



Midwest Bat Working Group

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

St. Louis, MO

4 March 2015

Attendees:

Rob Mies, President

Scott Johnson, Vice President

Brianne Walters, Treasurer

Katrina Schultes, Secretary

Tim Carter

Megan Caylor

Kari Kirschbaum

Kevin Murray

Jennifer Norris (absent)

Marne Titchenell (absent)

J. Paul White

Vanessa Rojas (Student)

Action Items:

1. [done] Website: Update board mailing list & add Megan Caylor to website for BoD list.
2. [done] Website/List-serv: send save the date email soon for 2016 meeting.
3. Megan Caylor initiate MWBWG facebook site [done] and everyone should contribute to its relevancy.
4. Membership committee: develop membership flyer, work on MW swag for members [done], work with Awards Committee to develop new student awards [deferred in 2016], work with Annual Meeting Committee to develop student professional development opportunity at future meetings [under development].
5. Annual Meeting Committee: Jenny Norris volunteered to prepare state update template and solicit state updates well in advance of the annual meeting [under development].
6. Brianne will send Paul some basic planning info for the 2017 annual meeting.

Meeting called to order by: Rob Mies at 5:58 PM

Welcome New Board Members

Committee Assignments – outgoing Gerda was on the History, Awards, and Membership committees. Megan is joining the Website committee and working on FB page.

Review NABCA Charter (discuss endorsement & affirm representative)

Part of state &/or regional working groups. Rob would like to see someone from our Board be the MW representative to North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA). This person sits in on all calls/meetings and then shares to the Board any information that comes out of that. Motion: to keep Vanessa as our rep (Tim), seconded (Kari).

MOTION PASSED by unanimous approval to keep Vanessa as our representative to NABCA.

Treasurer's Report:

Dues Fund pays for website and such – general operations account. Rob approved \$525 contribution out of this account to support the joint NA meeting. There will be \$3000 available for 2016 Meeting. Assume about \$2000 from sponsors. Little over 125 attendance is expected. Send save the date email soon for 2016 meeting.

Current membership: 50 professional & 17 students

Discussion whether to increase/decrease dues and/or registration. Not a bad thing to have \$7000 in reserve in case of sudden unexpected costs. We also talked about student awards or other ways to spend that money. No decision made.

Membership Committee Report

Paul working on video for website.

Want to bring in students and more members – need to actively advertise.

Rob wants membership committee to meet and get back to board. Why should people join? What do you get for it? What are we doing with the dues? Students must be members to be the student representative on the board. We could wrap dues into meeting registration. If that is the case, you do not have to pay as much dues, because there are more people paying. No decision made.

Committee meeting update (3/5/15) to discuss ways to improve the group's membership:

- Kevin will work on drafting promotional materials (membership flyer), as discussed, to be reviewed by the rest of the committee before sharing with the Board. Due date: year end 2015.
- Committee also discussed developing/ordering MWBWG swag, such as travel mugs that would be given to all current members (1 each) and new members as they pay dues, until they are gone. Discussed further with Rob: one side would be our official logo, and the other side could be donated bat art from Rob's contact, Fiona Reid. To do:
 - decide what type of art we want (e.g., flying bat or roosting bat, or specific species of bat) and make request to artist;
 - decide what sort of swag (e.g., travel mugs) we want to give members at our next annual meeting.
- Committee decided that best, current use of excess membership dues is to give out more student awards at annual meeting to encourage them to attend meetings. Could also provide a student mixer for professional development at future annual meetings. To-do:
 - Work with awards committee to determine what new student awards should be. Rob suggested coming up with "themes". For instance, there could be (1) best overall student presentation, (2-3) best oral & poster presentations in Ecology, (4-5) best oral & poster presentations in Phylogeny/Genetics.
 - UPDATE (1/20/16): Membership and Awards committees decided to defer creating additional student awards, due to fund constraints and low number of student presentations at recent meetings. For 2016, concentration will be on development of membership swag and first student professional development opportunity at annual meeting.

History Committee Report

Keeping track and adding on to running history. Going well.

Award Committee Report

Gerda worked on it mostly this year. Five student awards this year for the joint meeting – outstanding oral presentation (best in colloquium); SBDN oral & poster; MWBWG oral & poster. SBDN students \$150/ MWBWG \$100

Website Committee Report

Megan wondered if we are interested in Facebook or Twitter? Group thinks that it's difficult to keep updated. Facebook page – Megan volunteered to get it started and board agreed, but not interested in Twitter. Scott – always looking for things to add to website: photos, events, festivals, etc. Membership encouraged to contribute!

Annual Meeting Committee (2016 plans)

2016 Columbus, Ohio

2017 Wisconsin (Madison) – Brianne will send Paul some basic planning info.

State updates – of 10 states, we will have 8 reports. Some states sent more than the requested 5 slides. Need to improve planning for future meetings and get updates pulled together sooner – maybe provide a template that limits length of presentation.

Open Issues/Old Business:

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM by Rob Mies.