

Alaska Herpetological Society
Annual Member Meeting
November 29, 2015
1:00 PM - 2:45 PM

Officers present: President Joshua Ream (**JTR**), Secretary Mark Spangler (**MS**)
Members present: Jesika Reimer (**JPR**), Don Larson (**DL**)

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Welcome/Report

JTR calls meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

- Reminds members of meeting structure: stand-alone meeting in odd years, meeting held in conjunction with conference in even years
- Suggests survey monkey polls as a means to reach a wider audience when necessary
- Opens the floor to meeting agenda revisions or additions. None offered.
- Expresses gratitude towards member base, reminds attendees of organization's creation in 2012 and recent recognition of 501 c3 nonprofit status
- Thanks core group of members who provide extra support to the organization

Vice President's Report

Skipped

Secretary's Report

MS has served in the position since August 2015

- Reports organization has grown by one new member (3-year) and one renewing member in that time
- At year's end, will update membership directory and solicit fees from former members interested in renewing their membership (**JPR** suggests accompanying email solicitations with a postcard)
- Will send out holiday cards again this year (**JTR** mentions postage discount for 501 3c organizations)
- Will look into transferring officer files from DropBox to G-Drive for unlimited storage space

Treasurer's Report

JTR reports vacant position, current treasury of \$814.67

OLD BUSINESS

AK Forum on the Environment grant

JTR reports that ~ \$730 remained from unused 2015 SLAMP grant money, available for 2016

- During officer meeting in Sept., officers voted to apply funds to boat fuel and trip food (AKFE denied)
- AKFE approved to designate remaining funds towards 2016 airfare and equipment/supplies
- Grant now closed

Camp'Phibian 2015

JTR reports successful second year

- Reminds attendees that Camp'Phibian is a monitoring project carried out in conjunction with the Girl Scout program in Wrangell, a product of Ph.D. research, sponsored by AHS
- Limited inventories were conducted in 2015 due to volunteer availability, but Girl Scouts would like to see project continue as long as funding allows

2015 Research Grants Program

MS was awarded AHS research grant in April 2015

- Reports funds spent in summer 2015 towards field gear and lab equipment
- Provides overview of project and current status
- Brief overview will also be included in upcoming newsletter
- Further updates to come as research progresses

2015 Science Potpourri

MS reports first time AHS attendance at UAF's annual event in April

- Volunteered by DL and MS
- Included wet specimens from UA Museum teaching collection in addition to AHS "outreach kit"
- Well attended by community and well received by event organizers (invite to return in 2016)

Campbell Creek Midnight Sun Science Series

JTR reports AHS representation at event

- Presented on amphibians with help from live specimens from AHS captive collection
- Organizers report it was one of the most-attended presentations in that series

Don Larson Update

- Has recently completed parasite surveys, currently writing thesis
- Will defend summer or fall semester of 2016

Jesika Reimer Update

- Recent personnel changes in the AK Natural Heritage Program
- Current concentration on small mammals
- Still compiling general report on amphibians (specifically newt)
- Will share link to website submissions
- Mapping database in the works

ADFG Captive Specimen Permit

JTR reports AHS holds permit for live captives to be used for outreach and education

- Currently holds one newt and one wood frog which are widely used

MS reports one recently deceased captive individual, will collect again next year for ed/outreach events in the interior

JTR opens floor to any remaining old business. None offered

NEW BUSINESS

SLAMP 2016

JTR reports ticket purchased, dates set for 2016 SLAMP (May 13-21, 2016)

- In conjunction with Little Norway Festival (AHS has a stand)
- Will include another AmphiBlitz
- Additional funding from GoFundMe online account

AZA FrogWatch USA, AHS Chapter application

MS reports AHS is approved to host chapter

- Provides overview of program
- Working with AZA to make protocol accommodations
- Alternative or additional platform for citizen monitoring is iNaturalist, users can contribute to Global Amphibian BioBlitz project and/or a to-be-created Alaska-specific project

JPR expresses interest in collaboration, possible use of AKNHP as a conduit for future volunteer recruitment

JTR suggests EpiCollect application as another method for volunteer voucher submission

- Also suggests reviving the "Society of the Alaska Worm Salamander" to incentivize/thank volunteer contributions

Additional Education Events

JTR suggests additional outreach events:

- Mother's Day Frog Walk at Creamer's Field
- Migration Festival at Creamer's Field
- Rainforest Festival in Petersburg
- UAF Science Potpourri

MS and DL will collaborate to attend Fairbanks events

Research Grants 2016

JTR reports past year was \$500 award for a student researcher

- Officers previously approved to lower to \$250 for 2016, due to limited funds
- Officers previously approved to designate even year awards for K-12 education
- Attendees vote to retain this structure

MS suggests to distribute call for proposal widely to teachers, via school district officials

Website Renewal

JTR reports website has generally received positive feedback

- Reports costs for maintaining web site domain name and web tools are \$145.32 every two years
- Set to expire February 2016
- Unanimous decision to approve renewal, executive order

2016 US-IALE Amphibian Symposium (International Association of Landscape Ecologists)

MS reports approval to organize and host an amphibian symposium at US-IALE

- Ashland, NC, April 3-7 2016
- Conference theme: Landscape change, Symposium theme: Amphibians in a changing landscape
- Abstract submission open to students, professors, researchers, agency/NGO employees, etc.
- Abstract deadline December 15, 2015
- Spread the word to interested individuals!

AHS Social Events

JTR suggests a Denali SP cabin/tent camping trip

- Summer weekend, roughly \$70

JPR suggests to combine with herp surveys

DL suggests to rent early as weekends book fast

JPR/MS suggest pick weekend that works for officers and reserve ASAP

- Survey poll members early so they can mark their calendars
- Survey poll members again later once they have a clearer picture of summer plans

JTR suggests reviving Anchorage "Herp Nerds" gatherings

2016 AHS Conference

JTR reports conference organization will involve close officer collaboration

- Conference will coincide with business meeting as in prior years
- Potential to plan around a separate fall conference to boost attendance
- Registration cost ~\$20, used to purchase food, pad the treasury
- Suggests regional chairs to organize with the universities
- Mapping party and subsequent regional social events post-conference

Fundraising

JTR reports secretary and treasurer work together to keep membership file and dues up to date

- Typical expenses include mailing, postage, stationary, GRANT AWARDS
- Revive t-shirt sales to provide income (ideas include reptile theme, invasives theme, and inclusion of a witty slogan)
- Postcards for membership fees reminder
- Possibility of combining conference registration/3 year membership fee for a discount
- Possibility of changing membership to end of calendar year instead of full year

Officer Elections

JTR reports full ballot, one candidate per position:

- President: Don Larson
- Vice President: Seth Perry
- Secretary: Mark Spangler
- Treasurer: Joshua Ream

JPR motions to close nominations

MS seconds

JTR and MS give nominee statements

- Unanimous consent to elect candidates

JTR opens floor to final business

Newsletter

MS asks about status of Bradford and newsletter

JTR suggests secretary assumes duty of "supervising" newsletter chair

MS accepts, will connect with Bradford and assume editing and distribution responsibilities

DL will provide "Incoming President's Corner" contribution

DL brings meeting to close

ACTION ITEMS

- Secretary will print and send holiday greeting cards (will begin and solicit help once semester ends) (Don, a picture of a frozen frog would be great!)
- Secretary and treasurer will work to update membership directory and solicit fee renewals via email AND postcard at year's end
- Officers will move shared files from DropBox to G-Drive if Seth Perry can access UA shared drive (Mark will test this).
- Jesika will share link to AKNHP website submission/database page
- Treasurer will solicit proposals for research grants from K-12 life sciences teachers at start of school year, via school district superintendents
- Treasurer will renew website
- Everyone spread the word about IALE 2016 (amphibian symposium, abstract deadline Dec 15)!
- Officers will decide on a few summer dates for Denali SP cabin rental
 - Pres/vice pres will send early member poll to get a final date on the calendar
 - Treasurer will reserve cabin for final date
 - Pres/vice pres will send later poll once people have summer plans set, for final confirmation
- Anchorage members will revive Herp Nerds gatherings!
- Officers will search for larger conference to "piggyback" on, decide date for 2016 AHS conference
- Hold officer meeting again to start planning conference
- Pres/vice pres will send member poll for t-shirt design (invasives theme, reptiles theme, witty slogan, or other ideas)
- Make final decision on membership fees (combine registration with 3-yr membership for package discount, registration discount for members, make all memberships for full calendar years, etc.). Get help on decision via member poll?
- President will contribute officer corner to newsletter
- Secretary will work with newsletter chair to finish publication, distribute to member base