

**TWS Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group
Executive Board Conference Call
10/05/2009 (6:00pm EST)**

Attendees: Ted, Derek, Stacy, Alison

Topic of Discussion: 5 year action plan

Treasurer's Update (Caleb): N/A

Annual Meeting:
Minutes - N/A

There were several researchers at the meeting interested in setting up a symposium for next year. Attendance was approximately 15

Board Representative Reports

International Update (Jean, via Stacy): Jean is working on figuring out how to expand the influence of the working group in Canada, where issues such as tar sands mining and expanding road networks will require restoration knowledge. Private firms do most of the restoration work in Canada. Current big issues in Canada include Migratory Bird regulations regarding take for restoration or during restoration and the transition of timber activities to an ecosystem management framework.

Western Update (Derek): Derek sent out email communication to the Western WG members 6 months ago, but received no response. Derek suggested that having a strong chair helps keep the WG active, which improves membership action. He noted that attendance at this year's annual meeting was apparently much better than at Miami, where only 4 people were attended. He suggested that asking for concrete feedback from membership can likely increase the response.

Central Update (Suzie c/o Stacy): N/A

Southeast Update (Ted): Florida's FWC (Fish & Wildlife Commission) has had stakeholder meetings on draft imperiled species rules throughout the state. The meetings focused on changes in meaning. For instance, "harassment" of an animal differs from previous definitions; "harass" will refer to *intentional* harassment (intent to harm an animal), yet will differ from take – feeding animals will not qualify as harassment, for instance. Changes in listing criteria were also addressed, particularly to accommodate species such as manatees, as some are hoping to downlist them. Florida has also put up several Requests for Proposals for funding restoration work. A group received about \$4 million from NOAA as part of the stimulus package for oyster

reef restoration (see oysterrestoration.com). This is a good example of large-scale restoration work.

Northeast Update (Stacy): Massachusetts created the first Habitat Restoration department within Fish & Wildlife – it is touted as the first division in the nation devoted just to wildlife restoration. The Natural Heritage Program is at risk because a bill in the House would change the terminology of the regulations for the state. Natural Heritage review would only be allowed for species designated as significant, yet Natural Heritage also maps priority & estimated habitat! No habitat in the entire state is yet designated. The jurisdiction of the Natural Heritage organization would be gutted if this was required. Debates are ongoing in the statehouse.

Chair Report

Communications (Webpage) Update (Alison):

Stacy suggested that at least 1 article per quarter be added to the “Lessons Learned” section of the website (1 every 3 months). Both peer-reviewed and general research could be submitted to this section.

Alison requested word documents (with photos included or attached) including restoration experiences; PDFs of published/peer-reviewed research could be added only with permission from the publisher.

Feedback from the Annual Conference suggested that the website should be the focus of the working group. The website must provide an open information exchange for professionals while providing a way for others to find restoration professionals for fact-checking, for instance. This will be the focus of the November monthly meeting.

New Business

5 Year Plan: This was finalized at the meeting in Miami in 2008. Membership involvement and involvement from the board are the biggest requirements.

Suggestions included assigning deadlines to goals and objectives from the plan and having the chair focus on 1 main task from the 5-year plan at a time, with remaining tasks passed to the Chair-Elect at the end of each term.

The Secretary was not available to report, but no one noted contributions by WHRWG members or by the board to the Wildlife Professional. Stef (previous Past Chair) had hoped to write up a summary of the field trip at Miami. Ron hoped to do a workshop or symposium, but had difficulty getting this set up.

Charter: The by-laws must be revised for resolving an election tie and to comply with changes requested by TWS.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline
Calendar – Monthly Board Meetings (add information for calling in) – call-in information will <i>probably</i> be the same...	Alison	ASAP/Monthly
Post Agendas and Meeting Minutes State Wildlife Action Plans link	Alison	ASAP
Post the 5-year plan to the website; send link to Stacy (also include list of member emails that aren't on the listserv)	Alison	1-2 days (by Oct. 7)
Send link to listserv regarding the 5-year plan	Stacy	1 week
Put by-laws/charter on website somewhere more obvious (under Goals?)	Alison	1-2 days (by Oct. 7)
Amend bylaws regarding an election tie and change Canada to International (sent with 5-year plan notification)	Stacy	1 week
Website Updates	Stacy	November meeting Quarterly (Next one within a week, hopefully!)
Case Studies/Reviews	Section Reps (reminder from Stacy)	
Obtain section-specific region lists for all board representatives (need at least state of residence so region can be determined)	Kim (needs to be notified by Stacy)	E-mail by next week
Agenda sent out min. 1 week before	Stacy	1 week before meeting (Oct. 19 th for next one)

Discussion

Ted liked the action items; he likes the once/month meetings, and he likes the idea of assigning a deadline to all of the items on the 5-year plan

Derek likes the agenda so we know what we're talking about. He also likes the once/month meeting. Getting the accurate number out helps.

Stacy likes having everyone held accountable for tasks so that we can accomplish something. Having these monthly meetings will help the board communicate and get to know each other. Video conferencing could be used, as well.

Adjourned: 5:11 pm

Next meeting: Monday, November 2, 2009