

Society Wetland Scientists North Central Chapter (SWS NCC) Board Meeting

February 2, 2015, 10am CST

Present: Arnold Van der Valk, David Mushet, Loretta Battaglia, Julie Nieset, Mark Wiltermuth

Nominations and upcoming elections:

The call for nominations went out in the recent SWS NCC Winter 2014-2015 newsletter. Loretta reported that she hasn't received many nominations to date. Board members mentioned a couple of SWS members they will contact/confirm known interest. Given this, the chapter would have enough members to fill the two At-large positions, and likely have someone run for the Secretary-Treasurer position.

Karen with USFWS has interest in taking Donna's place or running for an At-Large position. Donna's position has been as chair of the Education Committee, but a 'Grants and Awards Committee' for the review of NCC Student Grant Awards has been discussed as being more appropriate. A committee position can be appointed (rather than being elected). Donna had been appointed to this position. Loretta will talk with Karen about her preference with either being chair of committee or running for At-Large position (or both). There is a need to appoint a chair for the Grants and Awards Committee soon due to the upcoming grant award timeline task deadlines. Donna expressed willingness to assist with mentoring the next chair on this committee until June 2015, as of the last email she sent regarding the student grant awards (Dec 2, 2014).

Question posed: Is it practical to stagger the two board position? Since it has been a challenge to keep up with elections ever year, Dave proposed having elections every two years.

Mark commented that offering board members other roles/duties to be able to contribute would be helpful.

Wetland Treasures

The SWS has decided to go ahead with the Wetland Treasures program. For this program each chapter would be responsible for screening applications in the region. While there are no strict requirements for review team members, the chair needs to be on the chapter BOD. Julie volunteered to be chair for the regional review team.

Management of website

Jen Boyer has been doing this. While we can upload some material there are limitations imposed by company who created our website. This limitation has prevented us from adding links or buttons for members to donate directly to our chapter, as well as other tasks. Question posed as to whether we can contract with whoever manages the SWS chapter websites (currently a firm in Madison). It is unknown if this is currently paid for by our central office. Julie to find out how info regarding and how much money it would be. Formal vote to – yes – to go ahead with allowing the SWS management firm to update our webpage.

Regarding email distribution

The SWS central office has asked if we would send out a link to our chapter newsletter rather than as a PDF as it is easier for the management firm to send just a link. The Board discussed that with links, a password is often which can be cumbersome to find as well as difficulty in accessing remotely. Board decided to maintain sending the newsletter as a pdf. Members can also link through the chapter website.

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Student awards

We had allocated money for the student research awards that are processed by central SWS committee. The research grant we go through central SWS office. The travel award is internal – we need to send this out. Email or call for proposals sometime within next month, website, separate announcement.

Email – nominations for positions on the board/upcoming elections

In an email, Board member Liz (Peloso) had mentioned the usefulness of sending a separate email out to SWS NCC members regarding the nominations/elections apart from the notice in the newsletter. Dave will draft something for this and also to include information about the two student travel awards for our chapter.

NCC annual meeting in 2015

Currently there is no location or organizer for our annual chapter meeting. Arnold mentioned the potential for having it in NW Iowa. There are natural and restored wetlands at Iowa Lakeside lab and it is usually available late summer. In the future we could check into having a joint meeting with the Michigan or Wisconsin Wetland Association. While we can look into this there is a caution of treading lightly regarding sharing costs and duties we would also probably need a local member in respective location to handle SWS NCC part of the organizing.

Chicago area NCC meeting

Arnold will send Liz an endorsement from the Board, and we can advertise on the chapter website. It might be useful for Liz to have some application packets, recruitment tool, even if the event is for existing members, others might come or know of others who might be interested in joining SWS.

Financial/Fundraising

As of the beginning of this year, we have \$11,151.71 in our chapter checking; \$5071.50 in our CD savings, and \$10,378.29 in our investment account. We received \$1,644 from membership dues last year. Our annual chapter meeting in Carbondale was ahead of the \$500 budgeted (\$839.29 in expenses and \$445.00 in registration fees).

Once we are able to get the link to donate to chapter on website we can let our membership know that this is an option. We need to make sure that they would be able to be issued a receipt that is tax-deductible – Julie can check on this. Loretta had talked with Julia Cherry (SWS Treasurer) regarding our chapter riding high from income from past joint chapter/national meetings but now needing other financial strategies. The SWS knows this is an issue for chapters and are to discuss long-term investment strategies and reorganization of SWS funds in a meeting this week.

There have been other fundraising strategies brought up previously worth exploring but want to focus on getting the donation option on our website first and then explore other options next meeting.

Wishes went around for a wonderful 'World Wetland Day' (Feb 2nd)!

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am, CST.