

July 21, 2012

TO: TWS- Western Section Executive Board

FROM: Linda W. Leeman

SUBJECT: President's Report – Summer Board Meeting

Action Items

- Add line item to 2012 budget to support staff travel, e.g. Perrine and Renger. **Done. Minor modification to operating budget approved by email vote.**
- Send info to Allboard outlining what our new insurance policy covers and outlining the process for chapters to get coverage for their events. **In progress. Will do by board meeting.**
- From Secretary: Asked webmaster to redirect visitors to old website (<http://www.tws-west.org/>) to our current website (<http://joomla.wildlife.org/western/>). **Done. Eric completed.**
- From Secretary: Asked webmaster to update description on website of Conservation Affairs Committee. **Done. Eric completed.**
- From Secretary: Redistribute template for officer and Chapter Representative Reports that McNerney compiled, with request that report include status of action items. **Done. Emailed to Allboard on 7/20/12.**

Accomplishments and Activities

- Moderated discussion and voting
 - Implemented new email discussion and voting procedures
 - Modification of Operation Budget (approved)
 - Western Section support of Land and Water Conservation Fund amendment to Farm Bill (approved our support, but unfortunately Congress did not pass the LWCF)
 - Camera Workshop budget (approved)
- Organized and prepared for summer Executive Board Retreat at non-profit conference facility in Alamo
- Met with Program Director to discuss need to develop a strategic plan as the organization grows
- Accepted resignation of Transactions Editor and working with Past Presidents and others to identify new editor or evaluate future viability of publication
- Worked with Section Representative, Awards Chair, and Executive Committee to nominate Western Section member to be recognized at Portland TWS meeting for the Distinguished Service Award
- Reviewed survey monkey results for 2012 annual conference to inform future conferences

- 2013 Conference Planning
 - requested bookkeeper send deposit to Double Tree Hotel
 - set up regular conference calls with planning committee (July 13 and 24 and monthly in future)
- Assisted with review of 2014 conference hotel contract (McNerney signed with Grand Sierra in Reno, NV)
- Begun brainstorming for locations of 2015 conference location. Request registrar send out RFP in August and plan to conduct site visits in the fall
- Participated in Conservation Affairs Committee conference call in June
- Requested Section webmaster inquire with TWS webmaster about plan to convert subunits websites to Drupal from Joomla since TWS made the switch in early July
- Coordinated with PDC and Central Coast Chapter about sponsorship of kit fox workshop. Ultimately Section decided not to co-sponsor it, but supported Central Coast Chapter proceeding with conference and advertising via Section's email distribution lists, and using website for registration
- Modified Program Director's contract to include hours to revise the operating budget, and amended to defer the Training Needs Assessment until after corollary evaluation for Cal Poly is completed in Fall 2012
- Reviewed and approved contract staff (Perrine, C Renger, E Renger, Chapel) invoices and expense reports
- Followed up with TWS to make sure they received a copy of Western Section's tax returns for 2011
- Newsletter
 - Prepared president's message and other information for summer edition
 - Reminded board members to submit articles
 - Solicited and reviewed submittals by members for newsletter
- Miscellaneous
 - Reviewed and commented on HI Chapter bylaw revisions
 - Assisted member with how to set up abstract submittal online to evaluate for conferences
 - At request of a member, coordinated with DFG Director's office to review video of keynote speech at 2012 banquet for suitability for posting on the web

July 23, 2012

TO: TWS- Western Section Executive Board

FROM: John T. McNerney

SUBJECT: Past-President's Report - Summer 2012 Executive Board Meeting

Major activities since April 2012:

- Reno 2014
 - Worked with Candace to finalize 2014 contract with Grand Sierra, Reno. Signed contract.
- American Association of University Women's Tech Trek Program
 - Helped plan and implement "Wildlife Biodiversity" course for the program.
 - Twenty- 8th grade girls participated.
 - Introduced them to the wildlife profession, research and conservation, and various field techniques. Fun! (See my article in the Newsletter for details).
- Sac-Shasta/ UC Davis Chapters' Professional "Speed Dating" event.
 - Helped identify a suitable venue in Davis.
 - Participated in talking with UC Davis students about the wildlife profession.
- Participated in 2013 conference planning conference calls.
- Western Section Logo RFP
 - Communicated with artists re: status.

Coming up:

- Receive logo proposals and submit to Board for selection. Work with artist to finalize design.
- Help President Leeman find a new Transactions Editor. Communicating with one potential candidate (Bill Tietje) ...but full commitment lacking at this point. Additional suggestions?
- 2013 candidate search...suggestions welcome!

Action item status:

- Make sure Hawk (or Candace?) coordinates with Eric to post newsletter publication deadlines on website. **Done**
- Work on new logo. **In progress...carry**
 - Three people working on proposals. Submission deadline is August 15. Will forward proposals to Board for selection.
- Create contract language for student hire on optical recognition project. Contact Dave Wyatt to see if he has a student for the job. **Carry**
 - Holding off until new TE in place.
- Follow up with Eric Renger to discuss membership and officer access to website. **Carry**



Western Section of The Wildlife Society

Section Representative and Membership Committee Report

Executive Board Meeting - 2012 August Meeting

Section Representative to TWS Council

July 21, 2012

- Next Council meeting is at the 75th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon.
- **Budget Update.** TWS continues to deal with serious budget issues. A professional audit was conducted on the business practices to identify necessary administrative and procedural changes needed to address the root of the problem. CEO Michael Hutchins and TWS Executive Committee have been working together to both implement necessary immediate changes as well as to prepare a plan that we will discuss in Portland. Given the already full agenda, Council has agreed to meet prior to the regular Council meetings. More information will be available following the Portland meeting.
- **Update to website and listservs.** TWS has converted the main website to use Drupal instead of Joomla. The nice thing is that the pages are no longer prefaced with joomla.wildlife.org so it will be less confusing to include hyperlinks to the webpages. TWS is in the process of working with subunits to update webpages. TWS is also converting to using Google Groups for listservs. A message went out to subunits in early July.
- **Investors Campaign.** As previously noted, the 2012 Investors Campaign theme is \$75 for the 75th. A mailing was sent out previously. Unlike past campaigns, this campaign will not be targeted to any specific project or initiative and will be used as unrestricted funds for worthy TWS projects.
- **TWS Foundation.** Council is pursuing the establishment of a Foundation to support TWS and is requesting the names of individuals who could potentially serve on the board of directors. Each Section Rep. is asked to provide the name of at least one individual. Considerations include:

The individual should be interested in the conservation and management of wildlife, and willing to support our efforts financially. Individuals like Paul Vahldick (Chairman and owner of the High Lonesome Ranch), Ben Wallace (President of B&C and Chairman and owner of several corporations), Simon Roosevelt, Paul D. Webster (owner of Colorado Services LLC) are just a few examples. The idea of the board is to provide guidance and help with donations. So, understanding how to generate money and being willing to donate to conservation are 2 key ingredients to consider when making recommendations.

Action Requested: Discussion and determination of one or more names.

- **Affinity Program.** TWS Council is charged with querying membership on the concept of developing an affinity program. Below is wording developed by Council to facilitate the discussion. We decided that standard wording would help reduce variability between how the question was posed. **Action Requested: Discussion.**

As The Wildlife Society (TWS) has grown in recent years, so has the size and breadth of its programs and services. Currently, TWS is facing challenges in generating the funding it needs to maintain or expand its current programs and explore new opportunities for organizational growth and service. Therefore, we need additional funding to maintain the Society's programs, services, and opportunities. A possible source is allowing companies and organizations to use TWS's logo accompanied by a statement indicating that the company/organization was a proud sponsor of TWS, or similar wording, on product packaging or websites in exchange for a financial contribution. In such an arrangement, TWS would make it clear that no endorsement of a product was being made, only that the company has made a financial contribution to TWS. To pursue this option, specific guidelines for the use of

TWS's logo would be developed. As this is a significant new approach for TWS relative to fund-raising, TWS Council is actively seeking input from members, via Section Representatives, to understand the memberships' views on this possible approach to funding. Your input is valued and appreciated. Please contact Don Yasuda – Western Section Representative for more details and/or further discussion.

- **TWS Distinguished Services Award Proposal.** TWS Council has adopted a new award that would recognize long standing TWS members who have provided substantial service to TWS but have generally not been recognized with other TWS International level awards. The intent is to provide recognition to individuals who have contributed at the Chapter and Section level but would generally not qualify for other TWS International level awards. The current criteria being discussed are:
 - 20 years of TWS (parent level) membership
 - Nominees must have served TWS in such a way that furthers the goals of TWS. Examples of service are Chapter, Section, or International Board member or Officer; served in a significant manner to keep a Chapter active or to reactivate a Chapter; consistent attendance of, at least, Chapter meetings; dependable member to support Chapter, Section, and/or international activities such as review of EIS reports, positions statements, etc.; Chapter, Section, parent, or international committee chairperson or member; assist or organize Chapter, Section, or international conferences or special meetings, programs, training seminars, etc.; as appropriate, testify at hearings, etc. Basically, a collective commitment to TWS goals and activities.

The nominations (max. of one per Section per year) are to be provided by the Section, with the Section Executive Committee forming the Awards Selection Committee for this award. A lapel pin and certificate in a plaque will be presented to awardees during the Awards Ceremony at the TWS Annual Conference. Travel support is not provided by TWS. A suggested scorecard is being developed to help guide Sections in evaluating nominations (*See attachment at end of report*). In order to be able to present the first awards in Portland, selections were made in July. **Action Requested: Discussion**

- **TWS Awards.** TWS has several awards that are considered annually. The primary ones that require Section special attention are the Group Achievement Award, TWS Fellows, and this new Distinguished Services Award.
 - Aldo Leopold Memorial Award
 - Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research
 - Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards
 - Conservation Education Award
 - Distinguished Service Award
 - Diversity Award
 - Excellence in Wildlife Education Award
 - Fellows Program
 - Group Achievement Award
 - Honorary Membership
 - Jim McDonough Award
 - Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship
 - Special Recognition Service Award
 - Student Chapter Advisor of the Year
 - Wildlife Publication Awards

Action Requested: Include these awards in the rotation for the Awards Committee to track and consider.

Discussion on additional support needs for Awards Committee.

- **Revision of Position Statement Process being Considered.** Council will be considering a proposal to significantly revamp its position statements and the process by which they are created and updated. The proposal will involve taking some existing position statements and reflecting them in our Strategic Plan and other core values documents. Examples might be Animal rights, economic growth, adaptive management, etc. A second group would be converted to fact sheets that represent focused information about a timely or geographically relevant topic that nests under the umbrella of the third group, which are the actual Position Statements. An example might be development of a Position Statement regarding Energy Development and Wildlife then a series of fact sheets, such as Solar Development , Wind Energy Development, Oil and Gas Development, etc. This change, if adopted by Council, will take some time to implement but will create an opportunity for the Section Conservation Affairs Committee to help develop Fact Sheets and influence how the Position Statements are revamped.

Membership Committee

- Our membership to date is 863. As seen in the chart, our trends have been steadily improving.
- The next renewals will be emailed out shortly and I'll gear up again for the main fall renewals in coordination with TWS.
- I have noticed some membership "creep" in the TWS renewal process. This is a concern I raised when TWS went to a member anniversary date based upon what we experienced. An example of membership "creep" would be if a member joins in December of 2010 and has an expiration date of December 31, 2011. In 2012, they don't renew until July 2012. Their expiration date for this July payments should still be December 31, 2012 but TWS will reset the new expiration date to July 2013. They do this because the member has not been receiving TWP. However, by coupling our renewal to TWS' renewal, we effectively "lose" 7 months of dues in this example. It is difficult to track how often this happens, I will need to change my database to start tracking it. I don't believe it is substantial right now, but if it becomes substantial, we may need to once again re-evaluate our member renewal dates.
- I still want to recruit TWS members that are not Section members and will work on an email and mailing shortly and develop a regular process. I will incur some postage costs to send out a few renewal notices to those without email or with bad email. This helps me flag the records that we've lost contact information for to streamline renewals. **I have not taken any action on this to date.**

Yasuda: Action Items

All:

- No applicable actions.

Yasuda:

- Pilot unified database and work with Walters to see if TWS can drive our renewal system this year. *Carry [Continue to carry. I suspect it is unlikely this will be implemented again this year given the budget difficulties and need to focus TWS staff time.]*
- Member survey with Perrine. *carry*
- Coordinate w/Renger to mine conference data to determine what percentage of section members are students and federal, state, or private sector employees. *carry (working w/TWS on affiliation & demographic data – no progress made)*
- Extract most relevant points from book on Sturgess Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure for Board distribution. *DONE. Copies to be distributed at meeting and posted online with Ops Manual.*
- Update the Operations Manual's online voting procedure. *In process. Procedures being refined by Leeman.*

Don Yasuda

Western Section Representative to TWS Council

Western Section Membership Coordinator

PO Box 1016, Diamond Springs, CA 95619 (530) 409-5405 dyasudaTWS@comcast.net

Proposed TWS Distinguished Services Award

Suggested scorecard for contributions

Contribution	Value
Twenty years of TWS membership	5
Thirty years of TWS membership	10
Forty years of TWS membership	15
Fifty years of TWS membership	20
Non-continuous membership longevity must be validated.	
Chapter Contributions:	
Organize a new Chapter	10
Revitalize an existing Chapter	8
Chapter President	5
Other Chapter Officer or Committee Chair	2
Committee Member	1
Organizer for Chapter Conference	2
Section Contributions:	
Section President	6
Other Section Officer or Committee Chair	3
Committee Member	1
Organizer for Section Conference	3
Parent Society Contributions:	
Section Representative (3-year term)	15
Committee Chair	5 to 10
Committee Member	4
Primary Organizer for National Conference	10
Committee Chair or Member for National Conference	5 to 10
Certified Wildlife Biologist	5
Review EIS or write Position Statement	5
Political Activity, lobby, testify, etc	10
Editor ¹ or organizer of a Professional Wildlife Symposium or the like. (Symposium need not be sponsored by TWS.)	10
Editor ¹ of TWS publication or journal	10
Author ¹ or coauthor of TWS publication or portion there of i.e. chapter or section	5 to 10
Other contributions	5 to 15
Suggested total points needed – 70.	

¹ If editing and authorship is of distinguished professional quality, nominee maybe a more suitable candidate for the Fellows Program.

To: Western Section Executive Board

From: Craig Bailey

Subject: Treasurer's Report

July 23, 2012

Current Assets. Section total monetary assets were \$259,280.22 at the end of June. The Wells Fargo checking account totaled \$24,302.14, the Wells Fargo savings account totaled 75,435.13, and the Schwab Account totaled \$123,793.25. The Endowment Fund currently totals \$35,749.70. After an approximately \$3,000 loss, the Endowment fund made approximately \$1,500.00 over May.

May/June/July/August 2012
Professional Development Committee Report
Chair: Rhys Evans

Sacramento 2013:

- Western Snowy Plover Symposium and Recovery Team meeting
 - Mark Colwell (HSU) and Doug George (FWS) are co-leads on technical content, Evans is lead on logistics.
- Scientific and Technical Writing Techniques-*From Field Work to Final Draft*
 - Planning to repeat in 2013
- Wilderness First Aid
 - Planning to repeat in 2013 (but change to Sat-Sun)

Events to date in 2012:

- **Bat Ecology** April 19-22; Dye Creek Ranch (Tehama Co.); 20 participants (\$2,898 profit- Income less expenses)
- **Bat Acoustics** May 15-18 Swanton-Pacific Ranch (Santa Cruz Co.); 22 participants (\$4,024 profit - Income less expenses)

Cancelled:

- **Remote Cameras** (June; Dye Creek) Due to low enrollment but advertised too late and lost 1 instructor late in the game who had high travel costs which led to higher registration fee rate. Plan to reschedule for 2013 and advertise by Annual Conference)

Scheduled:

- **Certification, San Diego (August 24)**
- **PORTLAND**
 - **Barbara Peters, 3 resume workshops**
 - **Jon Hooper, “How Not to Present a Scientific Paper”**

Not Yet Scheduled:

- **Certification, Bay Area (early November)**

Other Business:

PORTLAND 2012 Annual Meeting

- Resolved Kona sponsorship mix-up with SoCal Chapter
- Other Chapter Sponsorship in Portland? Several possible “event sponsorships” are available
- “Other” resume workshop

Decision by PDC (in consultation with Executive Committee) to not co-sponsor July Kit Fox with CCCC

ACTION ITEMS UPDATE:

Evans:

- Revisit chapter MOU model for co-sponsored workshops. *carry (in progress)*
- Consult w/Perrine and send revised MOA with language covering chapters’ responsibility in the event of cancellation to Evans. *carry (in progress)*

All:

- Revise “about us” section of the website with updated descriptions of each committee, or please notify McNerney if description already current. *Complete*