

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
Board of Directors Conference Call – Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Board Members present: Ian Bartelmez, Mike Depies, Andy Ducato, Jim Freck, Joe Gonyo, Dennis Nelson, Pat Smith, Bruce Urben. Excused: Randy Helbach, Russ Olson, Todd Schultz. Absent: Tim Gerdmann, Peter Strenn.

Also present: Bruce Ross and Kelcy Boettcher

Agenda:

- 6:30 pm – President’s remarks and roll call
- 6:35 pm - Review each Committee’s priorities in the short term and long term
 - Habitat: Bruce Ross reported that he and Jim had a conference call with Peter yesterday and Jim reported the committee’s long-term goals had been sent out to the board. Working on the project and landowner database is high on the list. The committee could use help, especially with an AWA coordinator and Wild Rice coordinator as well as a property manager for Abrams, which Bruce Urben volunteered for. If anyone knows of any members interested in helping in habitat, let Jim know.
 - Education: Dennis reported that the committee met Sunday night, minutes are posted online. The committee will work on mentors, nesting boxes and needs help with someone to take over the Wing Shooting program. Bruce Urben noted that we do have three board members and at least two chapter committee members that have been certified as an instructor for Wing Shooting, Dennis will contact them. Bruce also noted the committee will work on Abrams as an outdoor classroom, the State Duck & Goose Calling Contest and the DCCE as well as the continuation of the Wisconsin Duck Hunter’s Conference, now called the Waterfowl Hunter’s Expo. The committee will also continue to build on the invasive species/boot wader washing stations. Bruce Ross noted there is substantial growth planned for the Learn to Hunt program this year, our Green Bay chapter will continue, the Valley chapter has plans for the fall as well as another group of non-chapter volunteers.
 - Policy: Bruce Ross reported in Randy’s absence that the Duck Stamp increase is back on the agenda and the NRB will be re-considering sometime in the next month the Open Water Zone that was not approved last month. WWA will submit our survey results for that. Also, the Wisconsin Waterfowl Management Plan was recently released formally and that is driving waterfowl strategy by DNR and organizations such as WWA about how to promote waterfowling across the state and enhance habitat. This document will move on to affect our habitat and education committees at a minimum.
 - Communications: Randy sent out a report to the board, Bruce Ross summarized some of the items the committee will look at in the long-term with WWA’s members and how we involve them and communicate with them. Randy could use others to participate on the committee, email him if interested. This Thursday, the social media sub-committee, including George Ermert, Ian Bartelmez and Kevin Banaszak, will meet about how to fully embrace social media, particularly Facebook.
 - Development: Pat Smith reported that he’s discussed a few items with Bruce Ross who reported that in the short term the committee discussed Class A expansion and plans for our first virtual fundraising event tentatively scheduled for Thursday the 14th to be done

via Zoom with a few firearms and gear donated by Russell Moccasin. Bruce noted constraining factors once we move out of our Safer at Home Order, including probable limitations on people at events which may require us to look at smaller “quick hitter” events like a Bash. Ian noted an expanded class A he’s working on with Mike Alaimo as a combination between West Allis and Waukesha chapters. Bruce Urben discussed the potential for a virtual shoot and Bruce Ross discussed the potential for virtual golf outings and his investigations to date on the potential for holding one perhaps by month end.

- Executive: Bruce Urben reported that at the April 21st Executive Committee meeting it was determined that another round of “Top 200” letters should be sent out. Last fall this was a successful campaign and Bruce and Russ Olson wrote a new letter which was mailed out last week as a plea to approximately 200 of our top “outside of event” donors. We’ve received a good response to date with some very generous donations. Bruce also reported that on that call Randy had suggested expanding and making a plea to additional members as well as prior project landowners.
- 7:40 pm – Other Items:
 - Bruce Urben noted that all board members will be emailed a Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Gift Disclosure Policy form that should be signed and returned to Kelcy.
 - The next full board meeting is scheduled for August 17th via conference call but depending on how things progress an emergency meeting may be called in the interim.
 - If any board members do not currently serve on a committee, they are encouraged to sign up for one as soon as possible by contacting the committee chair.
 - Bruce Ross gave updates on the continuation of the Waterfowl Hunter’s Conference, to be called the Waterfowl Hunter’s Expo. Bruce will lead the steering committee for the conference, which will be planned for 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm