

Midwest Bat Working Group

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Louisville, KY

24 February 2011

Attendees:

Rob Mies (RM), President
Dave Redell (DR), Vice President
Brianne Walters (BW), Treasurer
Katrina Schultes (KS), Secretary
Tim Carter (TC)

Al Kurta (AK)
Bree McMurray (BM)
Gerda Nordquist (GN)
John Whitaker (JW)
Joe Kath (JK)

Action Items:

1. RM will talk to Laura regarding website to see how she feels about getting some help and/or giving up the responsibility of website management. BW will talk to Jared Helms (ISU staff) about helping us with website.
2. Webmaster post to Website:
 - a. DR provide: Add links for WI's videos of past meetings and ISU bat forum.
 - b. Post state reps, state updates, upcoming events. Post emails with "AT" instead of "@" to avoid spammers.
 - c. Post upcoming Meeting, Past Meetings (minutes) with summary of what MWBWG did and where with a couple of photos with abstracts in program – perfect place to put video links by speaker.
 - d. Link how to become a member
 - e. Link how to join listserv.
3. DR: send link to webmaster for meeting videos (laura.hohman@gmail.com)
4. JK: find Iowa POC for group (share info with BM).
5. DR: share FWS WNS confrence call notes with rest of group.
6. RM: gather nominations and Board can vote for 1-year replacement term for vice-Halsall Director position.
7. TC: edit bylaws and resend to Board for comment.
8. TC: set up MOU with SBDN to improve banking and ability for people to use a credit card for membership dues and meeting registration fees.
9. BM: gather state POC and email addresses for website and send to Webmaster (laura.hohman@gmail.com)

Meeting called to order by RM at 7:03 am.

Treasurer's Report:

- BW: current balance is \$3,447.72
 - This year brought in \$901.12. Spent \$109.40 on website annual fee and domain registration.

- 30 regular and 3 student memberships.
- DR: what do we use dues money for? Discussion:
 - 2 accounts: Registration and Dues accounts.
 - RM: could use to bring speakers in, and we could start offering student travel award (to go to NASBR) and/or presentation awards.
 - BM: SBDN has awards committee. Amount in account varies by year. Usually only a few students apply to go. 20-30 students go to SBDN/mammal colloquium annually. This year, they're doing an auction to raise money.
 - Discussion: we don't have to spend this money immediately.
 - We'd like to attract more students. May meeting works for many students who are out of school by then.
 - No Decision.

Mission:

- RM: think about main purpose why we exist. WNS and wind fatalities are driving forces that got us together. 4 areas are outlined in our mission statement that we should facilitate:
 - Coordination, Collaboration (could work more here), Communication
 - Advocate? Should we add this to our list? We should list priorities that we think would be really beneficial, for example, banding office; communications leader to work between groups.
- Do we want mid-year reporting, like a newsletter? Not really.
- DR suggested we coordinate regional-type research.
- JW noted that a banding office is available at ISU.
- RM: ISU initiating a bat forum. The meetings have been taped for years. Let's make it available on our website.

Website:

- Website: Laura Hohman put it together but she is grad student. We need a more permanent member. Jared Helms does ISU website. He's a paid staff position at ISU.
- **ACTION:** BW will talk to Jared about helping us. He could work with Laura at first. RM will talk to Laura to see how she feels about getting some help and/or giving up the responsibility.
- BW is Jared's supervisor. In future, if BW isn't on board, then president and secretary would be the individuals to "direct" the webmaster.
- Suggestion made to post FWS WNS conference call notes on website. Meeting notes should not be posted to public website, but they can be shared amongst Board.
- RM: if someone is on a meeting, and you want to post minutes or summary from the meeting, let's put it on the website. Let's post any notes, summaries, agendas, state updates.
- **ACTION:** DR will share FWS WNS call notes with rest of group.
- RM: we don't have committees really set up yet to post on the website.
- RM: **ACTION:** we should add links for videos from WI and a link to ISU bat forum.
- Website should facilitate communication. What content do we want to add to website?
 - State POC (representative from MWBWG)
 - State Updates

- BM: not sure if state updates ever got posted on website. Bree had a difficult time getting responses.
 - Maybe we should go ahead and post what we've got, with placeholders for those who haven't submitted yet.
 - If there's not state representative on the Board, get someone to agree to give us updates? Bree and Gerda originally agreed to pull together the states that aren't represented on the Board.
 - RM: which states do we not have? KY (Brooke is available); AR (Tom Risch or Blake Sasse?);
 - **ACTION:** Joe can get someone involved from Iowa.
- **ACTION:** post state reps and upcoming events. There are privacy and spam issues. Can post emails with "AT" instead of "@" to avoid spammers.
 - USFWS already posts WNS updates from various states. Should we add link or copy the info over to our website?
- **ACTION:** Post on website: upcoming Meeting, Past Meetings (minutes) with summary of what MWBWG did and where with a couple of photos with abstracts in program – perfect place to put video links by speaker. Links how to become a member, how to join listserv.

Bylaws:

- JK: rather have too much to work with than have too little and forget things.
- GN: up front, define who is what: Board of Directors = Officers + Directors who don't hold a specific office.
- Question: who has access to Membership list? State contacts could have a state list.
 - Discussed putting out a voluntary, password-protected membership list. NASBR you can register yourself to be listed. Could do Name, Affiliation, Email.
 - RM: appropriate to provide annual membership list. On membership form, check box to be included.
- TC: suggests we give the Board full power over the bylaws, at least initially. Later we can change this, after we get things organized. The Board should approve them for now. Then, at the next annual meeting, we'll bring up the bylaws and give Membership the chance to make comments/suggestions.
 - Agreed for everyone to read the bylaws closer and get rid of the extraneous details, before having the membership vote.
- By March 14th send Katrina & Tim questions, comments on bylaws. Then more discussion that Tim would edit them first and resend to Board for comment.

Vacant Director Position

- Decision has to be made about replacing Board Member (vice Halsall)
- We would like FWS representation, but they might not be able to due to conflict of interest. Maybe someone could be included as an advisor (non-voting member).
- Will gather nominations and Board can vote for 1-year replacement term.

Listserv

TC: post-only site, not a discussion list. Owners are Tim, Rob, Katrina, and Brianne. We can set it up for whole Board to post, but it might be easier to send to Tim or one of others designated who know how the list works, and how the message is going to look once posted. So designated people act as moderators who can read through email before posting and make sure it should go to the whole group. Probably 150-200(?) or so people currently on the list. Email list does not require membership. No solicitations are generally allowed.

Membership

- RM: See if agency pages can link to MWBWG website?
- What are other ideas to increase membership? Target universities, agencies
- TC: SBDN has paypal account, establish email to associate. But Brianne said ISU will not use Paypal and ISU doesn't have credit card.
- TC: would MWBWG be interested in MOU with SBDN. That way, SBDN could take cc payments on behalf of MWBWG and just write a check to MWBWG at the end of meetings or whatever. There would be a hidden link to the SBDN paypal page. Bold message indicating that MW money is going through SBDN due to banking system, and money will be transferred to MW and membership is with MW.
 - We will wait to bring this to the membership until it is set up.
 - **ACTION:** set up MOU with SBDN
- What do you get for being a member (tangible)?
 - Tangible membership benefit could be reduced meeting registration fee, if you were a member last year. Maybe 10%? Students – you have to be a member to qualify for travel award or something to that effect. Or 10% discount at OBC / ISU store, etc.
- GN: increase membership – what about pest control operators?
- 38 members and 250 people at meeting. Not everyone who attends meetings is a member. Do not want to require membership with meeting registration.
- State reps should help us get membership.

Next Meeting

Next year's meeting: ISU is open to hosting. Cranbrook (RM) is willing. Interest in moving the meeting around. TC (Ball State - IN) interested, but not next year. JK is willing (IL).

Could start with moving it around to increase interest and membership and then pick a place.

Centralize it? Northern IL?

Decision: Future meetings: 2012 ISU; 2013 IL; 2014 BSU (IN)

Bat Blitz

Potential for Bat Blitz in future, either co-hosted with SBDN or our own.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00.