
2009 Alaska Chapter and Northwest Section TWS joint business meeting

University of Alaska – Fairbanks, 8 April 2009

Introduction of NW Section officers – Howard Golden

Thanks to conference organizers – Howard Golden

Major projects since April 2008 – Howard Golden

- annual meeting location preference vote;
 - decision: Anchorage-Fairbanks-Anchorage-Juneau-Anchorage
- enhanced support to wildlife students via an increase in dues from \$5 to \$10
 - received no requests for travel funding from students this year
- polar bears - no position advanced because USFWS made a listing decision
 - currently, a TWS committee is being established to review this decision and the status of polar bears
- extended COWCH (Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage)
 - contract - \$1000 to UAF to interview/record “legacy” biologists
- established new committees to revise existing position statements
- created an opinion piece: “Reliable knowledge should guide wildlife decisions”
- improvements made to website

Treasurer’s report

- Starting balance 2008: \$4777.28
- 2008 Income: \$19,301.10 (approx. \$11K from annual mtg)
- 2008 Expenses: \$16,297.52 (approx. \$13K towards annual mtg)
- 2008 Year End Balance: \$7780.86
- Savings: \$6143.23
- TOTAL: \$13,924.09

Student Chapter report – Micah Miller

- New advisor - Perry Barboza; Thanks to Falk Huettmann for serving last 3 years
- Students working on several research projects
- Continued fundraising activities
- 50 members
- Updated website
- Coordinate several annual events

Committee Reports –Howard Golden – committee chairs/members listed below

- Legislative Affairs (Dave Yokel). Bills considered in 2009 session include:
 - HB 12: establish AK council on invasive species
 - HB 179: expand Kenai River Special Management are
 - HB 183: require no acreage lost to sport, subsistence, and commercial fishing, hunting, and trapping
 - SB 144: Eliminate resident big game fees for some muskox
- Membership (Jimmy Fox & Kim Klein)

- Plans being developed to recruit, retain, and rejoin members
- COWCH (Thomas McDonough & Kyle Joly)
Completing final year of interviews with retired wildlife biologists
- Student Participation (Tom Paragi & Cortney Pylant)
Developing plans to improve student participation and opportunities to attend conferences
- ANWR position statement (Dick Shideler)
Statement approved by membership; revised version under review by TWS National for adoption
- Pack goat/disease risk position statement (Jim Herriges)
Draft position statement written and out for review to the committee
- Tangle Lakes Letter of Support (Dave Tessler, Bob Tobey, Kyle Joly)
Background: Staking of mining claims allowed near Tangle lakes (after land conveyed from BLM to State) without public support; locals petitioned Board of Game to make it a State Refuge; BOG supported protection and wrote a letter to Governor Palin requesting a review by ADFG but there was no further action
- this is a caribou wintering area
- currently no action taken by the committee
- TWS Review of Predator Control (Bruce Dale is a member)
- nothing to report
- Newsletter Editor (Jim Herriges) - nothing to report
- Webmaster (Liz Solomon) - needs photos for the website

New Business

- Annual meeting date preference - opinion poll in May newsletter
- Sponsor moose workshop
- Member privacy contact lists
 - Issue of concern that TWS National is making member names and contact information available upon request and is also selling lists to certain groups.
 - Sheila Dufford moved and Perry Barboza seconded that the Executive Boards of the Alaska Chapter and NW Section draft a letter to request that National ask for member approval before providing their names/contact information to anyone and to let members know who lists are being sold to. Members present voted to approve motion.

NW Section – Sanjay Pyare

- New President: Terry Bowyer
- NW Section Rep: Ellen Campbell
- Revisions to NW Section bylaws are being considered
- Discussing using NW Section to disseminate info from TWS to chapters and members of the NW Section.