

**Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**Summer Executive Board Meeting**

**Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge**

**Crystal River, Florida**

**August 7, 2013**

**Final Minutes**

Attendees: Holly Ober, Dale Gawlik, Laramie Ferry, Erin Myers, Patrick Delaney, Kristee Booth, Becky Bolt, Stefanie Nagid

Absent: Alan Alshouse, Tim O’Meara, Bill Giuliano, Jodi Gless, Mark Ausley, Larry Perrin, Phillip Brouse, Steve Rockwood, Mike Milleson

| <b>Topic</b>                        | <b>Discussion</b>   | <b>Action</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Call to Order                       | President <b>E. Myers</b> called meeting to order at 10:25 am.  |  |
| Reading of the Winter Board Minutes | <b>D. Gawlik</b> recommended approving minutes. <b>L. Ferry</b> seconded. Motion approved.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes approved.</li></ul>  |
| Report of Treasurer                 | <p><b>L. Ferry</b> provided Treasurer’s Report (Addendum 1):</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>L. Ferry</b> reviewed each section of expenses and income.</li><li>• <b>E. Myers</b> reviewed what happened with the Wildland Firefighters Foundation Fundraiser.</li><li>• <b>D. Gawlik</b> asked about the merchandise expenses. <b>E. Myers</b> explained that we will still need to purchase more merchandise to carry us through the year and other promotional meetings.</li><li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> asked about going to the Space Coast Wildlife and Birding Festival in Titusville in January and what was involved with setting up a merchandise booth. <b>E. Myers</b> explained the setup and what was involved.</li><li>• <b>M. Ward</b> stepped down as Treasurer so <b>L. Ferry</b> filled in for this meeting and <b>K. Booth</b> is the new Treasurer.</li></ul> <p><b>D. Gawlik</b> recommended approving treasurer’s report. <b>B. Bolt</b> seconded. Motion approved.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treasurer’s report approved.</li><li>• <b>K. Booth</b> replaces <b>M. Ward</b> as Treasurer.</li><li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> is going to look into setting up a booth at the SCWBF.</li></ul> |

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| Report of Committees      |   |   |
| Audit                     | Nothing to report.  |   |
| Awards                    | Nothing to report.  |   |
| Certification             | Nothing to report.  |   |
| Conservation              | <p><b>E. Myers</b> reported that <b>D. Gawlik</b> completed the Conservation and Enhancement Strategy document. Issues will be brought to the spring conference every year (Addendum 2).</p> <p><b>B. Bolt</b> reported:<br/>--The Space Florida group wants to take a section of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge to build a new private launch pad. <b>B. Bolt</b> would like someone with FLTWS to review the issue and provide a statement if needed.</p> <p><b>M. Milleson</b> provided information on the land and water conservation elimination bill via email basically asking people to contact their senators. <b>E. Myers</b> approved to post the information on the website.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> to assign the review of the launch pad issue to the appropriate Associate Conservation Chair as per the Conservation Enhancement Strategy.</li> <li>• <b>M. Milleson</b> to post the conservation bill information on the website.</li> </ul> |
| Education & Information   | <p><b>J. Gless</b> email report:<br/>--The next newsletter will be in early October and she will request content in August.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>J. Gless</b> will request newsletter content in August</li> </ul>   |
| Fundraising               | <p><b>M. Ausley</b> email report:<br/>--They will start reaching out to folks around the holiday season for contributions and really ramp up after the new year.</p>  |   |
| Membership                | <p><b>P. Brouse</b> email report:<br/>--2013 membership has continued to increase since the 2012 spring conference from 186 to 216 members. For comparison, total year memberships in previous years were 2011-222, 2010-222, and 2009-211.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending the free first year membership for a second year to see if there is a trend.</li> <li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> motioned to extend free first year membership for an additional year and then reevaluate membership retention. P. Delaney seconded. Motion passed.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> to inform <b>P. Brouse</b> about the free first year membership extension.</li> </ul>  |
| Nominations and Elections | Nothing to report.  |   |
| Scholarship               | <p><b>H. Ober</b> reported:<br/>--At the 2012 spring meeting it was announced we</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H. Ober</b> to schedule graduate scholarship</li> </ul>   |

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|                   | <p>would have an undergraduate and graduate scholarship. Four people on each committee will discuss the ranking criteria. The undergraduate committee talked on August 5<sup>th</sup> regarding the criteria and any changes that may need to be made. They decided to try a scored ranking system for this year. The graduate committee has not yet talked to discuss any criteria, but they should meet in August. The scholarship announcement will be made in September and each one will be \$2,000.</p> <p>Discussion about continuing to provide a free one year membership to the top ranked student scholarship applicants.</p> <p><i>January 2014 Update: The graduate scholarship committee conducted their conference call.</i></p>  | <p>committee conference call.</p>   |
| Student Chapter   | <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>E. Myers</b> reported that <b>Lauren Watine</b> is the new student chapter president. <b>E. Myers</b> spoke to the past student chapter president about the students wanting more involvement with FLTWS. One suggestion from the students was to have professional members attend and speak at their monthly (?) meetings during the school year. <b>E. Myers</b> will receive the Fall meeting schedule as soon as it is developed. <b>E. Myers</b> has asked the student chapter to lead a field trip on the first morning of the 2013 fall meeting.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> will help student chapter to find FLTWS professional members to speak during their monthly meetings.</li> </ul>  |
| Program Committee | <p><b>E. Myers</b> reported:</p> <p>--2013 Fall Meeting: October 24-25<sup>th</sup>, staying at Gold Head Branch State Park and the meeting will be held at Waccasassa. The workshop is going to be Communication Skills for Conservation Professionals. <b>E. Myers</b> will obtain workshop materials. <b>E. Myers</b> and <b>S. Nagid</b> will finalize food and logistics. <b>E. Myers</b> will send an announcement out with registration and further information before September 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>--2014 Spring Conference: Naples location didn't work out due to hotel costs. Alternatively, it was decided to go back to Safety Harbor. The conference will be on April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. <b>E. Myers</b> discussed details of the tentative agenda. <b>B. Bolt</b> will brainstorm on topics for the special session and plenary session. There was discussion regarding</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> and <b>S. Nagid</b> to finalize fall meeting details and advertise.</li> <li>• <b>E. Myers, S. Nagid</b> and <b>B. Bolt</b> to work on agenda and details for spring conference.</li> <li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> to be lead on a theme for the Spring Conference.</li> </ul> |

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|              | <p>invasive species to focus on for special session. By the 2013 Fall meeting, we should have a theme and be able to announce the theme and dates. In January, we will send the full announcement with registration and tentative agenda details.</p> <p><i>January 2014 Update: Spring conference announcement to come out in early February with location, date, theme, registration cost and brief agenda.</i></p>  |   |
| Website      | <p><b>M. Milleson</b> email report:<br/> --No major issues to report.<br/> --Members only section not getting much use, but the only thing on there is the membership list. <b>S. Nagid</b> suggested to look at National's members only section and see if there was anything on their site that we may want to consider for our members only site. <b>E. Myers</b> also suggested that could be a good place to list job vacancies.<br/> --Since the websites inception, we have had 23,830 page views, 2,300 unique visitors, 5 unique visitors per day and most visits are less than 10 seconds long and are new visitors.<br/> --We could still use 1 or 2 volunteers who are willing to assist with getting postings up in a timely manner and with processing online store transactions. <b>S. Nagid</b> suggested we ask the student chapter if one of their members or an officer would be able to volunteer each year. <b>E. Myers</b> is going to follow up with the new student chapter president.<br/> --It is requested that any new content is provided in MS Word format with original images.<br/> --The Conservation section is still hidden until more than the feral cat issue is posted. <b>B. Bolt</b> will talk to <b>M. Milleson</b> about where her content is being posted and see if it can be added to this section instead.<br/> --<b>E. Myers</b> asked if there were any other ideas regarding the website from the attendees. There was some discussion regarding a photo contest, quarterly member spotlight and monthly species spotlight. All attendees provided a species they would create content for and will email that information directly to <b>M. Milleson</b> for their assigned month.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> to follow up with student chapter president on volunteer to assist with postings.</li> <li>• <b>D. Gawlik</b> to provide Conservation Strategy document to <b>M. Milleson</b> for posting on Conservation page of website.</li> <li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> will discuss the conservation section with <b>M. Milleson</b>.</li> <li>• All attendees to email <b>M. Milleson</b> content for a monthly species spotlight.</li> </ul> |
| Old Business | <p><u>Mentoring Discussion</u><br/> <b>E. Myers</b> is going to send out an email to the members to find out their interest in mentoring and what region/county they would be appropriate for.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> to send email to members to solicit interest in</li> </ul>   |

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|              | <p>She will also work with the student chapter members to determine their needs/wants from a mentor.</p> <p><u>Conservation Enhancement Strategy</u><br/>Discussed during the Conservation Committee report section. No further discussion.</p>  | <p>becoming a mentor.</p>   |
| New Business | <p><u>Outdoor Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florida Black Bear and Wildlife Conservation Festival will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> in Umatilla – <b>K. Booth</b> to attend</li> <li>• Ding Darling Days will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> in Sanibel – <b>E. Myers</b> to attend</li> <li>• Florida Panther Festival will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Naples – <b>E. Myers</b> to find someone to attend</li> <li>• Pelican Island Festival will be held in midMarch 2014 – asking <b>S. Rockwood</b> to attend, <b>P. Delaney</b> may be able to be there also</li> <li>• Space Coast Wildlife and Birding Festival will be held in January 2014 in Titusville – <b>B. Bolt</b> to attend</li> <li>• Scrub Jay Festival will be held in March 2014 in a location unknown at this time – asked <b>M. Zondervan</b> to find out more information</li> </ul> <p><u>FLTWS</u><br/><b>E. Myers</b> asked if anyone else had any other new business. There was no new business to discuss. <b>E. Myers</b> wants to move Board meetings around to different refuges to see different places. The winter 2014 and 2015 Board meeting will be at an East Coast refuge. The summer 2014 Board meeting may be at Crystal River again.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>K. Booth</b> to attend the FL Black Bear Festival.</li> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> to attend Ding Darling Days.</li> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> to find someone to attend FL Panther Festival.</li> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> will ask <b>S. Rockwood</b> and <b>P. Delaney</b> (?) to attend Pelican Island Festival.</li> <li>• <b>B. Bolt</b> to attend Space Coast Wildlife and Birding Festival.</li> <li>• <b>E. Myers</b> will ask <b>M. Zondervan</b> to find out more about the Scrub Jay Festival.</li> </ul> |
| Adjourn      | Meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.  |   |

Addendum 1. Treasurer's Report.

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
FLORIDA CHAPTER**

**AUGUST 5, 2013**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**SECTION I. GENERAL SUMMARY**

| <b>Balance</b>      | <b>8/5/13</b>      | <b>8/5/12</b>      | <b>8/5/11</b>      |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bank Account        | \$32,180.40        | \$34,260.50        | \$26,726.21        |
| Cash Account        | \$ 120.23          | \$ 147.23          | \$ 118.00          |
| Investments Account | <u>\$27,850.25</u> | <u>\$23,589.75</u> | <u>\$22,915.13</u> |
| Overall Total       | \$60,150.88        | \$57,997.48        | \$49,759.34        |

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**SECTION II. FLTWS SPRING CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 10 – 12, 2013**

*Income:*

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Registrations      | \$7,412.00 (84 attendees) |
| Sponsors           | \$3,021.00                |
| Field Trip         | \$ 140.00                 |
| Additional Dinners | \$ 75.00                  |
| Silent Auction     | \$ 490.00                 |
| Raffle             | <u>\$ 365.00</u>          |
| Total              | \$11,498.00               |

*Expenses:*

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Hotel                 | \$4,842.10       |
| Office Depot supplies | \$ 69.99         |
| Field Trip lunches    | \$ 100.00        |
| Credit card fees      | \$ 379.45        |
| Entertainment         | \$ 600.00        |
| Programs              | <u>\$ 476.60</u> |
| Total                 | \$6,468.14       |

**NET GAIN** **\$5,029.86**

*Note: \$4,187 gained after 2012 joint FLTWS and FLEPPC Spring Conference*

**Merchandise Sales** **\$ 646.50**

**SECTION III. PRESCRIBED FIRE TECHNIQUES FOR WILDLIFE**  
**MARCH 18 – 21, 2013**

*Income:*

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

*Expenses:*

Manual, student materials, misc. \$ 2,300.00

Party Caterers \$ 3,500.00

Stipends for non-agency instructors \$ 1,100.00

Lodging \$ 1,300.00

Total \$ 8,200.00

**NET GAIN \$ 1,750.00**

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**SECTION IV. FLTWS FALL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 4 – 5, 2012**

*Income:*

Registration \$ 828.00 (12 registrants)

*Expenses:*

Catering \$ 415.00

Groceries \$ 49.72

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park \$ 655.50

Approximate Credit Card Fees \$ 33.03

Total \$ 1,153.25

**NET LOSS - \$ 325.25**

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**SECTION V. OTHER GENERAL BANKING SUMMARY – INCOME & EXPENSES (8/5/12 – 8/5/13)**

**Income:**

Membership Dues \$ 2,474.00

Merchandise Sales \$ 1,659.50

Scholarship Sponsorship \$ 250.00

Gift Received \$ 200.00

**Expenses:**

Awards Given \$ 109.90

Charity \$ 1,246.00

*(Travel grant, student memberships, TWS conference sponsorship)*

Bank Charge \$ 94.60

Corporate Status \$ 70.00

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Merchandise Purchased   | \$ 2,013.43 |
| Shipping/Postage        | \$ 55.10    |
| Outreach                | \$ 160.00   |
| Merchant Services Fees  | \$ 1,737.27 |
| Web Services            | \$ 439.00   |
| Student Presenter Award | \$ 200.00   |
| Student Scholarship     | \$ 2,000.00 |

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**EVENT MERCHANDISE SALES:**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Panther Festival (11/12, Erin Myers) =                    | \$220.00 |
| Pelican Island Wildlife Festival (3/13, Steve Rockwood) = | \$730.00 |

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**WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER** \$4,920.20 donated



## **Addendum 2. FLTWS Conservation Enhancement Strategy**

### **Implementation Plan to Enhance the Conservation Capabilities of the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

9 April 2013

Revised with names 2 August 2013

Conservation issues in Florida are geographically widespread, numerous, and diverse in subject matter. Currently, the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FTWS) becomes aware of conservation issues largely by chance and has no formal process for screening issues and deciding on a response.

FTWS seeks to enhance its ability to influence conservation issues in Florida consistent with its bylaws and strategic plan. Specifically, FTWS seeks to devise mechanisms to identify and prioritize conservation issues, and to draw on its membership's collective expertise to provide an effective and timely response to conservation issues.

The plan is based on input from members at the 2011 fall meeting and a special focal session of the FTWS Executive Board at the 2012 winter Board Meeting. The ad hoc committee that developed the document included Dale Gawlik (Chair), Rebecca Bolt, Erin Myers, Arnold Brunell, and Hugh Boyter.

The mandate for FTWS to enhance its conservation capabilities stems from the sections of its Bylaws and Strategic Plan below.

- FTWS Bylaws (amended 2011)  
Section I – Objectives

- a. *To develop and promote sound stewardship of Florida's wildlife resources and of the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend;*
- b. *To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation*
- c. *To increase awareness and appreciation of Florida's wildlife values*

#### Section II - Implementation

- b. *Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife*
- FTWS Strategic Plan (revised 2006; specific action items for each goal)
    - *Goal 1: The Florida Chapter TWS actively promotes sound stewardship of Florida's wildlife resources and plays an effective role in wildlife conservation.*
    - *Goal 2: Public awareness and appreciation of wildlife conservation and wildlife professionals is increased.*
    - *Goal 5: The Florida Chapter TWS uses sound biological, social, and economic information to influence wildlife policy decisions.*

To effectively address the directives of the Bylaws and Strategic Plan related to conservation, FTWS will meet the four objectives below using the associated tactics. After several years, FTWS may consider adding an adaptive assessment component to evaluate the effectiveness of the various conservation tactics.

**Objective 1. FTWS will improve its ability to draw on a broad and deep range of expertise for its response to conservation issues.**

- A. Restructure the Conservation Committee.
  - a. Establish a Conservation Committee Chair (hereafter Chair; **(Becky Bolt)**) and five Associate Conservation Chairs (ACCs), one in each of five administrative regions delineated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (as of 2012), plus one statewide ACC. [ACC for NW (**Larry Perin**), SW (**Erin Myers**), N central (**Paul Moler**), S (**Dale Gawlik**), NE (**Jay Exum**), and Statewide (**Hugh Boyter**)].
  - b. Potential conservation issues should be identified by the ACCs, Chair, or FTWS members. However, all issues should be funneled to the Chair for cataloging, screening and distribution to the appropriate channels or ACC.
  - c. A condition of each ACC's tenure is that they handle at least two conservation issues per year.
  - d. For each issue, the ACC is responsible for finding reviewers (when needed) or members with expertise, and producing a response, which is then approved by the Conservation Chair and posted on the website.
- B. Membership Committee will develop and maintain an accurate expertise database in "members only area" of the website using the expertise categories defined by The Wildlife Society
- C. Establish participation incentives such as:
  - a. Expense reimbursements
  - b. Reduced registration at conferences, symposia, or workshops
  - c. Recognition on website, newsletter, or through new awards
  - d. Allowing anonymous contributions

**Objective 2. FTWS will improve its ability to identify conservation issues in a timely manner.**

- A. Effectively utilize the FTWS Affiliate Membership of the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF).
  - a. The FWF rep (President Elect) or designee (**Hugh Boyter**) will regularly review its website newsfeed, the *Fish and Wildlife News (Quarterly)*, FWF Press Releases and news articles (website), *News from In and Around the State* (website), and, during the Legislative Session, the *FWF Capitol Watch*. Reports will be made to the Chair at least quarterly.
- B. Members-at-large or his/her designee to follow Florida Conservation Coalition (if FTWS maintains affiliate status) and its web news and report at least quarterly to the Chair.
- C. A member of the Conservation Committee, ideally a federal employee, will regularly conduct a rapid screen of the Federal Register for NEPA projects. (**Erin Myers**)
- D. A member of the Conservation Committee (**Laramie Ferry**) will review the monthly agenda of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (DEP website, under Division of State Lands) for issues related to State-owned Lands.

**Objective 3. FTWS will efficiently apply Chapter resources to conservation issues by developing a hierarchical key to prioritize issues and determine the level of action warranted. (Conservation Committee)**

- A. If issue doesn't meet certain criteria then other actions may be appropriate (i.e., send them to another group, or provide a list of contact info of other groups).
- B. Types of Chapter responses to conservation issues (final products).
  - a. Position statements (need membership to vote on position statements but not letters)
  - b. Written comments (letter) on plan, proposal, policy statement, legislative action, NEPA project (join list of NEPA reviewers)
  - c. Signatory on other organization's letters
  - d. Attendance at public meetings and hearings
  - e. Expert testimony in court
  - f. Post issue-specific science-based information on the website

**Objective 4. FTWS will initiate long-term proactive measures to improve the effectiveness of its members to influence conservation issues.**

- A. Improve the ability of members to communicate science, conservation, and wildlife management.
  - a. Offer an annual workshop on communicating with media and public.
    - i. Host workshop either in conjunction with spring or fall Conference, or outside of conference dates, depending on subject, speaker and Spring Conference location.
- B. Enhance the ability of members to take actions through the Chapter web site
  - a. Create a conservation "tool kit" on website (e.g., Union of Concerned Scientists tool kit).
    - i. Tool box could include templates for letters of support, press releases, position statements and audience-specific presentations; tips for writing effective emails to legislators; excerpts from books, articles, and websites about communicating science to public; link to state legislators.
- C. Raise awareness of conservation issues with members.
  - a. Maintain active conservation awareness and tool kit parts of web page.
    - i. Post a new conservation tip with a link to webpage in every newsletter.
  - b. Email reminders to members when new conservation issues appear.
  - c. Raise profile of high priority issues identified with hierarchical protocol.
    - i. Post information and a contact for issues, including links to website and a Facebook page.
    - ii. Identify key legislators and provide links to contact lists.
    - iii. Identify set of possible actions and link to tool kit.