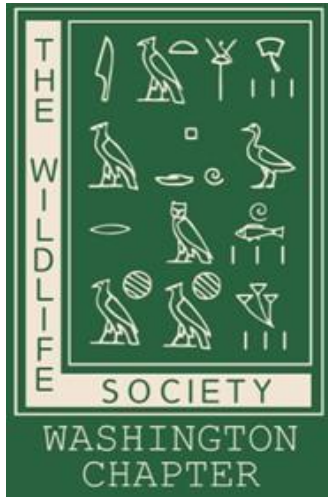


Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Executive Board (EB) Meeting Minutes

August 17th, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Google Meet Conference Call



Board Members Present

Alex Pavlinovic, President
George Ritchotte, President Elect
Claudine Reynolds, Vice President
Candace Bennett, Secretary
Jake Verschuyt, Board Member at Large
Jen Syrowitz, Board Member at Large

Regrets

Matt Wilson, Past President
James Butch, Treasurer
Kris Ernest, Board Member at Large
Katie Soltysiak, Board Member at Large

Attendees

Tony Fuchs, Grants Committee Chair
Merci Clinton, Scholarship Committee Chair

Action Items

1. Member Recruitment Letter
 - a. **Candace B.** will send out the WA-TWS recruitment letter to members.

Agenda

1. July Action Items (items in blue completed)
 - a. Agenda
 - i. Add an item to the August EB meeting for a Conservation Grant discussion.
 - ii. Add an item for each Committee to provide an update at future EB meetings.
 - iii. **Candace B.** will extend the August meeting to an hour and a half to include a Chapter Strategy Session.
 - b. Website
 - i. **Candace B.** will check access credentials for George on WildApricot.
 - ii. **Candace B.** will update the dates in the Committee pages from 2022 to 2023.
 - iii. **Candace B.** will change the deadline for grant applications to December 31st.
 - c. Chapter Incorporation
 - i. **Alex P.** will provide the next steps for incorporation.
2. Northwest Section Update (Matt W.)
 - a. Did not attend.
3. Chapter Incorporation (Alex P.)
 - a. Needs to re-start this work.
 - b. Needs a new person, possibly George R. and Claudine R.

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4. JAM 2024 (George R.)
 - a. See Program Committee update below.
5. Newsletter (Mike H., et al.)
 - a. On track
 - b. EB Members may need to send new bios.
 - c. Should be out early September.
 - d. We will send two Newsletters per year.
 - e. Mike is hard at work with our next Newsletter. The goal is to have it out by the end of August.
6. General Updates
 - a. From the Treasurer
 - i. Will continue to keep watch finances.
 - ii. In the next two months, come up with a 2024.
7. Committee Updates
 - a. Audit (James B.)
 - i. James B. has created templates to enable efficient review of documents, where the committee members will use bank and investment statements to fill out spreadsheets. These spreadsheets will be used to generate graphics for ease of understanding by board members, to enable questioning and lively discussion about possible irregularities in previous year spending and to direct where the executive board would like the treasury to be at the end of my term in 2025. James B. will be meeting with and discussing these various topics with committee members this fall. He also wanted to mention as treasurer, Over the next year James B. plan to fund necessary projects within the organization, while keeping a prudent eye on the chapter accounts (investment and banking). James B. also plan to continue to fund scholarships, grants, awards, and the 2024 conference, up to the point that our funds allow and to a level that the board members agree upon. Over the next five months, the board should also come up with a 2024 budget, to be approved by 1/1/2024. The 2021-2023 audio will also be completed over the next year.
 - b. DEI (Kris E.)
 - i. Committee is working hard with seven members. Right now, the committee is working to create a mission statement for the committee. After this, the committee will look at how best to start working towards the conscious engagement of all people, regardless of their nationality, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, age, spiritual views, or social status in the Washington State Chapter of the Wildlife Society.
 - c. Membership (Katie S.)
 - i. Four members (Katie S., Alex P., Claudine R., and Lindsey Webb)
 - d. Nominations and Elections (James B.)
 - i. Working on new timeline for committee. Likely that the committee will be stood up in November containing Claudine, James, Katie, and Jake. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know is interested in running for VP, one

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of the two board member positions, or secretary, please have them reach out to me and we can discuss their interest in a position.

- e. Program (George R.)
 - i. Met yesterday with two members of Idaho TWS
 - 1. Not as far along as we were last year.
 - 2. We need sponsors for JAM 2024.
 - a. Looking for \$20,000 this year.
 - b. Sponsor spreadsheet.
 - 3. Raffle and auction items needed.
 - 4. Call for abstracts starting mid-October.
 - 5. Next meetings (monthly now, then will increase soon)
 - a. third Wednesday of every month at 3pm
- f. Conservation Review (Jen S.)
 - i. Meeting in January 2023
 - ii. No other meetings since then, not great attendance by other meetings
 - iii. 08/16/2023 had a meeting with parent TWS associate (Kelly O'Connell) will be assisting on recruitment for this committee.
 - iv. Projects
 - 1. Solar sighting (WA shrub steppe initiative)
 - a. final report
 - 2. Connectivity Action Plan
 - a. possibly WA-TWS will send a support letter once it is in the public comment period
 - 3. WDFW relevancy
 - v. Avoiding controversial topics like large carnivores
 - vi. Looking at Conservation Award to help support.
 - vii. What does WA-TWS look like?
 - 1. it depends on the topic.
 - a. could be monies.
 - b. a letter
 - c. discussions with decision makers
 - viii. Merci C. volunteered to help with projects.
 - ix. Bill V. said WA-TWS historical reviews have only been on science, not on decisions.
 - x. Kelly O'Connell has given training on how agency employees can be an advocate for conservation.
 - 1. This may be difficult in WA
 - 2. Possibly be a webinar.
- g. Education and Outreach (Candace B.)
 - i. Contacting previous WA-TWS grant recipients for presentations.
 - ii. Restarting this fall
- h. Resolutions and Public Statements (vacant)
 - i. Nothing to add.
- i. Awards (Bill V.)

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- i. Bill V. sent out documents to WA-TWS EB for review.
 - ii. Committee members are diverse (returning and new members).
 - iii. Look at awards categories and see how they align with DEI and the future.
 - j. Grants (Tony F.)
 - i. Not much to update.
 - ii. Updated deadline to December 31st
 - iii. Three members on the committee.
 - iv. We will need to look at our budget for grant award totals.
 - k. Scholarship (Merci C.)
 - i. Nothing to add currently.
 - ii. The deadline will also be December 31st..
 - iii. Two announcements (one Newsletter, another to members via email).
- 8. Chapter Goals
 - a. President series meetings
 - i. Goals .pptx
 - 1. Create an Annual calendar of WA-TWS activities (work in progress)
 - 2. Create a JAM calendar that starts 18 months from meeting (work in progress)
 - 3. Finalize incorporation (Alex P.)
 - 4. Complete a successful audit (James B., Claudine R., Jake V.)
 - 5. Adopt a fiscal year budget (James B.)
 - 6. Organize a successful JAM 2024 (George R.)
 - 7. George, please give a brief update.
 - 8. Start Looking for 2025 Partners and Venues (Claudine R., Alex P.)
 - 9. Form Nominations and Elections committees (Alex P.)
 - 10. JAM 2024 Pamphlet Cover Art Contest (Candace B.)
 - a. \$50 and a one-year membership to WA-TWS
 - b. George will run it by ID-TWS
 - 11. Organize Google workspace (TBD)
 - 12. Establish or reinvigorate the following committees:
 - 13. Re-stand Membership Committee (Katie S.)
 - 14. Involve UW
 - 15. Involve WSU
 - 16. Conservation Committee (Jen S.)
 - 17. Solicit good conservation grant applicants.
 - 18. DEI Committee (Kris E., Alex P.)
 - 19. Find Chair, still need one.
 - 20. Draft position statement – make sure it's consistent with mission statement, bylaws, other documents.
 - 21. Develop outreach plan.
 - ii. WA-TWS Successes since January 2022
 - 1. First Annual Meeting, since 2019.
 - 2. Profitable Socially as well as Financially.

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3. Onboarded New Members
4. Started Planning our 2024 Meeting with Idaho-TWS.
5. Three Newsletters Produced.
6. Fourth one in the works.
7. Successful Elections
8. All four of you on board.
9. Awarded 10+ awards.
10. Awarded 2 Research Grants and Scholarships
11. Stood Up DEI Committee
12. Revived the Membership & Conservation Review & Education and Information
13. Committees

Next Meeting: September 21, 2023; 4:00-5:00pm

Adjourned at 5:37pm