



The North Central Chapter

Society of Wetland Scientists

EXECUTIVE BOARD CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES

2:30 PM (Central), Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 2:31 PM (CST) by President David Mushet.

Members present

David Mushet
Arnold Van der Valk
Julie Nieset
Jessica Ackerman
Joy Marburger
Liz Pelloso
Karen Mangan
Jen Boyer
Casey Judge

Reading of Agenda

Determination of quorum by Secretary-Treasurer (Jessica Ackerman)

9 people present, quorum was met.

Reading and Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2015 Meeting (David Mushet)

No changes. Motion to approve by Arnold, Liz seconded, all approved. Jessica will email SWS to get put on website.

Financial report by Secretary-Treasurer (Jessica Ackerman)

Report was read by Jessica. Report highlighted current financial status, chapter investments, budget, and fundraising ideas. Support has been distributed to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, SWAMMP, and student travel grants to the fall meeting. In 2016 we will receive \$10 per chapter membership from SWS, instead of the \$5 per membership. Potential fundraising ideas were the chapter development fund that we likely won't apply for, and the t-shirt fundraiser.

Standing Committee Reports

a) Membership Committee (Jessica Ackerman)
no report

b) Program Committee (Julie Nieset)
Julie updated us on the Wetland Treasures (WT) program. There is currently still a problem with the website, but it's under a two-week review process, so hopefully it will be fully functional soon. This has pushed the timeline back though, so that they probably won't be accepting

applications until this spring. May is American wetlands month, and they're hopeful to announce 2 wetlands per state starting then, and they'll be starting with Ramsar sites first.

Julie also mentioned that for some reason Kentucky is listed as being in our chapter in our bylaws but shouldn't be. Dave said that he will look into it.

c) Nominations Committee (Arnold van der Valk)

Arnold asked for nomination suggestions, for all positions, especially for president-elect.

d) Grants and Awards Committee (Karen Mangan)

1 - \$1000 research application open until the 11th. There is a national SWS committee for the award, students will ask for our chapter if they attend school/live in one of our represented states. National committee will likely give us results in April.

2 - \$500 for travel to national meeting. Karen wants to make an announcement on the website about these, and send out a chapter email about them. Karen will also look into posting about the awards on other social media outlets as well.

Old Business

a) Auction results – There was great bidding activity on the quilt – we received a \$112 donation for it. Otherwise there was no bidding interest on the other items. Maybe a live or silent auction at next regional meeting would do better, Dave will try to organize that for this year's meeting. Julie asked about the amount of time it took to set up the auction on Ebay, Dave said no problem really, just a bit difficult at first with the gift cards. We can re-use the gift cards at another event, thanks to Julie for donating. Julie thanked Dave and his wife for the donated quilt.

b) 2016 NCC Ohio Meeting Preparations

Julie has been talking with Ray Stewart at Ohio Wetlands Association, but we're still unsure about the Cleveland Natural History Museum as the venue. Michael and Bryan from EPA both on-board to come talk to us. The University of Akron's field station is being considered for a secondary meeting place. There is a mitigation bank nearby that could be good for a field trip. Cuyahoga Valley National Park is also an option for lodging and/or field trip. Joy will contact Cuyahoga park about using their facilities and doing activities there, she used to work there. We need more networking in the Ohio area for local speakers/conference attendees. Julie had a conference call scheduled on 2/4 with museum. Once we have location and dates we can advertise more and start asking OH contacts for special speakers, etc. Sept. 8-11 are still likely to be the dates. Julie asked Arnold about fee collection for meeting. Arnold stated you could do registration and food through national SWS site, but not lodging.

Dave wants info in spring newsletter for fall meeting – probably mid-April Jen said. Julie thinks mid-March is doable.

c) Appointment of a Student Representative (non-voting)

Dave appointed Casey to sit in on meeting as a non-voting member.

New Business

a) Amending By-Laws to add a Student Representative (voting) to the NCC Board

Dave motioned for an amendment to our bylaws in article 3 to add a student member to board.

Today we need to vote to make the proposal, and then we'll vote on the proposal at Corpus Christi.

Dave said this will benefit us to have more student participation. Julie mentioned makes

sense because it's "what we're about" with our many student grants. Arnold mentioned we have had student representatives in the past as "at-large" board members. Dave mentioned we would *have* to have one if we propose it and add to by-laws. It would be a 1-yr board membership, due to the constraints of a student. Dave asked for a motion to vote to make a proposal. Liz motioned, Arnold seconded. Motion carries. Any discussion? Liz asked can we do it quicker than next meeting with getting the proposal out to the chapter. Dave said yes we can get it out earlier, and out to board and members. Liz recommended we look to other chapter bylaws for wording. Dave said yeah we can look into that, ask national office too. Arnold suggested before next newsletter, get proposal in there. Dave – yeah great idea. No other discussion. All say yes, none opposed. Motion passes. Dave asked Casey to lead the bylaw committee, Dave will help. They'll get something together before next newsletter. Voting will happen at Corpus Christi.

b) World Wetlands Day activities (Photo Contest, T-Shirt Design Contest)

There's been a great response on the Facebook photo contest. The t-shirt design contest is active now also and will end on March 15. These shirts could be sold at the national and regional meeting.

c) Corpus Christi Business Meeting

Dave asked who will be there. Casey will be. Joy said maybe. Dave will work on getting phone coordinated for meeting especially so we can vote on the proposal.

d) Jen's fundraising idea

Jen brought up Amazon Smile as a potential fundraising option. Liz explained to us how it worked a little. Jen will look into it more and email everyone. Jen also asked if we'd like to have a reoccurring solicitation for donations to the chapter in the newsletter. Dave said that would be great, and it's an easy thing to do to.

Dave thanked Joy for providing artwork for donations and the auction, sorry it didn't work out.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Dave adjourned at 3:27 PM.