

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
Board of Directors Zoom Call – Monday, October 19, 2020

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

Also present: Bruce Ross and Kelcy Boettcher

Agenda:

- **6:35 pm – Agenda Repair**

Long-time member and WWA Wetland Life Member Erich Pitz died last week. Erich was instrumental in WWA's wood duck box program. Various WWA memorials are being planned in Erich's memory.

- **6:45 pm – Financial Update**

Kelcy provided an overview of the September financials which were emailed out to the board and posted online. Our year-end status will depend greatly on the results of the remainder of our events and raffles.

- **6:55 pm – Executive Director Updates**

Bruce Ross sent out his ED report earlier today. He clarified that Tom Seibert has officially retired as our RD, but remains on staff as a part-time WWA employee as our Class A Consultant. BMO is still putting together paperwork for PPP forgiveness and we will be notified when we are able to apply. An additional budget savings measure has been put into place as voted upon by the Executive Committee and WWA will be having our accountant do tax filings only for year-end 2019 versus the full compilation completed in prior years. Bruce gave a quick update on the habitat committee; Peter is getting busier on projects and site visits and a volunteer has offered their skills to work with Peter on a way to tell the WWA project story. In advocacy we are focusing on Duck Stamp fee increase, and Knowles Nelson looks like it will have good support. We've had quite a few members reach out in regards to the recent refuge changes and have put out a newsletter article earlier this month to provide the facts on the changes. It is hosted on our website for future reference. Bruce Ross is now a registered lobbyist and WWA is a registered Principal Organization. While the DNR is not in favor of a crane season it does not mean that the possibility of a season is dead. There have been several meetings with farmer groups, WWF, GB Duck Hunters and WWA and Bruce expects the issue to come back to the forefront after the election. We've hit our year-end goal of 3,000 page followers on Facebook already. We still have four pieces of original Didier artwork that we will attempt to sell or raffle off sometime in the future.

- **7:20 pm – Board Membership**

- Peter Strenn resigned from the Board of Directors August 30, 2020. Peter will remain active with the Valley chapter.
- Tim Gerdmann has not attended a board meeting since April and we have not been able to contact him since then. Per Article 3, Section 6 of WWA's Bylaws, the Board may remove board members under good cause. Bruce Urben motioned that Tim Gerdmann be removed from the board by sending him a certified letter advising him that the board approves that he officially be removed from the board within 30 days unless he responds for further consideration. The letter would be sent November 1st with response required by December 1st. Dennis Nelson amended the motion that the board vote to remove Tim Gerdmann effectively immediately. Todd Schultz seconded. Bruce Urben amended that we follow that motion up with a certified letter to notify Tim of his removal. Motion passed unanimously.

- The board has a maximum capacity of fifteen members and we currently have twelve members. George Ermert has expressed interest in joining the board, he has been vetted by both Bruce Ross & Bruce Urben and would like to begin serving as soon as possible. Bruce Urben motioned that George Ermert be voted onto the board under Article 2, Section 5 of the Bylaws and that he be placed in seat #14. Dennis Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **7:45 pm - Annual Meeting**

Bruce Ross asked the board what they would like to plan for the 2021 state meeting with the consideration that we have an EXPO planned for the end of August 2021 that will gather waterfowlers from around the state. Consensus was that a board meeting will be held early in 2021 with a focus on recognizing volunteer efforts. Bruce Ross will plan a meeting in a central location for a planning session board meeting followed by a small recognition event for volunteers.
- **7:50 pm - 2021 Annual Planning**

Bruce Ross asked the board to discuss what they'd like WWA to be doing for 2021 and to provide him with guidance over the next few weeks.
- **7:55 pm - EXPO Update**

The EXPO is moving forward but marketing is moving slowly although channels are lined up. Winnebago County Fairgrounds will host the event and the EXPO committee is moving into a contract with them.
- **8:00 pm - State Raffle Guidance**

Ian reported for RD Rob Monette that they are discussing some ideas for a statewide raffle next year to replace the UTV. One idea is for a waterfowlers starter pack in an enclosed trailer which would have a lower price point. Some discussion was had and Bruce asked that board members provide him with any guidance.
- **8:10 pm – Abrams Property Fundraiser**

Ian reported that he has discussed with Rob Monette a fundraiser for the Abrams property. A windbreak would be beneficial and the organization could sell memorial trees with plaques placed by the trees to grow a windbreak. Bruce Urben noted that he purchased and planted 1000 trees previously and they did not grow well, essentially due to lack of maintenance. However larger trees may work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm