

Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society
2014 Business Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2014, Anchorage, AK

Approximately 60 members were in attendance.

Past-president Jerry Hupp and President Grant Hilderbrand led the meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Matt Sexson took notes.

1. Health of the Chapter (Jerry Hupp)

- a. Jerry introduced newly elected board members and thanked outgoing board members.
 - i. Remaining board members:
 1. Grant Hilderbrand (President)
 2. Jerry Hupp (Past-President)
 - ii. Newly elected board members:
 1. Scott Brainerd (President Elect)
 2. Matt Sexson (Secretary-Treasurer)
 3. Kevin White (Southeast Representative)
 4. Nate Svoboda (Southcentral Representative)
 5. Todd Brinkman (Interior and Northern Representative)
 6. Kaiti Ott (Newsletter Editor)
 7. Dan Thompson (Webmaster)
 - iii. Outgoing board members:
 1. Kris Hundertmark (Past-President)
 2. Karen Blejwas (Southeast Representative)
 3. Cara Staab (Southcentral Representative)
 4. Liz Solomon (Webmaster)
 5. Elizabeth Manning (Newsletter Editor)
 6. Leigh Honing and Todd Rinaldi (Secretary-Treasurer)
- b. Chapter membership has been steady at 220 – 230 members since 2012.
- c. Financially, the chapter began 2013 with \$15,763, and ended with \$18,663.
 - i. Jerry reported that the chapter is “financially in good shape”.
 - ii. Jerry reported that the chapter attempts to break even at each annual meeting, although substantial savings were realized following the chapter meeting in Fairbanks.
- d. Attendance at the 2014 annual meeting in Anchorage was consistent with attendance at previous annual meetings. The meeting realized 120 registered attendees and 58 submitted poster and oral presentations.

2. Recent Chapter Actions (Jerry Hupp)

- a. The chapter submitted a pack goat proposal to Federal Subsistence Board.
- b. The chapter sent a letter regarding sheep disease to federal and state agencies.
- c. The chapter sent a letter regarding intensive management to the AK Board of Game and Legislature.
- d. The chapter sent a letter to the AK Legislature in support of the proposed Creamer's Field expansion.
- e. The chapter sent a letter to the AK Legislature in support of Kachemak Bay Research Reserve funding.
- f. The chapter supported COWCH interviews with Wayne Regelin and Dave Klein.
- g. The chapter provided a letter of support for a book on Dave Klein.

3. Open discussion (Grant Hilderbrand)

- a. Grant opened the floor to general comments and discussion regarding meeting format, content, future planning
 - i. Member comments on meeting costs
 1. The chapter should continue to minimize registration costs for students and retirees.
 2. Workshops (e.g., analytical training) are valuable and cost effective when justifying travel.
 3. All inclusive meeting registration (e.g., workshops, banquet, meeting attendance) is preferred over multiple costs for different events.
 - a. Some members voiced opinion that lower fees for early registration should be dropped in order to facilitate an all-inclusive fee.
 - ii. Member comments on meeting content
 1. Special sessions are more informative when context is provided at the beginning and end of the session, as was the case during the RSF workshop in 2014.
 2. Single paper sessions preferred over concurrent sessions.
 3. Student-professional lunch a positive experience and should be incorporated into future meetings.
 4. Consider a joint meeting with the Northern Furbearer Conference in Juneau in 2015.
 - iii. Member comments on future meetings
 1. Scheduling future meetings during spring break may encourage student involvement.

- a. Membership generally agreed that the timing of the meeting is difficult to plan in consideration of field schedules, spring break, other meetings, etc.
 - 2. Scheduling future meetings over a weekend might also encourage student attendance.
 - a. Membership commented that federal employees may not be approved to attend a meeting spanning a weekend.
 - 3. Moving meeting to a new community in southeast might engage a new group of members
 - a. Membership proposed Sitka or Ketchikan.
 - b. Membership generally agreed that having meetings in major hubs promoted greatest attendance.
 - 4. Make programs available electronically and provide an option during registration for folks to elect to receive a printed copy.
 - 5. When planning Juneau meetings, attempt to avoid the legislative session so that lodging and air travel are more readily available.
 - 6. Consider opening the banquet to the public and inviting a local speaker who may attract local attendees.
- b. New business
- i. Grant introduced new topics that the board will be discussing in the next year and asked for comments from the floor.
 - 1. State Chapter Awards
 - a. Should the chapter develop a process to recognize outstanding member achievements, lifetime achievements, community achievements, student achievements, etc.?
 - i. Membership generally agreed it was a good idea, but voiced concerns regarding selection process, frequency of award, and award content (e.g., plaque, monetary, etc.).
 - b. The executive board will discuss and present an amendment to the by-laws for membership vote.
 - 2. State-Federal collaboration
 - a. Should the chapter establish best practices via a letter, position statement, etc. regarding the importance of State-Federal collaboration on land use permitting, research permitting, research projects, etc.?
 - b. Tabled for future discussion

3. Further work on managing disease risk to Dall's Sheep and Mountain Goat populations
 - a. No discussion as the business meeting had to adjourn for the afternoon paper session, tabled for future discussion.

4. Adjourn