
Alaska Herpetological Society

Meeting Minutes for Second Annual Business Meeting
October 27, 2013, 2:00pm

TELECONFERENCE, ALASKA

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTION ITEMS:

- Officer Elections
- Partnerships
- Officer Introductions
- Adoption of Resolution 2
- Adoption of Resolution 3
- Bylaw Changes
- Dues
- Education and Events
- Databases

Joshua Ream called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 2:04pm on October 27, 2013 from UAA, Anchorage, Alaska. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Officers Present:

Joshua Ream, President
Allyssa Morris, Outgoing Vice President,
Gregory Cazemier, Outgoing Secretary
Joseph Morris, Outgoing Treasurer
Seth Perry, Incoming Vice President
Amanda Gibson, Incoming Secretary
Jennifer Maines, Incoming Treasurer
Cheyenne Wiechmann, Conference
Organizer

Officers Absent:

Wendy Holman, Newsletter Chair

Guests in Attendance:

Stacia Backensto, NPS

No. Of Full Members Present: 8 (eight)

National Park Service Partnership:

1. Purpose and Goals:
 - a. Outreach, networking with AHS and ADF&G
 - i. Cooperate with partner agencies in data collection and research.
 - b. Create a standardized citizen science program that all partnering agencies can utilize.
 - i. Monitoring around the state
 - ii. Service learning

- iii. Grants with local middle and high schools to develop kits that can be used to actively monitor long term.

Officer Reports:

1. President's Report:
 - a. Great year! Growing by leaps and bounds. 38 members
 - a. Community events
 - b. Affecting legislation
 - c. Research grants
 - d. Newsletter
 - e. Continuing to grow
 - f. Partnerships
 - i. Ongoing partnerships
 - ii. New partnerships
 - b. Will be serving again as president
 - a. New officers to delegate responsibilities

2. Outgoing Vice President's Report:
 - a. Stepping down after two years of work for AHS. Will still be available, and willing, to help out at AHS and to help incoming officers transition into new roles.

3. Outgoing Secretary's Report:
 - a. Currently living in Oregon and is also stepping down from his position as Secretary.

4. Outgoing Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Current Balance as of October 27th: \$439.97
 - i. Pending deposits:
 - a. \$200.00 donation from BBC.
 - b. \$9.40 AHS website
 - i. Total after deposits: \$649.97
 - ii. Upcoming expenses
 - a. \$250 grant program
 - b. \$150 website renewal expenses
 - c. Any additional clothing items
 - iii. Authorization of signature for account and account access given to incoming treasurer: Jennifer Maines.

Officer Elections:

1. Officer Election 2013:
(Voting was online; 13 out of 38 members voted. There was only one nominee per each office; installation for each was by a vote for unanimous consent and acceptance by each officer.)
 - a. President Nominee
 - i. Nomination - Joshua Ream
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - b. Vice President Nominee
 - i. Nomination - Seth Perry
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Nomination - Amanda Gibson
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Nomination - Jennifer Maines
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - e. Newsletter Chair
 - i. Nomination - Wendy Holman
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - f. Conference Organizer
 - i. Nomination - Cheyenne Wiechmann
 - ii. Votes: 13 - unanimous
 - iii. Discussion: None
2. Incoming Officer Introductions:
 - a. Seth Perry – Vice President
 - i. From Petersburg Alaska, Commercial fisherman interested in amphibians. Volunteer work with Joshua ream on the Stikine Rivers.
 - b. Amanda Gibson - Secretary
 - i. UAA – Bachelor of Science in Environment and Society, intern with NPS studying wood frogs.
 - c. Jennifer Maines - Treasurer
 - i. Heavy equipment operator living at the North Pole. Experience with fundraising and raising awareness.
 - d. Wendy Holman – Newsletter Committee Chair
 - i. Member since the start of AHS. K-12 educator.
 - e. Bradford Norman – Newsletter Committee

- i. 1980's-1990's inventory of amphibians across Alaska. First journal articles from Alaska regarding amphibians.
- f. Cheyenne Wiechmann – Conference Chair
 - i. Lives in Puyallup Washington.

Online Voting Results:

1. Business Resolution 2
 - a. Title: Resolution to Endorse, Adopt and Submit an Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal to Address Amphibian Imports and Releases.
 - i. Votes: 13 in favor
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion: Adoption of Resolution 2 carried.

2. Business Resolution 3
 - a. Title: A Resolution to Endorse, Adopt and Submit an Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal to Address the Collection of Wild Amphibians and Permits for Amphibian Possession.
 - i. Votes: 11 in favor, 2 opposed
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: Adoption of Resolution 3.

3. Bylaw Revision Article III Section 1
 - a. ADD: Full membership in the Society shall be available to any individual demonstrating an interest in herpetology. Only Full Members may hold elective offices in the Society and officially represent the Society on business pertaining to its functions. Full members must be sixteen years of age or older.
 - i. Votes: 11 in favor, 1 opposed
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: Adoption of Article III Section 1

4. Bylaw Addition Article III Section 4
 - a. ADD: Junior Membership: all members under the age of 16 will be considered a junior member and enjoy all membership benefits except for voting and elections or official business of the society.
 - i. Votes: 11 in favor, 1 opposed
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: Adoption of Article III Section 4

5. Dues I

- a. Should previously established dues remain the same as in previous years?
 - i. Votes: 13 in favor
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: Dues to remain the same for the upcoming year

- 6. Dues II
 - a. If Article III Section 4 were applied should junior members have a membership fee in the amount of \$5 per year?
 - i. Votes: 12 in favor, 1 opposed
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: Dues for junior membership will be \$5/year.

- 7. Website Renewal
 - a. Allow the AHS executive board spend up to \$150 of its treasury for a two-year renewal of its website?
 - i. Votes: 13 in favor
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: \$150 of treasury to be spent on website renewal.

- 8. 501(c)(3) Application and Funds for Grants Program
 - a. Allow for \$200 of treasury to go toward research grants program.
 - i. Votes: 10 in favor, 3 opposed
 - ii. Discussion: None
 - iii. Motion carried: AHS will commit \$200 from treasury toward research grants program.

- 9. Pick-Click-Give Program
 - a. Allow for \$250 of treasury towards an application fee to participate in Alaska PFD Pick-Click-Give Program in 2015, assuming that this amount makes up less than 50% of the treasury when the application is submitted?
 - i. Votes: 6 in favor, 7 opposed or “depends”
 - ii. Discussion:
 - a. Seth Perry in favor, thinks it will pay for itself given that we could reach enough people.
 - b. Amanda Gibson – it depends; seems risky.
 - iii. Motion denied: AHS will table this question and reevaluate where the treasury stands in early Spring and if it is possible at that time.

Partnerships:

- 1. National Park Society
 - a. Stacia Backensto, Joshua Ream, & Amanda Gibson (discussed earlier)

2. Midnight Sun Herpetoculture Society
 - a. Pet trade: How it's evolving in the state.
 - b. Merging with AHS: getting actively involved
 - c. Possible newsletter contributions

Education:

1. Kits for Outreach
 - a. Expand the kit; make duplicates available for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and South East Alaska.
 - b. Transfer to Jennifer
2. Permit from ADF&G to use herps for education
 - a. Permit given to AHS that allows us to have 3 rough-skinned newts and 3 wood frogs collected from the wild to be kept in captivity to use in educational events.
 - b. Joshua Ream has 1 rough-skinned newt (from Stikine River) and 2 wood frogs (from Jewel Lake) available for use at events.
 - i. Wood Frog Newts:
 1. Two BBC films
 - a. Documentary on AK wildlife on hibernation stages
 - b. Children's program called "Naomi's Nightmares of Nature."
 - i. BBC made a donation of \$200 to AHS treasury
 - i. Rough-Skinned Newt:
 1. Caught in submerged trap on Stikine River
 - a. "Lazarus" newt – wakes from the dead.

Events:

1. Current:
 - a. Dragonfly Festival in Fairbanks
 - i. Coordinated by Allyssa Morris through Fish & Wildlife Service
 1. Family event in Cramer's Field
 2. Catch, Collect, and Identify dragonflies
 3. Booths, events, representation from partner agencies
 4. High turnout: 300 guests

2. Future
 - a. Spring Migration Festival
 - b. Mother's Day Frog Walk

Partnership with Wrangell School Board:

1. Service Learning Project for Students
 - a. Monitoring amphibians at Muskeg Meadows Golf Course
 - i. Developing a program for long term monitoring
 - ii. Possible funding through NPS

Future Educational Partnerships:

1. Fungus Rainforest Festival in early Fall
 - a. Chamber of Commerce interested in having an amphibian presentation.
2. Tanana Valley Watershed Association
 - a. Festivals: Chena River Days
3. National Parks Service: Visiting schools in rural communities – presentations with traveling kits, newts and wood frogs.
 - a. Funding possible
 - b. Computer technology for submitting vouchers to central database.
 - c.

Databases:

1. NPS
2. AHS
3. ADF&G
4. AK National Heritage Program
5. Herpnet.org – compiles all amphibian information across the U.S.
 - a. A need to consolidate data
 - b. Missing information (gaps)
 - i. Needs funding
 - ii. Needs dedicated state herpetologist with resources.
 - iii. Encourage other organizations to submit data vouchers and photographs to University of Alaska Museum herpetological collections to have a central data repository; this includes observational, organismal, photographic data. (NOAA collection in University of Alaska Museum).
 - c. Epicollect

- i. Need a better widespread option
- ii. Would be good to connect it with climatic data

Clothing Sales:

- 1. Still waiting on a logo
 - a. 3-5 iterations of possible shirt logos
 - b. Low cost company to use for printing
- 2. Sales
 - a. Broke even last year at \$5.
 - b. Had a few dollar mark-up previously
 - i. \$10 dollars for future sales

Conference Planning:

- 1. Conference to be held every other year (even years)
 - a. Previous Presentations
 - i. Dr. Falk Huttmann – Assistant Professor at Institute of Arctic Biology at UAF
 - 1. Worldwide amphibian decline
 - 2. Work in Papua New Guinea
 - 3. Sea turtle work in Costa Rica
 - a. Possible content for newsletter
 - b. Future Presentations
 - i. Keynote speaker
 - ii. Variety of speakers
 - iii. Set dates and venues
 - 1. UA – video conferencing
 - a. May not available next year
 - 2. Institute of Arctic Biology
 - 3. Program – GoToMeeting

Last minute ideas for AHS:

- 1. Stickers/Temporary tattoos/bumper stickers for educational kit
 - a. Needs a design
 - b. Needs the AHS logo
 - i. Amanda Gibson will look into this
- 2. Coloring sheets for kids
 - a. Need an artist
 - i. Amanda Gibson will create these
 - ii. PDF format for website

-ADJOURN

- Meeting Officially Adjourned at 3:42pm AST

Minutes Submitted by Amanda Gibson, Secretary.