

Alaska Herpetological Society
Officer Meeting
September 19, 2015
11 AM -12 PM

Officers present: President Joshua Ream, Vice President Seth Perry, Secretary Mark Spangler

Officer Positions

JR asks how officers feel about their position commitments to AHS.

SP expresses concern about not having more personal time to commit to vice-presidency, but can continue serving at same capacity.

MS is comfortable with secretarial duties and commitments, would like more involvement with community education and outreach, if active membership will allow for sufficient support.

JR will be time constrained through October, expresses willingness to serve in different roles within the Society if presidency can be filled by another interested individual.

JR announces resignation of AHS treasurer Aaron Hopkinson. Asks for suggestion to fill position. Indicates treasurer should take on fundraising roles, asks MS and SP to brainstorm future fundraising ideas.

MS suggests UAF student Don Larson may be interested.

JR announces continued vacancy of newsletter chair and absence of a 2015 newsletter publication. Indicates sufficient content is available for anyone who can take on these responsibilities.

Current treasury: \$814.67. Large portion from t-shirt sales. Remainder mostly from membership fees.

Membership

JR states declining active membership. Suggests updating membership roster, seeking renewal dues.

MS asks how to incentivize society and member activity, especially in the interior. Suggestions include t-shirt giveaways and providing lunch for volunteers, event participation in Creamer's Field migration and mother's day programs.

Remaining SLAMP Funds

JR announces unused portion of 2015 SLAMP student travel funding may be put towards 2016 SLAMP-related activities. Funds of \$735.51 need to be used before November 2015. Asks for suggestions.

SP indicates fuel costs are most significant. Suggests purchase of gift certificate for fuel. Suggests costs associated with Petersburg trip may also be procured before November. Will consult with Petersburg contact.

JR also suggests purchase of non-perishable foods and use of food/fuel towards Camp'Phibian.

Research Grants Program

JR announces previous award of \$250 has been increased to \$500 in previous year(s). Due to current treasury, suggests possibility of lowering award amount back to \$250. Recalls prior year's movement to allocate 2016 awards toward K-12 education.

SP suggests tentatively lowering 2016 award amount to \$250, re-evaluation if AHS sees successful fundraising before award distribution.

MS suggests increasing award advertisement to school district officials and, in addition to a single award, offering in-kind support to K-12 educators who support AHS mission.

Annual Member Meeting

JR announces this year's need for a member meeting in place of a full conference. Suggests a November date.

SP suggests Thanksgiving weekend. Date tentatively set for 11/28 or 11/29.

Miscellaneous Issues

MS asks about most efficient means of communication with members for purposes of increasing member involvement.

SP suggests authorization to publish on AHS Facebook page, photos are popular.

JR will forward (outdated) Google Groups list-serve.

SP exits phone conversation

MS asks about status of various citizen-science amphibian monitoring programs across state.

JR indicates most are in a semi-active/suspended state.

MS proposes official AHS chapter of FrogWatch USA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) citizen science monitoring program. Indicates willingness to serve as chapter coordinator and make effort to unite all known citizen science amphibian monitoring efforts in Alaska under this one umbrella platform. Will pursue contact with AZA.