

Minutes – NCC Business Meeting

8:30-9:40 AM Central Time, Friday, October 13, 2017

Fargo, North Dakota

Call in Number: 515-739-1033; access code 341085

1. Call to Order and Introductions (Christina Hargiss)

- Call to order: 07:33AM
- Members present: Christina Hargiss, Dave Mushet, Shawn DeKeyser, Bree Richardson, Nate Williams, Joy Marburger, Jon Sweetman, Kyle McLean, Ryann Cressey, Daniel Mason, Nate Stott, Mark Fisher, Kaira Kamke, Kendall Hayward, Dale Wrubleski, Marinus Otte, Kathleen Paap, Melinda Coogan, Ogochukwu Ozotta, Carol Johnston
- Members present by phone: Jennifer Boyer, Julie Nieset, Eric Plankell

2. Determination of quorum (Eric Plankell, Treasurer)

Eric Plankell (phone)
Julie Nieset (phone)
Dave Mushet
Christina Hargiss
Joy Marburger

3. Approval of Minutes from 6/6/2017 Board Meeting, including the addition of adding Christina Hargiss as present on the phone. (Julie Nieset)

Motion to approve, Dave Mushet
Seconded by Carol Johnston
Motion passed.

4. Financial Report by Treasurer (Eric Plankell)

- Refer to Treasurer's Report (dated October 13, 2017) that was distributed to attendees with agenda. Nothing added except to say that 29% decrease in Money Market Account was related to transfer of funds to Wintrust Investments on 3/21/2017 (Treasurer's Report was updated following the meeting to document this transfer).

Motion to approve, Dave Mushet
Seconded by Marinus Otte
Motion passed.

5. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Program Committee (Julie Nieset)
 - NCC sent Jessica Ackerman (NCC Secretary) to Wisconsin Wetland Association annual conference in Stevens Point, WI, in February 2017. Jessie took NCC display materials and represented the NCC at the meeting – thanks, Jessie!
 - NCC working to make comprehensive database of higher-quality wetlands (Wetlands of Distinction) – to raise awareness of wetlands/wetland science to public, to aid in increasing Ramsar certifications. 11 designated WoDs in NCC region so far. Check out WoD website. Hope is to increase awareness of WoD program and increase nominations of sites. If you know wetland well, application should take about an hour. Website offers “one-stop shopping for learning about wetlands”. Current Ramsar sites would be approved for this program. Program new and so support of NCC members critical for its success. Ramsar status does not provide legal protection, but it increases visibility to public which helps with conservation efforts. Most high-quality wetlands that are fed/state listed would readily qualify for acceptance to WoD program.
 - Special thanks given to regional team of experts for reviewing initial nominations, including Hough Cromwell, Mark Dilley, Beth Middleton, Geoff Pociask, and Mark Wiltermuth.
 - b. Membership Committee (Julie Nieset [Jessica Ackerman, Secretary, not present])
 - Refer to Membership Committee Report, dated 10/13/2017.
 - c. Nominations committee (Dave Mushet)

NCC student representative position coming available (nominations due Feb 2018 to Dave Mushet)– allows student voice to be heard on board. Must be student member of chapter.
6. Old/Current Business
- a. Chapter Development Grant

Julie Nieset – thanks to Dave Mushet for applying for grant. \$1075 received in 2017. Additional money will given to the NCC for next 5 years. Gives us 20 student memberships. If student renews membership, they will be entered in drawing for gift card. Additional information will be provided in newsletter.
 - b. Annual Meeting Update

Dave Mushet – start thinking about 2018 NCC meeting. Potential locations discussed, including South Dakota, Minneapolis (real interest in wetland restoration, good central location), Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Madison, WI, as well as a trip visiting one or more large-scale wetland restoration sites along the Illinois River (Eric Plankell). A survey will be sent out soon to collect feedback on what people like/don't like about meetings. Costs are a big factor when deciding venue. Holding near a University might help with attracting students. Also should consider trying to invite public.
 - c. Dave Mushet thanked Marinus Otte for his work on setting up the Native American Artists Initiative and his coordination of the special exhibition to be presented later this evening.
7. New Business
- a. Outreach Opportunities (Bree Richardson)

Not much info on NCC website for students. Consider adding list of Universities with wetland research programs, classes. Public/grade school outreach – create comic books to relay concepts of wetlands and processes involved. Posting available internships would also be useful for students looking to try out the field. Lots of resources already out there: Project Wet, Project Learning Tree, Project Wow –at the very least, could NCC link up to these resources through our website, and possibly develop additional resources of our own. Julie Nieset indicated she would assist Bree in looking into these ideas, and suggested they start by contacting SWS to see what if any resources they might have to aid in development. Julie also reminded everyone that February 2, 2018 is World Wetland Day, and encouraged chapter members to think up and implement activities that would promote wetlands and our science to the public. Brief discussion on working to get educators to come to meetings/get involved with society. “Friends of SWS” was one option discussed to encourage non-scientists to organization.

b. SWS Multicultural Program Chapter Support Request

Request from Vanessa Lougheed requesting continued support of SWAMMP. Julie Nieset encourages NCC support if at all possible, though funds may be limited this year.

c. Supporting State Wetland Chapters (Julie Nieset)

Julie Nieset-Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, and Michigan all have associations, which are mostly geared to professionals with certification. All started as grass roots efforts, separate from SWS. Hope is to connect with other wetland organizations, share resources. We’ve been giving \$500 to Wisconsin Wetland Association the last few years in order to be able to send a representative to their meetings. Current NCC budget is tight. Maybe instead of NCC paying membership fee, individual members could sign up and share information. Would save chapter money, as well as give members a more vested interest in these organizations. Please let board members know if you have any connections with other wetland organizations.

d. Survey to Members (Julie Nieset) Another survey coming shortly to members seeks to learn what people want in general from section. How can we better serve members’ needs/interests? Where do you want Society/Chapter to go?

e. Other Business
none

8. Meeting Adjournment

Motion to approve, Shawn DeKeyser

Seconded by Joy Marburger

Motion passed.

09:27 AM

**NCC Membership Meeting
Membership Committee Report
Submitted by Jessica Ackerman
October 13, 2017**

Current Membership

- As of October 3, 2017, the NCC has 426 chapter members. We have 17 more members since June's meeting! In general, however, we have lost members this year – we had 434 in January.
- Of the 426 members, 54 are student members. Nine more students since June!
- Membership is still up compared to where it was in October 2015 (364). But still down from where it was last decade (500-700).