

Alaska Herpetological Society
Annual Member Meeting
November 12, 2016
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Officers present: President Don Larson (**DL**), Vice President Seth Perry (**SP**), Treasurer Josh Ream (**JR**), Secretary Mark Spangler (**MS**)
Members present: Lindy Larson (**LL**)

DL calls meeting to order at 12 pm.

2016 Teaching Grant Update

- **DL** reports grant awardee Melanie Hinzmann conducted frog dissections as per grant application.
- **DL** will continue to work with Hinzmann to incorporate amphibian reproduction lesson plans into curriculum.
- Lesson plans to include potential field trip with students to Creamer's Field to observe amphibian life cycles.
- Suggested to take kids to view frogs during Mother's Day Frog Walk, or Spring Migration Festival. **DL/MS** will work with Mark Ross to coordinate participation in event(s).

2015 Research Grant

- **MS** will upload grant report and receipts to shared drive for easy access.

2017 Grant

- **JR** reports treasury currently sits at \$356.80
- **JR** motions to bypass 2017 grant solicitation, reserve grant for researchers when it is next offered.
 - DL** seconds. Motion passes.
- **JR** motions AHS will only solicit grant applications in years when treasury is \$500 or more.
 - DL** seconds. Motion passes.

2017 Spring Newsletter

- Newsletter remains undone since 2013, important for member interaction (priority).
- Newsletter editor position not likely to be filled - each officer will make a small contribution with an article or two.
- First drafts due on Feb. 1.
- **JR** will approach Dustin Hattenburg (designer) to compile the articles into a newsletter.
- **MS** will recover the remains of Bradford's previous work on the newsletter.
- Distribution to coincide with spring events (before conference is best!)

2016 FrogWatch

- **MS** established first AK chapter of FrogWatch in 2016.
- First season in Fairbanks saw ~ two dozen volunteers trained, 5 volunteers submit data, 11 sites registered, 38 surveys conducted, 21 observations, 1 species.

- **SP** expresses interest in co-coordinating the chapter and leading a training session in Petersburg, potentially coinciding with SLAMP.
- **JR** expresses the same for Anchorage.
- **MS** will share more information at the start of the 2017 season.
- **DL** question practicality of incorporating villages (e.g. investigate Siberian Newts in Nome).

LEO Network

- **MS** has worked with ANTHC to establish wood frog project on LEO Network
<https://www.leonetnetwork.org/en/posts/show/561D9051-DD9C-44AD-959F-1638E37C3A23>
- **JR** motions to replace EpiCollect (previously endorsed digital observation collection software) with LEO
 - **DL** seconds. Motion passes.
- **MS** will contact LEO admins about linking to their site from AHS site.

2016 SLAMP/Camp'Phibian

- **JR, SP** continue to run SLAMP with enthusiasm from participants.
- Funding will continue to be more difficult now that SLAMP is not tied to JR dissertation research.
- Plans are to reduce number of sites and duration of trips, and to rotate through sites yearly.
- No 2016 funding for Camp'Phibian (grant application was unsuccessful) but Girl Scouts are excited to continue the program in the future.
- Southeast Subsistence Advisory Council may help with 2017 funding, would need to incorporate 3 communities (Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell).
- **JR** reminds of previous resolution allowing AHS President to offer complimentary one-year memberships, suggests to offer Joni Johnson free annual membership for her contributions.
- **DL** motions to offer J. Johnson free annual membership.
 - **MS** seconds. Motion passes.

Fundraising

- No artists were found to design t-shirts this year.
- **JR** will approach Dustin Hattenburg about designing t-shirts next year.
- Theme chosen was the enigmatic Alaska worm salamander.
- If Dustin declines or is unaffordable, re-use old design.
- **SP** will look into affordability of vinyl stickers.
- **DL** motions to pursue t-shirts, order as requested, collect payment up-front.
 - **SP** seconds. Motion passes.
- **DL** motions to pursue stickers.
 - **SP** seconds. Motion passes.
- **JR** amends sticker motion that costs cannot exceed 50% of treasury
 - **DL** seconds. Motion passes.

2017 Conference

- To be held in spring.
- \$20 registration fee, \$5 member discount.
- **MS** will check with museum about teleconferencing.
- **MS** motions to have AHS Conference coincide with TWS annual meeting (April 4-6).

- **DL** seconds. Motion passes.
- **MS** will speak with TWS admins about promotion
- **DL** motions for 2017 to have 2 membership meetings, one during conference for updating members on AHS activities and one at year's end for elections.
- **SP** seconds. Motion passes.

Officer Elections

- Candidates:
 - President: Don Larson and Mark Spangler
 - Vice President: Seth Perry
 - Secretary: Mark Spangler
 - Treasurer: Joshua Ream
- **MS** withdraws candidacy from president.
- All officers retain positions via unanimous consent.

Final Business

- **DL** will coordinate a 2017 social retreat.
- **JR** motions that social event funds may not exceed 50% of the treasury.
 - **DL** offers to self-fund social event
- **MS** will pursue a UAF student org for herps to meet monthly to discuss current topics in herpetology, meetings to be open to AHS member base.
- **JR** suggests officer meeting before conference for planning.
 - **DL** will organize mid-January officer meeting.

MOSTIONS PASSED

- Bypass 2017 grant solicitation, reserve grant for researchers when it is next offered
- AHS will only solicit grant applications in years when treasury is \$500 or more
- Replace EpiCollect with LEO Network
- Offer J. Johnson free annual membership
- Solicit t-shirts orders (as requested, payment up-front) as fundraising opportunity
- Order vinyl stickers to sell as fundraisers, up-front costs may not exceed 50% treasury
- AHS Conference to coincide with TWS annual meeting (April 4-6, 2017)
- Two membership meetings in 2017 (one during conference, one at year's end)

ACTION ITEMS

Don Larson

- Continue to work with grant awardee M. Hinzmann to incorporate amphibian biology/ecology into curriculum.
- Discuss with Mark Ross the feasibility of including students in Mother's Day Frog Walk or Spring Migration Festival.
- Contribute an article or two to AHS newsletter. First draft due Feb. 1st.
- Coordinate 2017 social retreat.
- Organize mid-January officer meeting to plan conference, newsletter

Seth Perry

- Contribute an article or two to AHS newsletter. First draft due Feb. 1st.
- Continue to work with Petersburg, surrounding communities, and SE Subsistence Advisory Council on future SLAMP and Camp'Phibian funding.
- Look into affordability of vinyl stickers.

Josh Ream

- Contribute an article or two to AHS newsletter. First draft due Feb. 1st.
- Discuss with Dustin Hattenburg his willingness to compile the articles into a newsletter.
- Continue to work with Petersburg, surrounding communities, and SE Subsistence Advisory Council on future SLAMP and Camp'Phibian funding.
- Discuss with Dustin Hattenburg his willingness and costs to design t-shirts (worm salamander).

Mark Spangler

- Upload 2015 grant report and receipts to shared drive.
- Contribute an article or two to AHS newsletter. First draft due Feb. 1st.
- Compile Bradford Norman's newsletter remains.
- Forward 2017 FrogWatch training info to JR and SP at beginning of season.
- Contact LEO admins about linking to their sits from AHS site.
- Send member letter/card to Joni Johnson.
- Check with UA Museum about teleconferencing the AHS conference.
- Discuss with TWS admins promotion of the AHS conference.
- Pursue UAF student org., monthly discussions in 2017.