

WVMNSAC Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Minutes

Attendees: Andy Dalton, Scott Warner, Jim Fregonara, Tony Maciorowski, Denise Gwinn, Ann Wakeford, Steve Swank, Jim Van Gundy, Tommy Zeitz, Sheldon Owen, Kieran O'Malley, Clark Dixon, Becky Linger, Ellen Hrabovsky

Meeting was not formally called to order, but appeared to begin around 10: 05 a.m.

Welcome to Tony Maciorowski: New coordinator for Potomac Valley.

Scott remarks: Try to stick to the agenda. Need to address the conferences. Will address DNR issues.

President's Report

- Business report: Things are going smoothly. This year's conference is up and running. Special thanks to Denise Gwinn for the hours she has spent on computer work. We had over 50 people register the first few days, but haven't had a registration since the virus outbreak became more serious. Am taking this time to try to develop the state instructor list that has been on hold.
- Conference 2021 - As you know, we are up to about 150 people attending our state conference which means we should have 6 break out rooms. This leaves out many of the parks. Scott has said that every other year we can use a non-park facility. I am still waiting for 2 conference centers to respond before we can decide on 2021's conference.
- Stonewall is too expensive – the rental alone for the conference center is \$3,525. Cacapon will likely be too expensive once their conference facility is renovated (expect charges over \$1500). Chief Logan can squeeze us in if we limit the size of 2 of our breakout sessions (will work). I have also contacted Glade Springs (will work), Wheeling Island (too small), Days Inn in Flatwoods (too expensive \$1500 for conference center rental) and Bridgeport Conference Ctr (too expensive). Let me know of any places that are large enough that are reasonable. I am waiting to hear from Oglebay and Lakeview Golf. Will let you know before the conference call.

We are having our conference at the most expensive time of the year. Would we consider changing the date to March, April, September or October?

- MN Chapter at Oglebay, West Liberty – had to cancel meeting. Will re-schedule. Looks very possible.
- Need new Web manager – Thanks to Denise Gwinn. Need to pass the baton. Please ask around and suggest possible names.
- Herbicide training – Anyone in your chapter interested in taking classes to become a technician to apply herbicides in parks.
- Certified Interpretive Guide Training – Anyone in your chapters interested in taking the 40 hour certified interpretive guide class?
- Anyone in your chapter interested in leading a statewide MN project at a park this fall?
- 2020 Conference Cancellation: We can cancel the conference as late as May 15th due to the pandemic. Could reschedule for August or September and the weekend of June 12-14 in 2021.

Scott: cancel

Keith: cancel

Tony: cancel

Steve: Cancel

Tommy: Cancel

Clark: I'm of the opinion that we should move it to August or September of this year.

Jim: Cancel
Ellen: Cancel
Ann: Cancel
Emily: Cancel

It was generally agreed that we should cancel the conference for this year and revisit this issue at a later date when we can meet face-to-face.

Chapter Reports

Monongahela: The Monongahela MN chapter completed our 2019 classes successfully, We held our four series book club December-March with good attendance. It is a very popular winter event here. due to the COVID-19 plague WVU has shuttered its buildings and since we meet there - no meetings yet! We have postponed classes and recruiting until at least late April, Video conferencing is not an option at this time.

Tygart Valley: Our chapter hosted a meeting on March 12 to bring some nature to our community as well as to promote and explain the naturalist program plus recruit new members. 37 folks attended to hear an hour long presentation about coyotes, light refreshments were served at a cost of \$ 53.00. The meeting was promoted in the local Inter-mountain newspaper at a cost of \$300.00 , the paper has a circulation of about 7,000 We received a commitment from two attendees to join our chapter with three expressing to be very interested. We held two classes one Saturday a month from April to November providing 12 Core and 3 electives. Our 2020 schedule has been put on hold for now. Certified two new graduates.

Canaan Valley: As with most of you, our classes are on hold for now, considering using Zoom for a few of the classes that are mostly lecture. Could do the outdoor/lab part of classes at a later time.

Conference Planning Guide: Clark will be spearheading the document from this point. Ellen points out that the location of the conference needs to come from the WVMNSAC, then the chapter to take over the details. Ellen, Steve, Andy and Clark will be the committee.

New Chapter Document: Give any comments to Andy. She's spearheading this.

Scott's action item updates from email:

- **Redesign of the MN Brochure and development of a marketing strategy**
 - Working with Rachel Davis – with NRG Master Naturalist Chapter (who has prepared the attached two proposals for next week's discussion)
- **Showcasing WV MN – thank you...**
 - Receiving several press releases from Chapters – which I have been forwarding on to our Director's Office.
 - Appreciate Becky's interest / recent assistance in providing us materials for FB posts – focused on educational activities available for kids to do while they are out of school.
 - Have some other ideas, that I may run by everyone.
- **Oglebay/West Liberty (Northern Panhandle trip.**
 - Was cancelled – following travel restrictions, etc... Will reschedule after pandemic.
 - Andy and I have been on the phone several times – and there is a lot of interest in WL establishing a student chapter and renewing interest with the local chapter.
- **DNR Updates:**
 - R3 – Summit – February (MN representation)
 - Herp regulations

- DNR Commissioner approved our request to solicit comments concerning two proposals to change current reptile and amphibian regulations (see attached 2020 Sectional Questionnaire). Even if your members do not hunt or fish, we would like to get their input on our proposed regulations as outlined on page 9 (these species have been identified in our State Wildlife Action Plan as Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need).
- Note Page 2: Comments and Questionnaires are to be mailed in by April 3, 2020.
 - Possible fundraising opportunity – Wildlife Calendar
 - Toyota interest in hosting a pollinator event (currently on hold)
 - Private Landowner Opportunities (possibly adding two more positions).

Scott: Wants to schedule a face-to-face meeting scheduled in June, July or August to discuss the action items in detail.

Action Items: Stay in touch. If there's a need for your members, let us know.

Firefly Citizen's Project: You can report the fireflies through the ARGIS Project:
<http://tinyurl.com/wvfirefly>

Timber Rattler Project is closed.

Box Turtle Project will be coming out soon. Website should be active in April.
<https://tinyurl.com/wvboxturtle>

Herbicide and Pesticide Treatment: If you want more details, Anne Wakeford has been working on this (304) 642-8724 cell.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.