

Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Minutes of the 2010 Business Meeting
March 10, 2010 The Owyhee Plaza, Boise

The 2010 business meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 1655 by President Dave Stricklan. Ten members and 3 officers attended.

A motion was made and approved to skip over the minutes from the 2008 business meeting which were not read at the 2009 business meeting due to the Sylvia Copeland's (ICTWS Secretary) illness.

Minutes of the 2009 business meeting were approved as read by the Secretary (and recorded by the President).

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. Final account balances as of December 2009 were \$9,599.95 in our checking account and \$8,425.53 in the Fidelity investment account. The Landuse Summit balance, which we are holding in our account but which is slated for future Landuse-related activities, sat at \$25,120.22.

Income from 2009 was \$13,268.78 including \$10,477.49 from meeting registration, \$1,500.00 from sponsors, \$628.00 from auction, \$360.00 from membership dues, and \$303.29 from interests on the 3 accounts. The figure from membership dues is misleading because of a) the split between National and direct payment, and b) the \$360 received in 2009 were dues through National, but then we received additional 2009 dues from National in early 2010. Actual membership is over 110. Sylvia Copeland said that current 2010 membership is over 130, approx. 85 through National and the rest direct payment to ICTWS or with meeting registration.

Expenses from 2009 totaled \$12,528.31, including \$5,631.44 for annual meeting expenses, \$100.00 for Northwest Section dues, \$1,626.46 for meeting gifts, funding requests for \$1,400.00 (\$500 for Idaho Land Trust Coalition; \$900 for U of I Student Chapter to attend the Western Student Conclave), \$391.65 for awards and supplies, \$1440.00 for website creation and maintenance, and miscellaneous including PayPal fees for \$238.76. Notes: PayPal fees are \$250 for every \$10,000. Website maintenance is approximately \$400/year.

Toni Holthuijzen commented that \$1,626.46 for meeting gifts seemed high compared to what ICTWS spends on students. Jon Dudley said that the gifts are approx. \$8/person. Dave Stricklan commented back that what folks seem to think important about our annual meetings are the quality of the talks and the gifts.

Old Business

At the 2009 meeting, ICTWS asked Kerry Reese from the University of Idaho and Terry Bowyer from Idaho State University to provide the Chapter with the history of the scholarships that were supported by donations from the Chapter and what the current status of these scholarships is.

Idaho State University Scholarship

EDSON FICHTER SCHOLARSHIP

The Edson Fichter Scholarship at ISU was established in July 1991 for a deserving student studying wildlife ecology. The Scholarship was seeded by ICTWS making a \$1,000 donation for each of 3 years and awarded when the endowment reached \$5,000. The current value of the endowment is \$10,519.92. Anyone may contribute to this endowment, but donations have been down in recent years as the number of contributors who remember Dr. Fichter has declined. The scholarship currently offers slightly more than \$800 to the recipient. With increases in costs of living and tuition, the scholarship provides far less support than it did even when it was first awarded. One semester of in-state tuition (and required health insurance) for a graduate student at Idaho State University is \$3,315.

Proposal

Dr. Edson Fichter made numerous and important contributions to the wildlife profession. The donations from ICTWS provided the seed to keep his memory and his science alive at ISU. The scholarship, however, no longer provides adequate funding for a graduate student. Terry Bowyer proposes that ICTWS consider contributing \$500/year, with that donation contingent upon adequate finances and the approval of the Executive Committee of ICTWS, until the endowment is large enough to fund one semester of fees at ISU.

University of Idaho Scholarships

Scholarships at UI are typically derived through endowments that earn interest. Approximately 4% of the principle is typically awarded to students each year.

ELMER R. NORBERG & WILLIAM MEINERS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in 1984 and honors the contributions of Elmer Norberg and William Meiners, ICTWS Presidents from 1968 and 1974. The scholarship may be awarded to a junior, senior or graduate student in wildlife resources. The ICTWS donated \$1400 in 1984, \$500 in 1985, and \$3100 in 1997 to complete the pledged amount of \$5000 total. With additional donations and growth of the principle, the current balance is \$21,418.76. The 2009 recipient is Landon Moore, from Texas, who received \$846. The 2010 recipient was Will Black, an undergraduate who received \$763.

CRAIG TERRY KVALE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship honors the life and contributions of Craig Kvale, UI alum (MS wildlife 1981), TWS member, and Idaho Fish and Game biologist who succumbed to cancer at a young age. Initiated in 2002 with a \$1500 donation from ICTWS, employees of the Magic Valley region of Idaho Department of Fish and Game donated a total of \$3836 from February 2005 to March 2007. With additional contributions and growth, the endowment now contains \$19,719.88. Awarded to a graduate student, the 2009 recipient was Jeremy Baumgardt, Ph.D. student from Washington, who received \$730. The 2010 recipient was Matt Sorum, a graduate student, who received \$614.

MICHAEL GRATSON FIELD EXPERIENCE AWARD

The Gratson Award, established by Nancy Hoefs Gratson in memory of the bold and innovative wildlife research and field work of Michael Gratson, is offered to undergraduate students following their sophomore or junior year, enrolled in the fish or wildlife program, to support summer educational field work experiences that they might not otherwise be able to afford because of low or no pay. Since the endowment began in 2001, ICTWS has donated a total of \$5470. With contributions from other family and friends, the endowment currently contains slightly over \$50,000. The Award is typically for \$1000-2000. The 2009 recipient is Jeff Stackhouse, a double major in wildlife and rangeland ecology, who received \$2000 to support his travel and salary for a volunteer position banding waterfowl in Canada. The 2010 award will be determined late March/early April.

A discussion followed on Terry Bowyer's proposal for ICTWS to contribute \$500 per year to the Fichter scholarship.

Suggestions included:

- raise registration fees for the annual meeting to cover these costs, if necessary, but also contribute the same amount to U of I scholarships
- omit the door gifts and ICTWS instead give money to student scholarships
- seek more sponsors to help pay for door gift (as in past)
- check-off option during registration
- all auction proceeds towards funding scholarships as Society for Range Management does – might result in better participation from members and businesses sponsoring

Discussion on if ICTWS contributes to ISU scholarship, then should also contribute to an U of I scholarship, but should also be for a graduate student. At this time, it seems difficult for ICTWS to commit to \$500-\$1000/year.

The following motion was made, seconded, and all were in favor:

ICTWS will contribute \$500 once by April 2011 to U of I and ISU endowments each for graduate students, contingent on funding availability by the Chapter.

Permanent funding possibilities will be explored further by the Executive Committee.

New Business

Student Travel Awards from NW Section

Terry Bowyer, NW Section President, mentioned that NW Section will donate up to \$1000 to each chapter for student travel if the chapter matches the funds. Funds can be awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student, as well as recent graduate – the decision is up to the chapter.

Elections

7 accepted nominations for 4 positions.

2010-2011 Officers

Jim Hayden, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, was elected the new President
David Musil, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Vice-President
Jon Dudley, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Treasurer
Colleen Moulton, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Secretary

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

Dave Stricklan suggested that the Executive Committee meet during the summer some time. Previously met in the fall, but time and efforts are taken up with planning the upcoming meeting. Another meeting would be necessary to make progress on any other items concerning the Chapter. A discussion followed. Other chapters have quarterly ExCom meetings. Summer, i.e. the field season, may be a difficult time to meet and spring might be better. The Northwest Section always has a hard time meeting because of being so spread out. The Society for Range Management has an informal spring meeting with camping and brainstorming sessions.

Jim Hayden, newly elected ICTWS President, said that there are discussions of two different things: a second annual ExCom meeting or an informal social/business meeting with other chapter members. The incoming President decided to have an ExCom meeting in the spring and get committees going, and then to work on a social/informal business meeting. A second annual ExCom meeting is already written in the ICTWS bylaws, therefore don't need a motion on this.

Awards Committee

Jack Connelly and Kerry Reese were on the Awards Committee and have volunteered again, this time with Tom Rinkes from BLM.

Other New Business

A discussion on the history of ICTWS issuing white papers followed after mention of the Conservation Review committee. In the past, ICTWS issued a statement on the grizzly bear. ICTWS tried to do something similar with the gray wolf, but there were differences of opinion even among Chapter Officers. ICTWS cannot write a paper counter to the Parent Society. Oregon and Alaska have active conservation review committees; ICTWS members interested should review their websites.

The 2011 meeting will be in eastern Idaho.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1810.

Addendum

2010 Paper awards announced at the banquet were:

Kerri Vierling, University of Idaho – best professional oral presentation for ‘Lidar applications for wildlife biodiversity and habitat modeling.’

Kevin Monteith, Idaho State University – best student presentation for ‘Fecal nitrogen as an index to diet quality: sex-specific effects.’

2010 Poster awards announced at the banquet were:

Sonya Knetter, Idaho Department of Fish and Game – best professional poster for ‘Recovery, delisting, protection, and monitoring of the bald eagle.’

Amy Ulappa, Boise State University – best student poster for ‘Developing a metabonomic tool to understand foodscapes for pygmy rabbits.’

The Charles E. Harris Professional Wildlifer Award was awarded to Randy Smith, Wildlife Manager for the Magic Valley Region, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Special Recognition Award was awarded to Al Larson, the “Bluebird Man”

Minutes submitted by Sylvia Copeland, out-going Secretary