Board Members in virtual attendance: Ian Bartelmez, Mike Depies, Dave Elwing, Dennis Fleischer, Joe Gonyo, Todd Schaller, Pat Smith, and Bruce Urben

Unable to Attend: George Ermert, Jim Freck, and Russ Olson

Also virtually present: Kelcy Boettcher and Bruce Ross

**Agenda:**

* **6:40 PM – Meeting Convened**
* **6:41 PM – Financials Update**

BoD members received the financials via email and had no questions. The budget will end the year slightly over $125,000. Of note, the 2021 PPP was forgiven since the last BoD meeting.

* **6:42 PM – Preliminary FY21 Year End Results and Planning Discussion**Bruce Ross, Kelcy Boettcher & Rob Monett examined current, past years, and anticipated CY/FY22 budget requirements following last month’s discussion of what to do with the CY/FY21 budget surplus. Proposed categories/amounts were: Operating Capital: $100,000; Reserve: $70,000; Chapter Projects (Internal Grants): $8,000; Staff bonuses: $16,000; and Investments: $6,000. Committees still need to identify funding needs; Bruce Ross will coordinate with each committee. QA draft FY22 budget was included as preliminary material for each Board member. It included a new “EXPO” line item that will allow separation and tracking of EXPO funds, as well as incorporating a $2,600 rollover for the habitat database, plus $100/month database maintenance costs. The was an informational brief to set the framework for January’s budget discussions.
* **7:03 PM – Annual Meeting Venue**Three locations were examined and discussed as the site for the WWA Annual Meeting being held on February 5th. The locations were: Duck Inn (West Allis), The Columbia (West Bend), and the Beaver Dam Conservation Club (Beaver Dam). The Beaver Dam Conservation Club was unanimously selected by the BoD based upon cost, potential for shooting, location (easy access from Hwy 151), low cost and the fact that it supports multiple WWA events during the year. Ian Bartelmez motioned, and Pat Smith seconded, that the Beaver Dam Conservation Club be selected as the location for WWA’s 2022 Annual Meeting. Rob Monette reserved the venue based upon the unanimous vote. 40 attendees are expected for the annual meeting, and the BoD will conduct a Board meeting prior to annual meeting attendees arriving.
The Board also discussed how and where the Hall of Fame (HoF) induction should occur. The Board agreed that HoF inductees would be contacted and invited to attend the annual meeting, but that HoF inductees will also be recognized at the event closest to where they live, if that is also preferred.
* **7:19 PM – Internal Grant Initiative**

Dave Elwing presented a revised Internal Grant Initiative proposal based upon discussions during November’s BoD meeting. Based upon YTD close-outs (7) chapters and (9) events achieved Super Goal status and would be eligible for an internal reimbursable grant during FY22. Dave Elwing proposed that internal grants be awarded by chapter not by event and the recommendation was accepted. During November’s Board meeting tabled a motion to move the internal grant initiative forward with a $500 cap for FY22 projects. Following a lengthy discussion November’s tabled motion ($500 cap) was returned for a vote. The $500 cap motion failed to carry in a 5 to 3 vote. Mike Depies (seconded by Todd Schaller motioned that the amount to a WWA chapter be capped at $1,000 per year, and that of that $1,000 up to $250 may be passed along to an external (non-WWA) organization that furthers WWA’s mission. The motion carried in a 7 to 1 vote.

* **7: 56 PM – Policy Maker of the Year**

Based upon direction received during November’s BoD meeting, the Policy Committee’s spokesman, Bruce Ross presented the committee’s recommendations for Policy Maker of the Year (POTY) for 2022 (based upon actions during 2021). The Policy Committee recommended Governor Evers and Representative Mark Born as the individuals within Wisconsin’s state government who really made a difference relative to furthering WWA’s priorities, specifically regarding the state duck stamp increase and support for the Knowles Nelson Program. Dave Elwing motioned (seconded by Mike Depies) that the 2022 WWA Policy Makers of the Year nominees be accepted as proposed by the Policy Committee. The motion was accepted unanimously. The Policy Committee will work with the recipients to determine the appropriate award date and location. Representative Born is expected to accept his award (hand carved green wing teal by Bruce Urben) during the WWA Annual Meeting on February 5th. Knowing that DU and Delta plan to make similar recognitions, Bruce Urben requested that WWA get in front of those organizations with our presentations; if presenting ahead is not possible, at a minimum WWA releases a PSA prior to DU and Delta. Bruce Ross took the President’s request for action.

* **8:09 PM – FY 22 ATV/UTV Raffle**Board members agreed in November that the FY22 UTV Raffle should be funded by WWA and not by a WWA member as in years past. The Board requested that Jim Freck and Randy Hellbach solicit pricing and present options (ATV vs UTV, and price comparison of similar vehicles within each family). The Board received prices for (3) Polaris Ranger (Premium package) UTVs: 500cc, 570cc, and 1,000cc. (Premium package includes roof, doors, winch, and dump box vs stationary bed). Following discussion of pros/cons and price points, Ian Bartelmez motioned to purchase the Ranger 570 Premium in camouflage for $15,346.00. Roughly another $1,200 - $1,500 is needed to purchase a trailer. Raising ticket prices from $10 to $20 was briefly discussed to help cover the cost. (Per conversations on 16 Dec, Rob Monette believes that Eagle River Power Sports may be able to beat the price; he should have information by COB 17 Dec and will pass that along to Bruce Ross).
* **8:25 PM Statewide Gun Raffle Discussion**

Ian Bartelmez introduced the subject of a statewide gun raffle of (10) premium guns that could be used as the only WWA raffle at the EXPO besides the UTV raffle. Chapters will be able to sell tickets and receive credit/recognition throughout the year in the same manner that they receive credit/recognition for calendar sales. Gun Raffle tickets can also be sold at chapter events. Bruce Urben expressed concern about the Statewide Gun Raffle distracting from gun raffles planned for chapter events, and the need to cover the cost of those local guns (i.e., “only a finite amount of money walks in the door”). The discussion was introduced for information but is time sensitive to purchase the guns; Ian Bartelmez relayed that Mike Alaimo is prepared to purchase the guns out-of-pocket and conduct the raffle as a chapter-run Class A if the state does not want to participate. Regardless, roughly $10,000 of WWA FY 22 funds could be tied up in this venture. Bruce Ross will contact Mike Alaimo for details and electronically distribute an information package to all Board members prior to January’s BoD meeting. Mike Alaimo will be asked to dial-in to the January BoD to answer any remaining questions.

* **8:46 PM – Board of Director Nomination**

Bruce Urben reported that B.J. Grassmann was recommended and is interested in being on the Board. Bruce Urben and Bruce Ross interviewed him and found him more than capable of fulfilling a Director’s position based upon demonstrated actions within WWA on the Habitat Committee. Bruce Urben asked if any Board members had further questions or input; none did. B.J. Grassmann was unanimously nominated for a role as a Board member commencing in 2022 and continuing through 2025. Chapter Chairs and Board members will be asked for a formal vote prior to the WWA Annual Meeting.

* **8:59 PM – Committee Updates**

***Policy/Advocacy Committee*** (Bruce Ross presented): Policy Committee remains extremely busy engaging legislators regarding the Sandhill Crane hunting initiative. Bruce Ross, Todd Schaller, and George Ermert met with the SHC Bill sponsor, Senator Felzkowski today (15 Dec); WI DNR representatives were also in attendance. At the start of the meeting the DNR representatives stated the DNR Administration does not support a SHC hunt. Senator Felzkowski noted the DNR’s position and requested their continued participation in discussions to help make the wording within the Bill the best possible language for all concerned should the Bill pass. Toi their credit the DNR representatives provided good input throughout the discussion.

**Marketing/Membership Committee** (Ian Bartelmez presented): The committee continues to meet, make progress, and do good things. Any significant events will be presented to the Board for review/discussion. WWA continues to receive likes on Facebook.

**Development Committee** (Dave Elwing presented): Work continues by Bruce Ross, Kelcy Boettcher, and Russ Olson to market and execute Planned Giving in a Box (PGB). The Baraboo River Chapter’s Meet & Greet was a bust. Primarily believed to be due to the inclement weather the only attendees were WWA members. Work during November focused on tightening-up the Internal Grant Initiative and the possibility of a Limited Activity charter for chapters not engaged in fund-raising, but continuing WWA’s education and habitat missions. The committee also worked on refining its FY22 Goals.

***Habitat Committee (****Taken from Jim Freck’s committee update email):* The Habitat Committee is working on (4) projects this winter and has (3) new inquiries. Peter will use the “Waterways” grant (due mid-Dec) for the Wuebben and Pines projects after he follows up with Jeff Nania. Potential funding sources include a state river grant and Vortex Optical. A possibility of a field trip exists when Waupun High School installs/inspects wood duck boxes. B.J. Grassmann continues to work on the wood duck spreadsheet and locations. B.J. Grassmann is also working with the Fox Wolf Watershed Association (FWWA) and needs help creating a WWA based newsletter for this group.

***EXPO Steering Committee*** (Bruce Ross presented): The decoy carving competition will be part of EXPO 22. The outline for the rest of EXPO 22 is progressing. He reminded the Board that DU dropped off the FY22 EXPO Planning Committee. Financially, the price for sponsorships will increase from last year and marketing plans are moving forward.

***Education Committee*** (Bruce Urben presented): FY 22’s focus is on newsletter articles. These include Stages of a hunter; R3; Duck Anatomy (Dr. Orlofski); Wisconsin waterfowl season Structure; Waterfowl breeding survey; Waterfowl recipes; What can be done with old mounts; and Barriers to hunting mentorship including a potential data base via WWA’s Newsletters. Additionally, the committee is working with the Hunting for Food group and its FY22 budget requirements.

* **9:09 PM – Chapter Oversight**

In light of the late hour and already being almost 40 minutes past the establishing quitting time, Bruce Urben recommended the Chapter Oversight/Limited Activity discussion be tabled until a later date. The Board accepted his recommendation.

* **9:20 PM – President’s Recap/Action Items**

Bruce Urben’s recap of the evening’s agenda, action items, and decisions includes:

1. FY22 Budget – Bruce Ross will reach out to each committee for their FY22 funding requirements to include them in the FY22 budget for discussions during January’s BoD meeting.
2. Annual Meeting – Beaver Dam Conservation Club was selected as the venue for the annual meeting. Rob Monette will coordinate support requirements. HoF inductees will be invited to attend as will Policy Maker of the Year recipients.
3. Internal Grant Initiative – Board adopted the Internal Grant Initiative with a cap of $1000 per chapter and no more than $250 going to a non-WWA organization. The initiative will distribute FY21 grants during FY22.
4. 2022 Policy Makers of the Year – The Board accepted Governor Evers and Representative Born as the 2022 Policy Makers of the Year.
5. UTV Raffle – A motion was accepted to purchase a Polaris 570 Premium in camouflage paint as the FY22 UTV raffle prize.
6. Statewide Gun Raffle – Bruce Ross and Mike Alaimo will develop and information packet for Board members prior to the January BoD meeting. Mike Alaimo will be invited to participate in the January meeting.
7. Limited Activity Charter Proposal – Bruce Ross and Kelcy Boettcher will research the ongoing activities and provide recommendations to the Board in December. Dave Elwing will finalize the draft Limited Activity Charter proposal for December’s meeting.
8. State Budget Meeting – Meeting will be conducted virtually on January 19th at 6:30PM.
* **9:30 PM – Meeting Adjourned**

The next board meeting will be Wednesday 15 December from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM via Zoom.