

VATWS Executive Committee Meeting

June 3, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

- 1. Role Call, Determination of Quorum** – Members present via conference call: Jeff Trollinger, Scott Klopfer, Jennifer Cromwell, Jim Parkhurst, Karen Francl, Andy Rosenberger. A quorum was determined.

2. Approval of previous minutes

The final motion of the April meeting (Motion to consider a change to our by-laws add a clause to recognize paid student memberships (within their respective schools) as voting members) was made and seconded, but a vote was not recorded. A vote to in support (unanimous) of this motion was added the minutes. Pending this addition, the minutes were approved.

3. Old Business

a. Treasurer's Report

No expenses since the last report - \$10485.57 total funds remaining. Merry Breed will remain on the Paypal account in case any assistance is needed. There was a motion to accept the report (seconded) and voted upon. The motion was unanimously accepted.

b. Membership Report

Jennifer needs to let Karen know when national dues come in, because national notes are coming to the treasurer. Since April, Scott established 2 listservs – one for paying member, one for paying members plus former members. Scott will give Karen access to the listserv to update as necessary. As of June 2006, there are 91 paying members.

c. Administrative Budget

Scott has the existing template in his office. He will digitize it and send it to executive board members shortly. It needs to be edited to match our current needs.

d. By-laws Status

- i. Some modifications still needed** – Since April, the VATWS by-laws document was placed on the web site for members to vote upon – 18 responses to date – 17 to approve, 1 no answer. Suggestions related to the modifications were mostly cosmetic, but by-laws currently state that changes cannot be approved unless it's at the annual meeting. We need to therefore include an on-line voting amendment. So, until that change is made, we can circulate these by-laws for comment on-line but will have official vote at the annual meeting.
- ii. Inclusion of student recognition clause** – In April, the executive committee voted on the proposal to recognize students who are members of a student chapter and already paying dues. Those lacking student chapters would need to pay the state dues.

e. Membership issues

- i. **Student Memberships** – Scott will contact national TWS to make sure they are supportive of our student membership fee changes.
- ii. **Honorary Memberships** – No one could suggest honorary memberships until the next meeting (where it could be voted on). Jim & Andy will create a list of suggested criteria, or start generating a list of names. Although not 100% certain, Scott did not believe that anyone has ever received an honorary membership.
- iii. **Charter Member** – National TWS should have these records, Scott will look into this.

f. Robertson Library Update – Web page template is up and going using \$6K grant. We are looking into collaborating with other agencies to contribute to this. We first need to develop a proposal to request additional funds from potential sponsors or cooperators (including NBII, USGS, SEAFWA, NEAFWA, VDGIF, etc.). We need about \$10K to get scanning started on this project. We need to remind contributors that this is a VATWS-funded project and other organizations cannot claim it for their own.

g. Review of letters or statements

- i. **Letter to Rep. Boucher** – A letter was drafted, circulated among executive board members for comment, and sent to Rep. Boucher in response to the Teaming with Wildlife support letter. VATWS decided to write our own letter & represent ourselves – in support of keeping dedicated funding from cap & trade to be allocated to wildlife adaptation issues.
- ii. **Request for letter from Carol Croy** – Letter would address some proposals in place for GW-Jeff National Forest from outside groups who want significant portions of the NF to be designated as Wilderness Areas. We would send a letter to support the USFS and their ability to manage their own lands without outside direction –would hamper this ability. Question – are we addressing April Wilderness designations now in place or future designations? Regardless, there is a need to send a letter to Rep. Boucher’s office, stating our position on this subject. Scott is going to look into national chapter involvement and solicit suggestions. VATWS also needs to get within-agency (VDGIF) assistance with knowledge and interest to write this.

4. New Business

- a. **New website** – Much thanks to Jeff Trollinger for spearheading this effort. Some officer profiles, awards page, and 2009 chapter minutes already have been added. The plan is to phase out the older web page and fully transition to this Joomla template, which is sponsored by the national chapter.
- b. **Request for support for DVDs to be distributed at National TWS (UT-K Student Chapter)** – An e-mail discussion among board members indicated little support for this project. The consensus was that this was the wrong avenue of distribution, and that the content would be outdated by the time it was distributed. Motion – send a letter to that

chapter – indicating no funding support and an explanation of our concerns. Scott will draft a letter and circulate.

- c. **Request for support for SEAFWA (Darren Miller)** – As a gesture of goodwill, it would be in our best interests to support this conference. But this will not help us recruit any additional members. Discussed was the option to provide support in the form of a student scholarship to attend this meeting (money comes directly from VATWS, not transferred to SEAFWA organizers)? How else can we frame that support to support VATWS member/student participation? What strings do we add? The SEAFWA lists a minimum of \$500 to be a sponsor and add information to the conference packet.
 - d. **Annual Meeting Focus** on how to encourage natural resource agencies to be more active in this meeting. The notion of a central theme was discussed, but what's the topic? There was discussion of a one-day meeting with emphasized on this summit/central topic, plus one day for student presentations and the business meeting. Additional formats were discussed. Jim will consider the theme aspect and develop this over an e-mail discussion with board members. Location was briefly discussed but nothing was concretized at this point. It was suggested that more emphasis be placed on the quality of presentations (to better recruit attendees) than absolutely minimizing costs this time around. Travel restrictions among agencies and colleges/universities briefly were discussed.
 - e. **Professional Development workshop** - Current train of thought is to tie it into the annual meeting– not a stand-alone this year. Andy also will look into the member survey results to look into compatible topics. Andy and Jim will work together to pin down meeting sites and development topics.
 - f. **Membership ideas**
 - i. **Committee Chairs/tasks** – Scott suggested targeting particular VATWS members and asking them specifically for assistance in a particular capacity. This approach was unanimously supported. Scott solicited suggestions from the executive committee for members to target – Karen will send the committee an updated list of active (2009) and recently active (2008) members
 - g. **Publications** – What is traditionally newsletter content will likely move to the new website, and will not be constrained to the newsletter time schedule. Scott solicited member news for the web site.
5. **Other items?** - The Virginia Tech Wildlife Techniques course will take place again this August at the Mountain Lake Biological Station – their last day is Friday August 21. VATWS would like to take the lead on Techniques Day again, and other students (from Radford University? Ferrum College? And others at VT not enrolled in the course?) could be invited to participate again. Scott solicited assistance for demo stations.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.

Conference call ended at 12:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Francl

Secretary, Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society