

Urban Wildlife Working Group Meeting

The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference—Raleigh, NC

Oct 17 2016, 12pm. See Appendix for attendees.

Nils Peterson called the meeting to order at 12pm. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

Nils moved to approve last year's minutes. Seth Magle 1st. Seth Riley 2nd. Approved.

Mark Hostetler's treasurer report stated:

11/7/15 - 11/7/16

Deposits - \$1000

Withdrawals - \$1940.25

(note - have not received a deposit for TWS chapter dues or workshop fees for TWS 2016)

Total: \$36,235.55

Recap of this year's field trip. Got to see a lot of beautiful natural areas in Raleigh area and learned about how they are managing wildlife and engaging the public in local conservation. Sites included the NC Greenways project, NaturePlay in Cary, Hemlock Bluffs, Schenck Forest to learn about woodcock management, and the NCMNH field station—Prairie Ridge Ecostation.

2017 International Urban Wildlife Conference. Bob McCleery, program chair, updated everyone on the program: Decided to have one plenary, and then a separate session dedicated to Urban Planning and integrating wildlife. In the past we have tried to bring in more of the planning side, but this time we really want to have a dedicated focus on it. Plenary speaker will be Nancy Grimm.

George Hess updated everyone on the special planning symposium which will focus on issues related to integrating wildlife into urban planning. Connectivity, wildlife corridors, zoning, comprehensive plans, voluntary vs regulatory, political, social, issue etc. in urban areas. Small team working on it. Thought about making it place-based, but now thinking that it will focus on themes and try to bring those from different areas to discuss across these themes. About 3.5 hrs Tuesday afternoon. Cities: Tucson, Boulder, Cleveland, San Diego, Chicago. May need funds to bring speakers.

Bob McCleery: need symposia ideas from the membership. Could be a half day: 8-10 sessions.

List with organizers: Lg carnivore—Nick Gould. Urban Soundscape-Liza Lehrer/Han Li. Marine-folks in San Diego. Tropical urban wildlife session-Madhu Katti, Diversity session—

Kaberi Kar Gupta. Wildlife Disease-Maureen Murray. Urban Conservation Fear Effects. –Justine Smith.

Suggested symposia that still need organizers: Citizen science- Need an organizer. Campus Ecology? National Wildlife Federation has a brochure about their Campus Wild program. Need organizer. Animal Damage? Need an organizer. Broad scale research on urbanization. What about Crosstown Walk? UrbioNet is an NSF funded project that Charlie Nilon, Madhu Katti, and others are involved in. International network of researchers. Resource to identify speakers for broad scale urbanization research. LPZ is doing something related—Urban Wildlife Information Network. Need an organizer. Education. Communicating with the public. Landscape resistance. Human Dimensions. Need organizers.

Where will the conference be held? San Diego State Univ. Enough space to have multiple symposia. Advised that it would be best to stick with 4 sessions to not spread everyone too thin. Is there support for international attendees? We'd like to offer support, but we will also need to provide funds for students/early career and presenters for the special planning session. Generally, we do not have funding to support symposia speakers.

Broad scale urbanization research—Conference details: June 4-7 Sun-Weds. Sunday there will be field trips, coastal to inland, seeing lots of wildlife. 1-2 speakers for Plenary on Monday. Concurrent talks M-W (except Tuesday afternoon when special session will take place). Monday there will be a poster session evening event. Main reception will be Tues night (maybe SD zoo). May have a closing session if there is interest. There will be on-campus housing available as an affordable option, but there also will be hotel available. Can take trolley to get around. Website is up! www.urban-wildlife.org. Call for abstracts will be soon. Deadline: Mid-Jan.

Next we discussed what funding we will provide for conference attendees. In the past we provided student/early professional scholarships—10/\$500 scholarships (\$5000 total). But there were some requests last conference to provide some support to international attendees. Could we provide a waiver for registration? What about early professional?

Han asked, Can journal editors be present? May motivate people to come to conference to network with journal editors. Landscape and Urban Planning? Urban Ecosystems? Seth Magle is an AE. Says lots of the AEs will be there. We could highlight that in conference materials. Perhaps Han can talk about that with Seth R.

Should we consider doing a Best Student Paper Competition?

Pending a report from the treasurer, we moved to provide \$5k for student scholarships, \$5k for international, and \$5k to Special Session, if it is needed. It might be possible to look at sponsorship opportunities for the special session. \$15k total commitment.

Seth 1st. Kimberly 2nd. Approved pending treasurer's report from Mark Hostetler.

Next we discussed who could help with organizing a field trip at the 2017 TWS conference in Albuquerque? Jon Cepek is going to help out, but needs a local Albuquerque presence. We really need to target getting 20 attendees if possible. Our trips are a great opportunity for TWS attendees to really get a detailed look at the host city and its natural areas. Sets the tone for the local theme of the conference. Giselle Hurtado from Las Cruces will be willing to help. Nils will get her in touch with Chris Moorman and David Drake who have planned trips in other cities in the past.

What about symposia for next year? This year we hosted symposia on Longleaf Pine Conservation with the Hunting, Trapping, and Conservation Working Group, and Transportation Planning. In general, we have a hard time getting something organized on the years of our conference. What about pairing up with another working group? George H. suggested, connectivity and permeability? How about urban riparian? Urban Planning symposium- Spin off of the SD conference? It would be great to have something with a local theme. Nils suggested that we brainstorm ideas and get back to him with suggestions. We concluded that we will offer to collaborate with other groups but not sponsor our own session independently.

Who will host the next conference? Portland 2019? Let's talk with Leslie Bliss-Ketchum to see if she is still interested.

We will be having elections within the next year and welcome anyone who is interested. Keep an eye out for communications next summer seeking nominations.

Send stuff to Justine for news on urban wildlife research for the newsletter/website.

We agreed that a UWWG Twitter account was a good idea, but were not sure if we already had one or not. The IT group will follow up on this and take steps towards creating one if we do not have one or integrating it more into digital presence if one already exists.

Past-president: Bob McCleery, University of Florida
President: Nils Peterson, NC State University
President-elect: Liza Lehrer, Lincoln Park Zoo
Treasurer: Mark Hostetler, University of Florida

Board Members

Leslie Bliss-Ketchum (Oppidan Ecological LLC)
Han Li (UNC Greensboro)
Robert Blair (University of Minnesota)

Maureen Murray (University of Alberta)
Laurel Serieys (University of Cape Town)
Richard Heilbrun (Texas Parks and Wildlife)

IT and Communication Committee:

Justine Smith, UCSC; Han Li, UNCG; Marcus Mueller, Wisc;.....

Appendix

Urban Wildlife Working Group Sign Up

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