

The Wildlife Society Urban Wildlife Working Group meeting (Nov 8th, 12:30–14:30)

The Wildlife Society Urban Wildlife Working Group meeting (Nov 8th, 12:30–14:30)

Chris Moorman (chris_moorman@ncsu.edu) reviewed election results and annual working group accomplishments (Appendix 1). Meeting attendees (Appendix 2) are introduced. The new electronic voting process worked flawlessly, but had low voter turnout.

Bob McCleery (ramccleery@ufl.edu) provided the treasury report. The group had \$32,267 and would have \$30,000 after the TWS expenses were incurred. Noted much of the money came from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's efforts associated with the Urban Wildlife Conference.

Diana Foss (Diana.foss@tpwd.state.tx.us) provided an overview of the Austin conference. There were 287 attendees, representing 10 countries and 28 states. The conference resulted in \$24,200 in profit. Diana reported some problems: not enough support for students given the profit level, and difficulty getting speakers to consider planning implications of their research. She noted that getting bios from speakers earlier would facilitate CEU certification. She also noted some accomplishments: opened the door with the American Planning Association, landscape architects, and their certifying groups. Passed along 4 folders and a CD of planning materials associated with planning the conference and getting CEUs certified.

*Jessica Alderson (Urban Biologist with TPWD) volunteered to coordinate CEU certification for the next Urban Wildlife Conference.

Darcy provided a recap of the TWS conference field trip, and all participants noted it was both fun and educational.

The TWS conference road symposium was reviewed.

Stan Gehrt (gehart.1@osu.edu) begins discussion of newsletter and social media, and notes material for the newsletter is needed quickly.

Newsletter material should be send to Rob Denkhaus (Robert.Denkhaus@fortworthgov.org)

Leslie Bliss–Ketchum (bliss.ketchum@gmail.com) volunteered to write an essay on artificial light’s impacts on wildlife for the newsletter.

*An official communication committee was established to coordinate the Facebook page, webpage, and newsletter. The committee members are:

1. Valerie Titus (vtitus@wcs.org) will convert the Facebook group to a Facebook page and provide a written set of instructions for access and use of Facebook page for the newsletter that will be send to Rob by the end of November.
2. Rob Denkhaus (Robert.Denkhaus@fortworthgov.org) runs the newsletter.
3. Leslie Bliss–Ketchum (will add the artificial light story to the Facebook page).
4. Laurel Klein Serieys (Laurelklein@ucla.edu) indicated interest in helping with the webpage.
5. Richard Heilbrun (Richard.Heilbrun@tpwd.state.tx.us) will work with Laurel on building the urban wildlife bibliography for the webpage.
6. Mark Wallace (mark.wakkace@ttu.edu) volunteered to assist will all efforts particularly those associated with the webpage.

Stan noted a need to reconsider how requests for compensation from the working group are handled. No decision was reached; however, it was discussed that most requests for money center on travel support to conferences, and these could be handled by symposium/conference organizers if they had a budget to work with.

A resolution to place \$25,000 into a “flexible interest bearing account” with \$15,000 reserved for the next conference was passed unanimously.

A resolution to provide up to \$5,000 for a workshop and symposium/s at the TWS Portland meeting was passed unanimously.

*A field trip/workshop committee was established to prepare for the Portland Conference:

1. Leslie Bliss-Ketchum (bliss.ketchum@gmail.com)
2. David Drake (ddrake2@wisc.edu)
3. Leigh Bernacchi (labernacchi@gmail.com)
4. Chris Moorman (Chris_moorman@ncsu.edu)

*Three sessions were discussed for the Portland conference, but only 2 received volunteers for coordination:

1. Urban Wildlife Habitat Relationships (David Drake, Bob McCleery, Chris Moorman)
2. Urban Wildlife Disease (Laurel Klein, Seth Riley)
3. Portland Ecosystem (McCleery suggested a panel discussion)

Plans for the next Urban Wildlife Conference were discussed.

*Liza Lehrer (llehrer@lpzoo) offered the Lincoln Park Zoo as a backup if Missouri didn't work.

*A conference planning committee was established: David Drake, Mark Wallace, Seth Riley, Serra Hoagland (serrahoagland@gmail.com), Erin Boydson (erinboydston@usgs.gov), John Davis, Richard Heilbrun.

Subcommittee

Appendix 1:

Urban Wildlife Working Group Accomplishments 2010–2011

Executive Board Elected

Chris Moorman took over as the Chair of the working group at the TWS 16th Annual Conference in Monterey. Other officers and board members were elected by mail ballot January 2010. The new Executive Board was: Chris Moorman (Chair), David Drake (Past Chair), Stan Gehrt (Chair-elect), Bob

McCleery (Secretary-Treasurer), Erin Boydston (Board Member), Paul Curtis (Board Member), John Davis (Board Member), Rob Denkhaus (Board Member), Tommy Parker (Board Member), Ray Sauvajot (Board Member).

Workshop Held at 2009 Annual Conference in Monterey

The working group hosted another successful workshop, "Urban Wildlife and Parks in the San Francisco Bay Area," in conjunction with the 16th TWS Annual Conference in Monterey. Approximately 20 participants toured key sites for wildlife conservation in the Bay Area, including the Presidio, the Mori Point wetland restoration, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Charter Amended Early in 2010

By a nearly unanimous vote (1 No Vote), the working group approved a change in the Charter that allows electronic balloting for elections.

Workshop and Symposium Held at 2010 Annual Conference in Utah

During the 17th Annual Conference at Snowbird, the working group hosted a workshop, "Salt Lake City: Wildlife Conservation in an Urbanizing Environment," to view and discuss key opportunities and challenges for wildlife conservation in and around Salt Lake City. To raise awareness of urban wildlife issues within TWS, the working group also hosted a half-day symposium, "Urban Wildlife Management: Present and Future," during the Snowbird Conference. The list of speakers included leaders in the field of urban wildlife management and the meeting room was filled with over 100 people during most of the session.

Urban Wildlife Working Group Joins Facebook

The urban wildlife working group recently created a Facebook page to facilitate communication among its members and between members and the public. Thanks to Nils Peterson and Chad Anderson for their efforts to make this happen.

2011 International Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference a success

The 2011 International Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference held in May 2011 in Austin, Texas was a success. Nearly 300 participants from around the world attended the 3-day conference. Domestic

attendees came from California to New England, and foreign travelers came from Canada, India, Zimbabwe, Israel, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Bat Conservation International hosted attendees at their famous Bracken Bat Cave, home to the largest bat colony in the world, while other conference goers were treated to a wild game feast and Texas music at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. With nearly 100 presentations, the conference highlighted many facets of urban wildlife management and planning, including sessions on conservation messaging to diverse stakeholders, feral hog ecology and management, urban carnivores, and conservation subdivision design. The conference was co-sponsored by the Urban Wildlife Working Group of TWS and organized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Workshop and Symposium held at 2011 Annual Conference in Hawaii

On November 5th, the working group hosted an all-day workshop, "Conserving Unique Hawaiian Wildlife in Urbanizing Island Environments," to view and discuss key opportunities and challenges for wildlife conservation on the island. Workshop participants discussed the significant challenges facing Hawaiian wildlife managers through firsthand conversations with practitioners at field sites across the island of Hawaii. Participants interacted with professional wildlife managers while observing real world issues in this truly unique environment. Key issues include invasive exotic species, relationships between endangered species recovery and island development, and the broad ecological challenges for wildlife that occur as developments rapidly spread across the Pacific Islands. The working group also sponsored the symposium, 'Wildlife and roads in urban ecosystems: Challenges and opportunities'. Road ecology has been a thriving field of research and management of wildlife, but there has been relatively little focus on roads in urban ecosystems. Presenters reported on a wide variety of taxa and how different urban species are influenced by roads. In addition, some presentations reported interesting experiments on strategies to mitigate negative effects of roads. Contributors included many of the leading researchers in urban road ecology in North America. Presentations also covered a wide geographic spectrum, from both coasts and areas in between.

Working Group holds first electronic election

The new Executive Committee of the Urban Wildlife Working Group was appointed at the 18th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. They are: Stan Gehrt (Chair), Bob McCleery (Chair-elect), Chris Moorman (Past Chair), Nils Peterson (Secretary-Treasurer), Erin Boydston (Board Member), Paul Curtis (Board Member), Richard Heilbrun (Board Member), Rob Denkhaus (Board Member), Tommy Parker (Board Member), Marne Titchenell (Board Member).

Gehrt 21114

McCleery