

**Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
Board of Directors Meeting – August 17, 2020**

Board Members present: Ian Bartelmez, Mike Depies, Andy Ducato, Jim Freck, Randy Helbach, Bruce Urben, Joe Gonyo

Also present: Bruce Ross and Kelcy Boettcher

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Agenda:

- **Financial Report**
 - Still behind, but not as bad as forecast.
 - May finish year in the black.
- **Executive Director's Report**
 - WWA events that have executed this year have gone well.
 - Remaining events this year should bring in \$130k.
 - Staff compensation has been adjusted.
 - Rob Monette has been hired as the full-time RD
 - Tom Seibert is working part-time as the Class A raffle specialist.
- **Habitat Update**
 - Peter Ziegler provided an overview of habitat projects; with two projects completed for the year and seven more pending.
 - Some may have to wait for a freeze.
 - Twelve project applications on deck, with six expected to work out (approx. 60 acres of habitat).
 - Rice seedings have hit a snag due to covid; Peter won't be able to engage with schools.
 - Rice seedings still planned for Forest and Juneau Counties.
 - The idea of a Wild Rice Coordinator has not been implemented due to the sporadic nature of groups interested in rice planting.
 - Though WWA is receiving more project inquiries, it still needs more projects in the pipeline.
 - Need to touch new people.
 - Need to expand funding sources to private foundations.
- **Waterfowl Hunters Expo**
 - Steering group is starting to gel.
 - Winnebago County Fairgrounds selected as the location.
 - Date of Expo to be August 28, 2021.
 - Marketing push next; survey to be sent out.

- **Policy Updates**

- George Ermert expressed our goal is to get the duck stamp increase in the Governor's budget.
 - A meeting was held with the Deputy Chief of Staff, who is the point-person for the Governor's budget.
 - Deputy Chief of Staff was non-committal.
 - Next is to have Zoom meetings with Democratic legislators to push the duck stamp into the Governor's budget.
 - After duck stamp makes it into the budget, WWA will begin outreach to Republican legislators.
- Push to reauthorize the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program for ten years.
 - It will end this legislative year unless reauthorized.
 - Governor's office supports it with robust funding.
 - Blowback from some Republicans as it is expensive and quite a bit of debt is coming due.
 - WWA will be a signator on a letter from Gathering Waters advocating for reauthorization.
- Sandhill Crane season will be a difficult issue.
 - Farmers' board asked NRB to look into a season.
 - Two different working-groups formed to explore a season.

- **Social Media and Policy Update**

- The WWA Facebook page has seen a 12% increase (from 2500 to 2900) in followers since April; as well as a 12% increase in "likes".
- Russell Moccasin and Lucky Duck are sharing WWA posts.
- Facebook is free advertising.

- **Committee Restructuring**

- Uneven progress on committees.
 - Habitat Committee meeting frequently.
 - Some committees not meeting at all.
 - Policy Committee doing good work but has not reached the grass-roots level.
- Board meetings not frequent enough as some directors feel left out of the loop.

- **Board Composition**

- Discussion of just what WWA expects of board members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm