



Iowa TWS Business Meeting

February 9th, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order (Kelsey Fleming) at 2:30 P.M. (# 105 People in Attendance)

Welcome – Kelsey Fleming

Winter 2020 Meeting Minutes – Nathan Schmitz read the 2020 Winter Meeting Minutes. There was no discussion.

Motion to Approve Minutes by Matt Dollison 2nd by Todd Bogenschutz

Motion passed by all ayes, no nays.

Treasurer's Report – Nathan Schmitz gave a recap of the previous year's financials. He also discussed that the chapter would be receiving a refund on their donation to the North American Prairie Conference because they were unable to have their conference due to COVID. There was no discussion.

Motion to Approve Minutes by Adam Janke 2nd by Stephanie Shepard

Motion passed by all ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee - Travis Russel was not able to be present so Kelsey shared the audit report, which was completed 4/1/2020, and discussed the findings. The committee's findings were: "All financial records from August 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 have been thoroughly reviewed and fairly represent the current status of the Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society."

Awards Committee - Stephanie Shepherd talked about the challenges that the award committee has had with getting the Hall of Fame award to Al Ferriss. He should have received his award in 2020 but was unable to make the meeting. They plan to give him the award at the next in-person meeting. Richard Bishop had been nominated for the Hall of Fame award and will receive it at the 2021 Winter Meeting (assuming it is in-person). Luke Gran threw out Carl Kurtz and Steph with get with him to run it through the correct channels to get him nominated. Stephanie also mentioned that she will be working to get a form on the new website to make nominations much easier.

Conservation Review - Katy Reeder had Kelsey read a statement since she wasn't available to speak: "The Conservation Review Committee did not take any specific action on legislative or policy issues in the past year. Partly this is because the Covid 19 pandemic shut the Iowa Legislature down early. As this year's legislative session proceeds, the Executive Board will decide if they desire any analysis from the Conservation Review Committee.

In terms of National issues, there will likely be opportunities to weigh in on Bills such as the reintroduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, or policies that impact wildlife.

Lastly, at the most recent annual member's meeting of the North Central Section, the chairs of the Section's Conservation Affairs Committee proposed starting a monthly check-in with each state Chapters' Conservation Affairs Committee Chair. This will provide us an opportunity to compare notes with states across the Midwest, and determine whether there are regional issues that we may wish to weigh in on as a Section. Please contact Katy Reeder if you are interested in joining this committee."

Education and Information - Pete Eyheralde was teaching and not able to be present. Kelsey read a note from Pete that he is always looking for information for the newsletter

Membership - Matt Dollison noted that as of the start of the meeting the chapter had 166 members but 66 had just expired and needed to be renewed. He encouraged people to renew their membership and also mentioned that checks could be sent in if the people were uncomfortable with online payment. Matt had counted the number of people on the call who worked for DNR and only 32% of the crowd was DNR, which was great to see as it is usually 75% DNR. Lots of new faces and names. Lastly he made a pitch to have auto renewal added as an option when renewing. Later in the meeting Matt Dollison announced that Ryan Kurtz will be taking over the Membership Committee. Also later in the meeting Matt Made a motion to have auto renew as an option for membership, Jorgen Rose Seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Ayes and Nathan has set it up.

Resolutions and Public Statements - Brian Sauer has matt read his report as he could not make the meeting. Matt said there was nothing new to report.

Nominations and Elections - Nick Baumgarten announced that Nathan Schmitz defeated Megann Schmidt, Sarah Nizzi defeated Ryan Kurtz, and Laura Leben defeated Matt Shanklin. Nick thanked all those who volunteered to run and encouraged them to get involved with the committees.

ISU Club Update- Carley Spading gave an update on what the chapter has been up to. She expressed that they had been limited by COVID and were not able to do their annual camping trip. They were able to work with trail and thermal cameras and were hoping to be doing some local research on jackrabbits.

Old Business

Wild Apricot – Website / Member services –Approved for 700 came in at 540. Only allows one email, need to make sure that we are only using one email. Wild Apricot will be sending out email reminders for those that didn't renew. New website is up, please take a look at it and give feedback on issues you encounter or improvements that could be made.

Operational Manual – Coming along and still need to flesh out the timelines for the officers. Hope to have it completed by this fall.

ICA Update – Todd Bogenschutz not a lot to report currently. Nathan spoke to the fact that we will have very little income but would be able to absorb the cost of continuing our membership. Matt Dollison made a motion to continue our membership at the same level as last year, which was \$2,500. Nick Baumgarten seconded the motion.

Todd spoke that the Iowa Conservation Alliance is a group of NGOs that came together to have a presence at the capitol. They hire a lobbyist to represent the group. Lobbyist keeps ICA aware of bills that affect the group. When bills interest the group, Members will take a vote and if all groups aren't in agreement on the bills then ICA will not take a position. If all groups are in agreement then they will take a position.

Matt Dollison asked if ICA was doing anything to push IWLL. Todd said ICA has not been promoting it other than supporting the legislation.

All ayes and Nathan will send a check for \$2,500.

Reap Update -Karen Kinkead – REAP similar to ICA except she doesn't think they have a lobbyist. Primarily for the promotion of REAP. Not much of an update. Karen requested we maintain our dues. She also wanted to say they do support IWLL and there should be a local REAP assembly this fall. Todd made a motion to continue our membership at \$150. Stephanie Shepard seconded the motion.

All Ayes and Nathan will send a check for \$150.

New Business

Midwest Meeting 2022- Karen Kinkead said that Iowa will be hosting the conference at the Des Moines Hilton and Matt Dollison will be chairing that on behalf of Iowa TWS. Iowa TWS provides judges for student presentation and posters. The chapter also pairs up with AFS for T-shirt sales and throwing a raffle. Karen encouraged members to consider giving a talk or organizing a symposium. Lastly DNR staff that would be interested in attending need to work with their supervisors.

Interconference Committee of the Iowa Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference – In 2011 the Interconference Committee of the Iowa Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference (ICIMFWC) was formed under a 401(c)(4). This tax exempt committee was established to manage 2011 Midwest F&W Conference funds and funding for subsequent Iowa Midwest Conferences. A charter was developed with the assistance of DNR legal staff so it would meet both federal and state requirements. The Charter requires submitting an annual report on the status of the ICIMFWC account to the ICIMFWC Chair and to Iowa Wildlife Society and the Fisheries Society chapter's presidents. Kelsey then read through the financial report which showed no new income for 2020.

Announcements

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting Feb 13-16, 2022 to be held in DSM

Adjourn

Move to adjourn- A motion was made by Nick Baumgarten, 2nd by Steve Dinsmore
Meeting adjourned at 4:12 P.M.