

The Wildlife Society Urban Wildlife Working Group meeting

27 October 2014, 12:30-2:00PM

In attendance: Bob McCleery, Liza Lehrer, Seth Magle, Nils Peterson, Leslie Bliss Ketchum, Jon Cepek, Adam T. Rohnke, Jason V. Lombardi, Eric Melvin, Riley Bartel, Sharon Poessel, Matthew Brady, Cassandra Claydon, Laura Kiernan, Chellby Kilheffer, Thea Cooper, Chris Moorman, Erin Boydston, Russell Burke, Tim Green, David Drake, Heather Bateman, Joe Frumkin, Stefanie Coxe, Han Li, Katie Robertson, Ashley Wurth, Erik Shaffer, Drew Mallinak, Tyler Walters, Monica Tomosy, Alexis Hand, Nicky Frey, Cody Herron, Curtis Bennett, Lowell Adams, Shannon Pederson, Stan Gehrt.

Bob McCleery, Chair, initiated introductions.

Nils Peterson made a motion to approve the previous year's minutes, Seth Magle seconded it. Meeting minutes from the 2013 meeting were approved.

Liza Lehrer provided the treasurer's report. Initial balance (Oct 2013) was \$27,827.61, and ended with \$27,370.72 as of 10/22/2014. Our expenses totaled \$1219.29 (presumably workshop expenses and website fees), deposits of \$750 from dues, and interest of \$12.40. David Drake made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, it was seconded, and approved.

We had another successful workshop at the conference this year. Charlie Nilon did a lot of planning prior to the conference, while David Drake filled in at the last minute. David reported that Bob and Chris Moorman helped as well. The workshop was covered in a nice article in the Sunday edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The central focus of the workshop was water quality and the antiquated sewer system in Pittsburgh. The city is proud to have their first pair of nesting eagles in the city and nesting peregrine falcons. The workshop went to the botanic gardens and Frick Park, Pittsburgh's largest continuous green space. They also visited some neighborhoods in the economically depressed urban core of Pittsburgh, and learned about plans to bring back the neighborhoods with community gardens. Workshops are a great way to meet people and get involved with the group. Lowell Adams reported that Kate Stenberg originally proposed the idea to have workshops as part of the conference schedule, and they are really important to continue.

Seth reported on the status of the conference. Planning is well underway for the International Urban Wildlife Conference, May 17-20, 2015, in Chicago, IL, hosted by Lincoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute. The call for abstracts is now on the website. Abstracts are due Jan 15, 2015. Liza reported on the plans for conference field trips. There will be several field trips showcasing Chicago's ecology and culture. Field trips will include: 1) Kayak with a guide down the Chicago River, 2) Go on a birding tour hitting the migratory hotspots along Chicago's lake front, 3) See some field sites of the Cook Co coyote project, and 4) Attend a Cubs game.

Stan Gehrt reported on the progress of the planning committee and planned keynote speakers. The speakers will include: John Marzluff from the University of Washington, Paige Warren from UMass, Jim Sterba (Nature Wars). All are coming without speaker fees, but they may have book signings.

The structure of the conference will mainly be 20 min talks, posters, half and full day symposia, and 5 min speed talks (this format is increasingly common).

The conference planners need volunteers to review abstracts. Abstracts will be approved by the end of February which should give enough time for people to make their travel plans.

Stan asked that people advertise the conference to everyone as much as possible, and think outside of the box on what we consider to be wildlife (e.g., fish, inverts).

Bob brought up funding for the conference. Historically the working group has fronted \$5-10k to conference organizers for up front expenses, and then the conference typically earns back the money and often makes money to give back to the working group. The Executive board has proposed to give the Chicago group \$5k. Nils made a motion to approve, Chris seconded it, no discussion, the motion was approved.

Bob brought up that we really encourage people to help and get involved in the conference planning, especially early career members. A great way to do that is to propose and organize symposia. A half day symposia would consist of 8-10 speakers. If people need help filling in sessions, just ask the group. Bob called for symposia topics. Suggested symposia from the group: 1) Opportunities for urban wildlife habitat, as related to the investment in urban forests by USFS. Lynne Westphal in Chicago would be a good contact, 2) White-tailed deer, spatial heterogeneity, would tie in to #1, 3) Leslie Bliss-Ketchum suggested urban connectivity. Lowell Adams suggested that these could in all tie in together under the subject of open space management. 4) John Hadidian suggested biophilic cities 5) Sharon Poessel and Erin Boydston suggested mesocarnivores 6) David suggested engineered ecological landscapes 7) Tying biodiversity to socioeconomics, why we should care about birds 8) Urban raptors, and bats (perhaps a flighted animals symposia, Han Li) 9) Window collisions 10) Green technologies in cities 11) Liza suggested applied wildlife conflict solutions. 12) John Roddick from Texas A&M would be a great contact for more of a landscape planning symposia, APA located in Chicago and they might be interested in participating. John is editor of the journal Landscape and Urban Planning. David will ask a contact he has.

Bob announced that we need volunteers to help review abstracts. Someone asked, do symposia leaders review abstracts? Stan says yes, but we will also review as a whole. Nicki Frey volunteered to coordinate abstract review and editing. Chris Moorman, Han Li, Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, Thea Cooper, and Chellby Kilheffer volunteered to help.

Bob called for session moderator volunteers. Nils, Chris, Seth, David, others volunteered. There will also be a check box on the abstract submission form for people to volunteer to moderate sessions.

Bob will be sending the call for abstracts flyer out to the group. He asked that people post in their universities/work places, send out to email lists, etc. Advertise the conference as much as possible. Does the group have suggestions for places to advertise? Han already advertised the conference at ASM and the Landscape Ecol meeting. Leslie suggested state TWS chapters, NW Society Vertebrate Biol, ICET

(transpo), Chris Moorman's section has a newsletter. AFWA (assoc fish and wildlife agencies) website, NWF. Mariah at TWS would be a good contact.

Bob discussed student scholarships. We'd really like to encourage students to attend and present at the conference, so we'd like to provide student scholarships, up to \$5k. Exec board is proposing at least 5k, and also to establish a committee. Do we want to limit it to students? Or encourage early professionals too? Leslie thinks we should include early professionals, within 3 years of graduating. Recipients must give a presentation. Include a box to check if you are a Student or Early Professional. There was a motion made to prioritize students and then early professional, and to allot at least 5k. The motion was approved. Shannon Pederson will lead the student scholarship effort. Erin Boydston will help.

Bob brought up planning for the next conference. When should we identify a site for next Urban Wildlife conference? It would be good to have a location decided by the Chicago conference so the next planners can be there and observe. Does anyone have suggestions for the next location? Leslie will ask around in Portland and at the zoo there. David Drake suggested Baltimore, although those folks were not in attendance. Erin will look into Southern California. Bob said that everyone should be ready to report back to the group in Chicago.

Bob brought up the next TWS conference in Winnipeg. With the Chicago conference coming up, how much effort should we put into planning from the next TWS conference? We typically propose a field trip and a symposium. Does anyone have ideas? TWS has already planned some field trips that might overlap with an urban-focused field trip. Students from Manitoba discussed ideas. There is a section of highway in front of Ikea that has really bad goose VCs, living prairie museum in the city, etc. David Drake and Chris Moorman will team up with students from Manitoba and get contacts. Eric from Univ of Manitoba will help provide contacts. What about a symposium? We didn't have one this year. Can we recycle a symposium from Chicago? The January deadline for TWS and the January deadline for the Chicago conference make the timing tricky. Liza suggested that we see what early symposia submissions we get for the Chicago conference and decide if we can recycle those for TWS. Bob agreed.

Han reported for the communication committee. The Facebook page has 80-90 likes which has increased by 60% from last year. The UWWG does not have a twitter account, but Lincoln Park Zoo has an active twitter where they post general urban wildlife news and they can cross post on the Facebook page. Laurel Serieys updated the website over the summer. Bob mentioned that it had been proposed that we go back to a newsletter format for at least awhile. Leslie is going to kick it off but she needs content. Please provide content on research that is happening in the group. Her email is bliss.ketchum@gmail.com. Shannon mentioned that Mariah from TWS is going to post an article about projects in Baltimore that she could share. Lowell suggests that we archive newsletters, especially if the format is electronic. Bob said that we would make them accessible on the website.

Lowell asked, is the working group involved with the 2015 IWMC Congress in Japan? No. Lowell suggests doing a session at a congress in the future, as has been done in the past.

Lowell also brought up that he has conference proceedings downloadable from the Urban Wildlife Research Center website. Bob suggested that we have a link to those on the UWWG website.

Seth motions to adjourn the meeting, David seconds. Adjourned at 2:01p (Half hour early).