

2007 Business Meeting Minutes
Alaska Chapter, The Wildlife Society

The Chapter's 2007 annual business meeting was held in conjunction with the Chapter's Annual Meeting in Juneau. The meeting was convened at 12:00 pm, 17 April 2007 in Centennial Hall, Ballroom #3 with Chapter President, Tom Paragi presiding and approximately 25 members attending.

Old Business

1. Summary of major Chapter activities during the previous year

Activities included making several changes to Chapter bylaws; establishing a new rotation sequence for locations of annual Chapter meetings; initiating a quarterly schedule for Chapter newsletters; conducting an extensive membership drive and subsequently becoming the largest TWS state Chapter; publishing a technical review on the sale of bear parts, deciding not to publish a drafted technical review on bear predation management and terminating efforts to prepare a technical review of bear baiting; completing 2 interviews for the "Conserving Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage" project; preparing and submitting a draft position statement on old growth forests to the Position Statement subcommittee of TWS Council; hosting the National TWS conference in Anchorage with outstanding support from student and Chapter volunteers; collaborating with the Alaska Society of American Foresters to present a joint session on Marine Derived Nutrients in Alaskan Ecosystems at the annual meeting of Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Fairbanks; preparing and submitting scoping comments to the Fairbanks Parks and Recreation Department on the Master Plan for the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area; and hosting a state legislative open house in Juneau to introduce the Chapter to legislators, staffers and other state government officials.

2. Treasurer's report – Mark Udevitz

Income	2006	2007*	Total
Dues	1225	310	1535
National conference	5052	3800	8852
Interest	67	19	86
Total	6344	4129	10473

Expenses	2006	2007*	Total
2004 Caribou workshop	11642		11642
National conference	3810		3810
Legislative reception	927	342	1269
Membership drive	782		782
AFS conf. speakers	700		700
Donations		600	600
Other	1420	150	1570
Total	19281	1092	20373

Account balances	1-Jan-06	31-Dec-06	1-Apr-07
Checking #1	5550	3513	6530
Checking #2	11685	716	713
Savings	5919	5985	6005
Total	23154	10214	13248

* 2007 income and expenses through 1 April.

3. Local management of Chapter website

The chapter website was managed by member Eric Rexstad on the UAF server from 2002 – 2005 at no cost to the Chapter. The website was hosted on the server at TWS headquarters since 2005 at a cost of \$250/year to the Chapter, but their responsiveness to our needs was slow because there was only one webmaster. This year, the Chapter made a \$500 donation to the TWS information technology fund to help pay for upgrades to their system. We have already seen benefits from the new system in the electronic voting process for our last Chapter election. TWS is moving toward more chapter autonomy in management of their websites and recently hired a webmaster liaison for the chapters to facilitate this. Liz Solomon volunteered to be the new Chapter Webmaster. Members are requested to submit photographs to help keep our webpages fresh and interesting.

New Business

1. Student Chapter report - Simon Wigren and Jan Tomsen

There are currently 91 members of the Student Chapter, 13 of which are freshmen, representing a net gain of one member from last year. The Student Chapter provided a 50% match the grants provided by the State Chapter for student travel to the annual meeting. Other activities undertaken by the Student Chapter during the 2006 – 2007 academic year included volunteering at the National TWS meeting in Anchorage; helping with the ADF&G Fall Festival, participating in a NRA firearm certification course at the Hunter Education Shooting Range, operating a booth at the Far North Conservation Film Festival; helping the Alaska Trappers Association with their annual banquet; conduction elections for 2007 – 2008 officers; and initiating a fox live-trapping

project at the large Animal Research Station. The Student chapter is also planning to coordinate booths and activities for the Creamer's Field Spring Migration Celebration and to hold a wild game dinner as a fund raiser in late April.

2. Membership Committee report - Jimmy Fox (Chair), Amy Kearns, Michelle Kissling, and Eric Taylor.

An extensive membership drive was begun in April 2006 which included developing and distributing information cards and sending recruitment letters to the 52 Alaskan TWS members that were not members of the Chapter, 172 former Chapter members who had allowed their membership to lapse, and 115 individuals or offices employing wildlife professionals in Alaska. Chapter membership increased 42%, from 187 to 266 members (as of February 2007). The membership drive cost \$782.05, which is \$9.89 per new member (or \$3.84 per new member if we exclude the cost of producing the 1000 information cards).

In a continuing effort to increase membership, the committee has also obtained 50 engraved ulus commemorating the 13th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society held in Anchorage last year. One ulu will be given to a current Chapter member for each new member they recruit.

3. Legislative update - Dave Yokel

Board of Game proposal 204 to establish the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge (along the Denali Highway) was tabled. Senate Bill 67 to establish the Jay Hammond State Game Refuge (in the Mulchatna and Nushagak drainages of southwest Alaska) was referred to the Resources Committee on 26 January and no action has been taken since then. The Alaska State Legislature passed a resolution opposing the federal listing of polar bears as a threatened species.

4. TWS review of predator control in Alaska

In March, the Chapter Board reviewed and approved a proposal to National TWS for a Technical Review of predator control in Alaska. The review will probably focus on predator control done for the purpose of increasing ungulate populations.

5. Life membership in Chapter

There was some discussion about the possibility of offering life memberships in the Chapter, in response to a member inquiry earlier in the year. It was pointed out that the main benefit of life membership was not having to renew each year. However, the National TWS no longer offers life memberships, and now that the Chapter bylaws have been revised to require National membership, people would have to still renew their National membership each year and the convenience benefit would be lost.

6. Annual Chapter meeting, Anchorage, 2008

There was a suggestion that student involvement in the annual meeting might be increased by moving it to some time other than April. This was countered by the suggestion that economics may be more of a factor for students and the best way to increase involvement might be to help cover travel costs as we did this year.

7. Chapter Liaison to Board of Game

It was suggested that establishing a position of Liaison to Board of Game might help the Chapter achieve important aspects of its mission. It was then noted that it may be difficult to find a single person that could effectively represent the entire Chapter in this role and that would not be perceived as also representing agency interests. It would also be hard to get Chapter approval for a position on every issue that comes before the Game Board. We were not even able to get Chapter consensus on a bear predation position statement or technical review. We already influence the process through the position statements and technical reviews we do produce. Also, the liaison approach would not be much different from the way we comment on other issues like Teshekpuk Lake, but to be effective, we have to pick a few issues on which to focus our efforts. The Chapter Executive Board can continue to fill this role. It might be helpful to provide the reviews and statements we have already produced to each new Game Board because they may not be aware, or have forgotten, that they are available.

It was also suggested that it might be useful to conduct something like last year's Legislative Open House for the Board of Game. However, it was pointed out that this might be prohibited by the open meetings law. Another option would be to have individual Chapter members meet with individual board members.

8. Commendations

Tom Paragi was recognized for all his work this year which has lead to an application for Chapter of The Year nomination.

Howard Golden, Gino Del Frate and all the Chapter volunteers were recognized for their contribution to the success of the National TWS conference in Anchorage.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.