



Midwest Bat Working Group

14th Annual Meeting

Meeting Notes (Marne Titchenell, Secretary)

Virtual using Cisco Webex and In-Person at Power Valley Nature Center, St. Louis, MO

4-5 April 2022

CONGRATULATIONS to the MWBWG student award winners!! They received \$150 each:

- **Best Student Poster:** Aleana Savage, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, University of Missouri-Columbia - ESTABLISHING VIRAL DIVERSITY AND DENSITY WITHIN MISSOURI MICROBATS (CHIROPTERA: VESPERTILLIONIDAE)
- **Best Student Presentation:** Kathryn McGowan, Dept of Biology Ball State University - DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT: WILD BATS MODIFY ECHOLCATION IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS WHEN VISUAL CUES ARE PRESENT

Shelly Colatskie and Bree McMurry - Welcome and Introduction

Shelly Colatski opened the meeting at 1:02 CST.

Opening Comments:

- We are back in person, so let's network, especially with students.
- Find board members and let them know of any concerns.
- Introduced Jordan Meyer, Bat Ecologist for Missouri Dept. of Conservation – new to the position

Meeting Summary

The Meeting this year was hosted by the Missouri Department of Transportation (Bree McMurray) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (Shelly Colatskie). The meeting was hybrid and available to virtual attendees (Cisco Webex) and in-person attendees. The meeting was held at the Power Valley Nature Center, in St. Louis, Missouri. Special thanks to the nature center and staff for their hospitality and to the entire host planning committee – Jeanette Bailey, Aleana Savage, Vona Kuczynska, Kyle Jansky, and Jordan Meyer.

The meeting opened on the afternoon of April 4th at 1 pm CTS. Day 1 consisted of a plenary session, and one session of oral presentation. The poster session was in the evening, and available to virtual attendees through Gather.town (as was done for the 2021 meeting/poster session).



Day 2 consisted of two sessions of oral presentations and concluded with the MWBWG Business Meeting. The meeting concluded April 5th at 3:43 pm CTS.

The meeting program and schedule of presentations can be found at mwbwg.org.

Awards and Announcements

MWBWG Student Awards

Each student winner is presented a certificate and a \$150 award.

Best Student Poster: Aleana Savage, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, University of Missouri-Columbia - ESTABLISHING VIRAL DIVERSITY AND DENSITY WITHIN MISSOURI MICROBATS (CHIROPTERA: VESPERTILLIONIDAE)

Best Student Presentation: Kathryn McGowan, Dept of Biology Ball State University - DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT: WILD BATS MODIFY ECHOLCATION IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS WHEN VISUAL CUES ARE PRESENT

John O. Whitaker, Jr, Student Travel Award: Jen Woronecki-Ellis

Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement Award: Virgil Brack, Jr.

Sodalis Exemplary Service Award: Brian Heeringa



Midwest Bat Working Group

14th Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Virtual and In-Person at Power Valley Nature Center, St. Louis, MO

4-5 April 2022

Called to order at (12:50 PM) CST by Joe Kath, President

Special thanks to the organizing committee for putting on a great meeting!

2022 Meeting Registration:

- Total = 122 registered attendees
- 59 in-person [50 professional; 9 students]
- 63 virtual [56 professional; 7 students]
- Sponsors: Exhibitor = 3; Bronze = 2; Silver = 3

Election Results:

As a reminder, The MWBWG Board is comprised of 12 members: 4 officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) as well as 8 members at large, one of which is a student representative.

We had 37 members vote in this year's election, which ended on April 2, 2022. Lower than last year. Please vote!

The following were elected to a full 2-year term and will be eligible for reelection in 2024:

- Vice-president– Allen Kurta
- Secretary – Marne Titchenell
- Board Members: Joe Johnson, Bree McMurray, Lisa Powers, Aleana Savage (Student Rep.)

Each year, the MWBWG Board will have 6 vacant positions. In 2023, the president (currently Joe Kath) and Treasurer (currently Brianne Walters) will be up for election, in addition to 4 board members at large (Tim Carter, Jocelyn Karsk, Jeremy Sheets, and Sarah Stankavich).

Thanks to all who voted!

Board of directors meeting:

The BOD meeting was held on April 5th, at 8 am CST. The meeting minutes will be posted on our website.



MWBWG Committees:

We have 6 official committees, and we need volunteers. You do not have to be a board member to join a committee. The annual committees are listed below:

- **Annual Meeting Committee:** to assist annual host with organizing, creating a program, and schedule presentations.
- **Nomination and Election Committee:** to announce, collect, and organize nominations and run elections for Board of Directors.
- **Awards Committee:** to announce awards, accept nominations and organize judges.
- **Bylaw / History Committee:** to provide an annual report about the bylaws and keep an accurate history of the working group.
- **Website Committee:** to maintain and improve the website - requires a quarterly report on the state of the website including progress and plans.
- **Membership Committee:** to keep an accurate member list and promote to new membership.

Financial report:

The current PNC balance in our account (as of 4/3/2022) is: \$25,760.05.

NOTE: All expenses for the 2022 Meeting have not yet been deducted.

Reminder to pay membership dues as they go towards meeting planning. Dues can be paid directly on-line via the MWBWG website.

We are also housing/holding funds for Ohio, as they are doing a Bat Blitz and did not have an account to easily house and use funds. If other states need help along these lines, we may be able to help.

Ohio Bat Blitz:

Aug. 19-20 near Dayton, Ohio. If you are interested in helping contact Sarah Stankavich or Jeff Brown or visit u.osu.edu/obwg.

Membership:

As of 03/29/2022: Currently we have 190 contacts and 133 members (117 professionals (3 temporary for meeting planning team), 16 students). On Jan. 1, 2022, we had 125 members and by April 1, 2022, we had 133, a 6.4% increase. Hopefully, we have kept our membership numbers stable and have increased our membership, despite COVID restrictions.



As of 03/29/2022: We have 67 members who have not paid their 2022 dues and soon after the meeting is over, a "renewal" reminder will be sent to these individuals if it hasn't already. There may be some confusion over renewal, and the board will work to make it more intuitive.

New website and Facebook page:

Special thanks to Brian Heeringa for all the time he spent building this website.

The annual expense for the current website platform is: \$648.00/year (\$54/month).

We continue using our Wild Apricot site because of time invested in development of the site as well as the benefits and efficiencies we now have in terms of membership management, renewals, event planning, and outreach provided all in one place.

The new website and integrated membership database are working well and have greatly improved performance, reliability, online security, updates, and membership outreach and connectivity.

The Facebook page is up to nearly 2,000 followers, as of 03/25/2022 we are at 1,942. Engagement is up 200%.

A Facebook post submission "button" was created on the MWBWG homepage to allow individuals wanting to post something to obtain approval before posting. The button connects potential posters with members of the MWBWG website committee that will receive and review the request.

Bylaws:

We are working to develop an official Code of Conduct for Meeting and Activities of the MWBWG.

- We propose using the information [found here](#) on Conference anti-harassment/Responding to Reports. We particularly like that this document has example dialogue to help guide how to handle situations.
- **March 2022 DRAFT:**
SECTION 9-MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT: The Midwest Bat Working Group is committed to providing a professional environment at all our events. We expect our events to be a respectful, harassment-free environment for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, nationality, age, socioeconomic status, and belief. MWBWG values the diversity of views, expertise, opinions, backgrounds, and experiences reflected among all attendees. If you have conduct concerns, ~~please contact any member of the board.~~



- Change approved by BOD on: 3/24/2022: “please contact a member of the Midwest Bat Working Group’s Board of Directors.”
- This is posted on our website. It is akin to a mission statement. If we include a penalty at some point, it will need to be incorporated into our bylaws.

Next year’s meeting:

We are currently looking for a host for 2023 and 2025 (and beyond). Please contact one of the board members if you would like to host. If no one steps up, we will host a virtual meeting, but we’d very much like to be in-person.

Ohio has volunteered to host in 2024.

If you agree to host, know that there is help available from the board AND the state that hosted the previous year.

Awards Announcements:

See above in meeting minutes for award announcements.

Meeting concluded @ 3:43 pm CST by Joe Kath, President