all but what is owed for the meeting (hotel = ~\$7,000). • M. Zondervan stated that we offered more | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s Report approved. • L. Ferry to send K. Booth investment account information for review. • Form committee to review base bank account amount. |

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| | <p>travel grants for this conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Booth asked about keeping the bank account so high, and if we have considered moving more money into investments. • L. Perrin stated that in the past we decided to keep a certain amount in the bank account for emergencies, and once it is over that amount, roll it to investment. M. Zondervan said the amount may have been \$10,000 in the past. • D. Gawlik asked L. Ferry is \$10,000 was enough, and L. Ferry suggested \$ 25,000. • There was discussion on our investment account, and K. Booth offered to review the account and provide options (L. Ferry will send info to K. Booth). • A. Brunell recommended reviewing the base balance annually, and form a committee headed by the Treasurer. D. Gawlik recommended \$25,000 as an interim base amount while the committee develops to review the base number. <p>B. Bolt motioned to keep \$20,000 in the account and move funds above this to the investment account, and form a committee to examine these issues. H. Boyter seconded. M. Ausley stated that we should hold back on moving money until the committee decides. R. Mindick amended the motion to move up to \$20,000 to the investment fund based on the committee’s recommendation. A. Alshouse motioned to approve. L. Perrin seconded.</p> | |
| Report of Committees | | |
| Audit | A. Alshouse reported that audit is complete and up to date as of January 27, 2013. | |
| Awards | T. O’Meara reported that another volunteer is needed for the committee, and the Paul Moler Herpetological Award went to Dr. Richard Seigel (nominated by B. Bolt). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All: Need a volunteer for committee. |
| Certification | Nothing to report. | |
| Conservation | B. Bolt reported: --Florida’s Water and Land Legacy Conservation petition needs signatures. The constitutional amendment calls for taking a small percentage from real estate transactions to be dedicated to conservation of habitat and restoration. | |

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| | <p>--Recent committee actions: wrote a letter disagreeing with SB584; wrote a letter to Senate subcommittee members regarding feral cat colonies and that we don't agree (D. Gawlik pointed out that there is a lot of research showing how bad cat colonies are for wildlife, and H. Boyter said we should focus on how Trap/Neuter/Release is a bad idea since legislators tend to think it's a good idea); letter to FWC Commissioners concerning private lands deer management program.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to FWC gained a lot of attention – one of the main lessons learned was that we need to have a mechanism for better communication with FWC. • It was pointed out that this issue followed the normal rule making process, but we could have given FWC more lead time if we were able to raise our issues earlier; again pointing to the need for better communication with FWC. • There was discussion on posting the letter on the FLTWS website so that FLTWS members can know what the chapter is doing, but there were also concerns about causing controversy. • National TWS brought this issue to our attention because it is a national issue right now. National TWS is concerned about Florida and other states following Texas' lead in moving away from the North American Model of wildlife management. • H. Boyter stated that Florida Wildlife Federation chose not to weigh on the topic. | |
| Education & Information | <p>D. Gawlik for J. Gless: Information of interest to members continues to be sent to M. Milleson for posting on the website. The Chapter newsletter, The Florida Wildlifer, came out March 2013 and the next newsletter will be out in September. Please send photos from the conference. The FLTWS Facebook site currently has 262 fans. News and events of interest continue to be posted to website/facebook page.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All – send pictures from spring conference to J. Gless. |
| Fundraising | <p>M. Ausley reported ~\$2,600-3,500 for sponsorship for the spring conference, and several donations for auction and raffle.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All – always need volunteers to join the Fundraising Committee. |
| Membership | <p>P. Brouse reported that as of April 8 we have 184 members, with 39 new members. He has continued to send gentle reminders to encourage renewal of</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Booth, L. Ferry, and S. Nagid to coordinate on |

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| | <p>memberships.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Brouse stated that the free first year has been big help and a good program – will it be ongoing? D. Gawlik stated that we need to see what happens the second year. • P. Delaney asked how many members did we gain from the 2011 membership drive? 52 members. S. Nagid asked if we know how many of those stayed. • P. Brouse discussed the free first year membership program. L. Ferry forwards the new member information to S. Nagid who makes initial contact. • D. Gawlik asked about mentoring program, and asked that K. Booth, S. Nagid, and L. Ferry coordinate with the welcome committee. • P. Brouse suggested that new members be invited to join committees. • M. Zondervan suggested that new members have labels on their meeting name tags signifying them as new members. | welcome committee. |
| Nominations and Elections | <p>D. Gawlik for S. Rockwood: 2013 Board election results: President-Elect: Becky Bolt Treasurer: Marsha Ward Secretary: Stefanie Nagid SE Rep: Patrick Delaney Member at large: Holly Ober and Larame Ferry</p> | |
| Scholarship | <p>H. Ober reported that there were 17 applicants for the student scholarship, all very well qualified. Julie Perot was selected as the recipient. The Sponsor-a-Student was given to top 5 applicants (this is a membership to National TWS).</p> <p>A. Brunell asked about which schools are represented. H. Ober stated that 5 different universities represented by applicants.</p> <p>H. Ober requested another committee member, and A. Alshouse volunteered.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Perot selected as the student scholarship recipient. • A. Alshouse volunteered to join scholarship committee. |
| Student Chapter | <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>There was discussion on encouraging students to attend the business meeting, and M. Zondervan pointed out that we only give one night free, and also</p> | |

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| | finals are going on making it difficult for students to attend. | |
| Program Committee | M. Zondervan reported that things are going well so far! | |
| Website | <p>M. Milleson reported:</p> <p>--Main action item since fall meeting has been new website and email system. New system provides easier editing tools, more control over site design, and access to mobile editing and updating. Site cost is \$192/year.</p> <p>--Members only section: Anyone can create an account on website by "membership" and "member log in". After the account is created, the website team is notified and can verify status before granting access. The only protected content at this time is the membership list. The list is stored on a shared google drive that Board and Committee Chairs can access, and ideally the Membership Chair will update this file regularly.</p> <p>--New website: 16,773 page views; 1,530 unique visitors; 23 unique visitors/day.</p> <p>--FLTWS Spring Conference: set up webpage, online registration, and in online store setup items to allow purchase of different levels of sponsorship.</p> <p>--Merchant Services and Online Store: with the time spent keeping the website up to date and adding new content, Treasurer has processed orders.</p> <p>--Recruitment for website committee – need volunteers who are willing to assist with postings on website and processing of transactions in the online store.</p> <p>--Website content: content creators should prepare content in MS word before sending; need more information for Conservation Section; need other ideas for website to increase interaction, bring more viewers, add utility for members, etc. (i.e. monthly/quarterly column, integrate newsletter more into site)</p> <p>--Visitor counter: still on to-do list.</p> <p>--FLTWS email addresses: all Board and Committee members now have FLTWS email addressed. The email addresses are through our google account, which also provides shared storage space, shared calendar, and shared documents.</p> <p>--FLTWS mailing list: still working on fully updating this list – currently 546 members on list, but 70 email addresses are bad.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All – need volunteers to help with posting information to the website and processing transactions in the online store. • More input needed for Conservation Section of website. • All – looking for ideas to improve the website. |
| Old Business | <p><u>FL Conservation Coalition</u></p> <p>H. Boyter reported that FLTWS should join FL</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. Boyter to look further into FL |

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| | <p>Conservation Coalition (FCC). He presented a summary of the FCC – a coalition standing at ready to bring partners together on certain issues. Priorities include funding for water management districts, funding FL Forever, restoring Everglades, protecting waterways of Florida, managing resources at regional level, promoting responsible water use, and privatization of water resources of FL. Members include FL Wildlife Federation, FL Audubon, etc., as well as individuals.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Gawlik said these priorities are consistent with our mission. • B. Bolt asked what type of communication is there other than website? H. Boyter stated that they sponsor events that you can read about on website, but he hasn't seen a lot of activity. H. Boyter also explained that he doesn't think they have a staff. • There were additional questions on where the money comes from, and if FCC is involved in litigation. Most felt that more information was needed to make a decision. D. Gawlik asked H. Boyter to provide more information, and the Board can address this at the summer board meeting. <p>B. Bolt motioned that H. Boyter do additional research on FCC, and brings it to the Board to vote on at the summer Board meeting. T. O'Meara seconded.</p> <p><u>Implementation Strategy to Enhance the Conservation Capabilities of FLTWS</u></p> <p>D. Gawlik presented the FLTWS Conservation Plan. He summarized the four main objectives – 1. Restructure committee; 2. Address issues in a timely manner; 3. Efficiently apply chapter resources by prioritizing issues and determine response; 4. Long-term proactive measures to improve effectiveness of members to influence conservation issues.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. Boyter asked how the strategy would have changed recent issue with FWC and the private lands deer management rule proposal. B. Bolt explained that reviewing FWC proposed rules would be on this list, and that this strategy will | <p>Conservation Coalition and report to Board for decision at summer board meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Strategy to Enhance the Conservation Capabilities of FLTWS approved. |
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| | <p>help address what to do with issues that come up in the future.</p> <p>M. Zondervan motioned to implement strategy. L. Ferry seconded. Motion approved.</p> | |
| New Business | <p><u>SPRING 2014 MEETING LOCATIONS</u> E. Myers reported that FLEPPC requested another joint meeting with FLTWS.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Nagid asked if they have a dedicated person to assist – E. Myers stated yes, and the location will be in southwest Florida. • L. Perrin brought up money issues that should be addressed, and S. Nagid suggested invasive marine/wildlife be a topic. • All agreed that having a joint meeting with FLEPPC in southwest Florida good idea. <p><u>SUPPORT FOR FLTWS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE</u> D. Gawlik reported that National TWS is having financial issues, and looking for support from state chapters for the TWS Leadership Institute.</p> <p>T. O’Meara motioned that FLTWS support the TWS Leadership Institute with \$500. H. Boyter seconded.</p> <p><u>GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP</u> D. Gawlik presented on idea of graduate scholarship. Should we bring this discussion back to the table? It would be another \$2,000 scholarship.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. Ober stated that it is a lot of work to wade through applications, but it would increase graduate student involvement in FLTWS and conferences, which has been quite low in recent years. • D. Gawlik explained that FLTWS is not paying attention to graduate students. • T. O’Meara asked if we should spend more money on travel support for meetings for students? B. Bolt suggested we increase current offers to students. • E. Myers stated that we could have the \$2,000 scholarship, and the recipient must attend the meeting and present on their research, and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Conference to be a joint conference with FLEPPC in SW FL. • FLTWS to support TWS Leadership Institute with \$500. • Graduate student scholarship of \$2,000 to be established contingent on Scholarship Committee enlargement. |

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| | <p>that we can provide free registration and room. It was also suggested that the top 5 applicants receive meeting support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All agreed that it would be preferred that the student recipient attends and present on their research, and the money could be used for whatever the recipient chose. <p>S. Nagid motioned to establish graduate student scholarship of \$2,000. M. Folk seconded. E. Myers amended that the scholarship will be implemented if 3 additional people are added to the Scholarship Committee (currently there are 5). This way there will be 4 committee members to review undergraduate applications and 4 to review graduate applications.</p> <p><u>Postscript (Oct 2013):</u> H. Ober was able to recruit 3 additional scholarship committee members to review scholarship nominations. Undergrad and graduate committee members held conference calls to discuss updates to the scholarship criteria and process.</p> <p><u>SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT</u> D. Gawlik announced the Society for Range Management meeting will be in Orlando at the Caribe Royal Hotel. Open call for symposia for workshops topic until May 5 (www.rangeland.org/events)</p> | |
| Adjourn | Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm. | |

Addendum 1. Treasurer's Report.

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
FLORIDA CHAPTER
APRIL 8, 2013
TREASURER'S REPORT**

SECTION I. GENERAL SUMMARY

| Balance | 4/8/13 | 4/8/12 | 4/8/11 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bank Account | \$37,673.06 | \$55,721.04* | \$22,525.73 |
| Cash Account | \$ 120.00 | \$ 123.23 | \$ 118.00 |
| Investments Account | <u>\$26,135.41</u> | <u>\$24,611.31</u> | <u>\$25,009.61</u> |
| Overall Total | \$63,928.70 | \$80,455.58 | \$47,653.34 |

**Bank account balance is higher due to funds received during meeting assistance (e.g., Southeastern Deer Study Group meeting) and merchant services account issues. In the future, FLTWS will create a separate account for transactions on behalf of other organizations.*

**SECTION II. FLTWS & FLEPPC SPRING CONFERENCE
APRIL 16 – 19, 2012**

Income:

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| Registrations | \$19,180.00 (149 registrants) |
| Sponsors | \$ 6,350.00 |
| Cancellation fees | \$ 50.00 |
| Donation (kayak) | \$ 7.07 |
| Additional dinners | \$ 180.00 |
| Raffle | \$ 1,427.00 |
| Canoe field trip | <u>\$ 220.00</u> |
| Total | \$27,414.07 |

Expenses:

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| Logo redesign | \$ 75.00 |
| Ocala Hilton | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Speaker travel | \$ 324.70 |
| Ice/beast feast | \$ 4.27 |
| Ocala Hilton | \$14,098.19 |
| Program printing | \$ 902.00 |
| Student Presenter Award | \$ 200.00 |
| Presenter travel | \$ 409.78 |
| Entertainment/Weeds | \$ 200.00 |
| Office Depot (dinner dots) | \$ 8.26 |
| Wal-mart/field trip expenses | \$ 54.72 |
| Field trip expense/canoe | \$ 220.00 |
| <u>Approximate Credit Card Fees</u> | <u>\$ 1,041.48</u> |
| Total | \$19,038.40 |

TOTAL NET GAIN \$ 8,375.67

FLTWS NET GAIN (Split 50/50) \$ 4,187.84 (each)

Other FLTWS Income:

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| FLTWS Merchandise sales | \$ 414.14 |
| <u>FLTWS Silent Auction</u> | <u>\$ 369.75</u> |
| Total other FLTWS Income | \$ 783.89 |

Other EPPC Income:

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| EPPC Merchandise | \$ 504.25 |
| EPPC Sponsor/Research and Grants | \$ 48.00 |
| <u>Membership Dues (38 registrants)</u> | <u>\$ 1,140.00</u> |
| Total other EPPC Income | \$ 1,692.25 |

Total EPPC Income: \$ 5,880.09

SECTION III. FLTWS FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 4 – 5, 2012

Income:

Registration \$ 828.00 (12 registrants)

Expenses:

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| Catering | \$ 415.00 |
| Groceries | \$ 49.72 |
| Topsail Hill Preserve State Park | \$ 655.50 |
| <u>Approximate Credit Card Fees</u> | <u>\$ 33.03</u> |
| Total | \$ 1,153.25 |

NET LOSS - \$ 325.25

SECTION IV. PRESCRIBED FIRE TECHNIQUES FOR WILDLIFE
MARCH 18-21, 2013

Income:

Registrations: \$ 9,950.00 (42 registered: 29 Non-commuters, 13 Commuters)

Expenses:

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| Manual, student materials, misc. | \$ 2,300.00 |
| Party Caterers | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Stipends for non-agency instructors | \$ 1,100.00 |
| <u>Lodging</u> | <u>\$ 1,300.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 8,200.00 |

NET GAIN \$ 1,750.00

SECTION V. 2013 FLTWS SPRING CONFERENCE

APRIL 10-12, 2013

Income:

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| Registrations | \$ 7,106.00 (74 registered) |
| Sponsors | \$ 2,650.00 |
| Field Trip | \$ 130.00 |
| Additional Dinners | \$ 70.00 |

Expenses:

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| Hotel Deposit | \$ 320.00 |
| Office Depot supplies | \$ 69.99 |
| Credit Card Fees | TBD |
| Hotel Expenses | TBD |

NET GAIN **TBD**

VI. OTHER GENERAL BANKING SUMMARY – INCOME & EXPENSES (4/8/12 – 4/8/13)

Income:

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| Membership Dues | \$ 3,634.00 |
| Merchandise Sales | \$ 2,241.00 |
| Scholarship Sponsorship | \$ 250.00 |
| Gift Received | \$ 200.00 |

Expenses:

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| New Printer/Copy/Fax Machine | \$ 139.99 |
| Awards Given | \$ 109.90 |
| Charity | \$ 1,496.00 |
| Affiliate Dues | \$ 100.00 |
| Bank Charge | \$ 127.45 |
| Corporate Status | \$ 70.00 |
| Merchandise Purchased | \$ 2,351.18 |
| Shipping/Postage | \$ 66.09 |
| Outreach | \$ 160.00 |
| Merchant Services Fees | \$ 1,988.86 |
| Student Scholarship | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Student Sponsorship | \$ 144.00 |
| Web Services | \$ 504.45 |

EVENT MERCHANDISE SALES:

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| FLTWS & FLEPPC Spring Conference (4/12) = | \$414.00 |
| Panther Festival (11/12, Erin Myers) = | \$220.00 |
| Pelican Island Wildlife Festival (3/13, Steve Rockwood) = | \$730.00 |
