FLORIDA CHAPTER

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING – DRAFT AGENDA

11 April 2018

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

*The Plantation on Crystal River, FL*

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* Call to order (*Holly*)
* Reading of minutes from the Fall Board Meeting (*Dan*)- approved
* Treasurer report (*Sam*) – Report will be distributed. Beyond reading the report, discussions centered around the amount of funds available, particularly the investment fund. Original intention was to use this money to hire an Executive Director for FLTWS, but there is currently no need to do so. Past presidents, including Jay Exum, Erin Myers, and Becky Bolt weighed in on the board needing to compare an investment vs. endowment, and whether accounts should be merged, what percent should be exchanged, etc. There is no need to have excess funds in checking when it could be making interest elsewhere, so determining the minimum amount that can be safely maintained in checking is needed.
* Committee reports
  + Program
    - Spring 2018 meeting
      * Report on # students and # professionals registered (*Sam*) – as usual, registration spikes right before the meeting and we have relatively good attendance this year (*Numbers were not recorded during minutes*)
      * Discussion of eligibility for student perks (*Sam, Monica*) – We continue to offer rooms and registration in exchange for assisting in various roles.
      * Thanks to sponsors (*Mark, Larry*)
    - Fall 2018 meeting – topic and location (*Holly*) We’ll have a 2 day fall meeting, with a strategic meeting on one day and a workshop on the other. Wetland plant ID is a potential topic. Date, location, and instructors for the workshop are currently unknown.
    - Spring 2019 meeting – location (*Holly*) – Looking at Melbourne since we’re on the west coast this season.
  + Audit (*Sam*) – Need to find a new person to conduct the audit – the information is ready for them. We have not heard back from Maria on the 2016 audit.
  + Awards
    - Remind people to submit nominations, anytime (*Tim*) – we have 7 awards and only 2 nominations this year. Stressed that award nominations can be submitted anytime, and the application, online, is simple.
    - New awards to encourage minorities? For research publications? (*Dan*) - Proposed the development of new awards, including minorities and Native Americans. Also, in Texas, for example, there is a publications awards committee that votes on books, peer reviewed, technical, and popular articles. This could help increase engagement. Funds could be used (with donor permission) by reducing grad and undergrad scholarship amount and redirected, or these could be separately funded.
  + Certification (*Brigham*) – no new information.
  + Conservation (*Becky*)
    - Update on rotating representatives for FWF. - We are an affiliate with FWF. It is increasingly difficult for us to respond to policy issues in a timely manner, often because requests are submitted to us and are already past due. It takes us a few days to get organized on a topic. Of FWF meetings, because Jay already attends, we’re missing an opportunity to be more engaged and could send a new person to attend meetings to increase our involvement. This could be one person or a different person (a local member) since their meetings rotate locations.
  + Education and Information (*Jen*)
    - Select deadline for submissions for next newsletter. - We decided on 2 newsletters per year. We could do one in the spring, right after the meeting and state who received awards, etc. We decided on May 01 as the deadline and board members will submit (now May 15)
    - Solicit commitments to write article – a good example is the one Jodi submitted for the fall 2017 newsletter, describing impacts of Hurricane Irma. Also, game camera pictures are always popular. We have a spot for updates from the student chapter but no involvement from the UF Chapter, so this continues to be blank. We previously asked them to send updates, member profiles, etc., but these continue to not happen.
  + Fundraising (*Mark, Larry*) – Always in need of help. They had a good effort this year and many generous donors.
  + Membership (*Jodi, Betsy*) - Report will be distributed. 234 members at the end of 2017. 316 members with Rolling Year Membership. Retention of current members is key. It was asked by Wesley Boone if a second free year would help, but in general, free years have not been successful and were therefore discontinued.
  + Nominations and Elections (*Erin*) – Nominations are next year. We need to put effort into recruiting new people; new perspective is always helpful.
  + Scholarship (*Monica*) 6 judges assisted with selection. We had 17 undergrad applications from 8 schools, and 12 grad applications from 5 schools. 6 were MS, 6 were Ph.D. Dan commented that we could consider separate MS and Ph.D. scholarships, as their scholastics, experiences, and often involvement differ, and it might be unfair for them to compete with each other. This may not be the case though, as MS students have won in the past.
  + Student Chapter (*Jay, Tiffany, or Nathan?*) – no members attended the meeting. In fact, they scheduled their own meeting on the first night of our spring meeting.
  + Website (*Mike*) – We need more photos and new information to post.
* Old Business
  + Re-ordering merchandise (*Erin*) – Cost vs. profit is always something to consider. We’ve now gained ~$4,000 from merchandise. Sales are boosted when we take a corn snake to outreach events. We have outreach info ready for those interested in tabling at a new venue. New merchandise this year is earrings, which are already successful in sales.
  + Contest to develop a chapter t-shirt (*Jodi*) – how to enter a contest for submission will be published in the newsletter.
* New Business
  + New perk: free conference calls through GoToMeeting, available through National.
  + Cost of the meeting: registration is not great this year, and it’s unclear if that was due to late announcement, or the cost. Travis stated that the cost of registration is overall not great in comparison to food and lodging.
  + Conference name and location: For future years, where we stay (and the name of the place) is important. Resort or Spa cannot be in the name for some state employees (e.g., DOT). Similarly, the theme of the conference (i.e., the “name”) may prohibit attendance if deemed to not align with agency interests.
  + Perks: perks would be good for board members, including registration or lodging. We take on these roles voluntarily and are expected to be at the meetings, but that doesn’t guarantee that our employer provides appropriate funding. This hasn’t been a big issue in the past, and Larry points out that participation with the Chapter really helps you move up the list for funding assistance to travel within an agency.
* 5:30 Adjourn; begin Networking Social (5:37 PM)