



TWS Board Meeting Agenda

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

6:30 – 8:30 PM on March 17, 2021

Attendees

Call-in

Board Members

Gabe R, Rachel R, Nicole C, Caitlyn B, Hailey P, Meghan B, Natalie R, Leslie K, Molly D,

Chapter Members

Katie S, Lisa M,

Absent

Joe D, Mary Y, Laura D, Patricia V, Kathleen G

Agenda

Old Business

- Vote to approve meeting minutes (Jan and Feb)
 - Action items from last meeting were all completed
 - January - Approved
 - February - Approved

New Business

President Updates

- Welcome and introductions
 - Welcome to our guests Katie Smith and Lisa Michl
 - Welcome to our new board members Caitlyn Bishop and Gabe Reyes
- Book Club coming up on Slack
- Using Slack for Board?
 - Board prefers using Google Hroup
- Upcoming events – SFBayTWS events calendar

- Save Mount Diablo BioBlitz - Saturday, April 17th to Saturday, May 1st
- Earth Day, Wild & Scenic Film Festival April 22, at 7 PM
- Biodynamic Winery visit in the fall ????
- Doug Bell is speaking about Peregrines in two weeks
- Chapter Calendar!
 - COVID made this take a break, but we want to make this more of a focus for this year, including a lot of virtual opportunities

Secretary Updates

- First quarterly report coming next month!
- Please provide input on the membership emails if you receive one of the new emails (membership expiring soon, membership expired)

President-Elect Updates

- Absent

Past-President Updates

- No updates

Treasurer Updates

- Gifts from Chapter meeting are all sent out- in the future we may want to limit vendors to reduce the level of coordination
- We are going to work on our 2021 budget over email
 - We want to try to have some structure in our budget, so we should create an 'upper limit' budget to ensure that we aren't overspending
 - Our budget for our in-person Fall workshop is the biggest question mark right now

Western Section Updates

- Absent (Maternity Leave!)

Professional Development Updates

- Ivan is working on hiring a Workshop Coordinator to help him with the Western Section - more details to follow
- Rare Shoreline Workshop
 - Rare shoreline species would be the first in-person workshop that we would want to coordinate, but we are unsure about the feasibility
 - Will connect with EBRPD soon to determine if they would still be interested in partnering, as they've done in past years
- Professional Speaker Series
 - RATS has been reached out to
 - Toxicology specialist at CDFW willing to present
 - Mt Lion Specialist would also be interested
 - Next Steps for Speaker series:
 - Create a calendar
 - Coordinate a platform for presentations
 - Recordings?
 - Leave it up to the speaker themselves

- Where can we store these?
 - This may be a problem with internal storage for cloud devices and the amount of time we would want to keep it up
- We also could create a Youtube channel to keep these in perpetuity but that would be something that we should discuss

Conservation Affairs Updates

- MBTA Updates
 - We were able to send letters against the new rule from WS and SFBay
 - The MBTA rule has gone into effect, and at this point 'incidental take is no longer prohibited (still illegal under CA)
 - pretty big public outcry about this@
 - Mike Thompson is a local rep that is hoping to encourage Congress to overturn this
- SB 55
 - wildlife restrictions on development
 - limits development in the urban-wildlife interface where there is a high risk of wildlife
 - We could write our own letter in support
 - no immediate time limit, we can bring this up again with more research at the next meeting
- SB 322
 - Found through Audubon, who is promoting it because it facilitates conservation easements on private lands (ex: ranches to support wildlife)
 - We could write our own letter in support
- Western Section
 - More promotion of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - It did not pass last year and has been reintroduced to Congress this spring. We need to show continued support for its passage.

Student Affairs Updates

- No coordination yet with Animex
- Some TWS chapters are moving away from student chapters due to costs, high turnover rate, and complications. Alternatives to student chapters?
 - More student involvement in our chapter meetings
 - Student Chapter meetings on a quarterly basis?
 - Email blast for students specifically?
 - We've talked about this in the past, and maybe that is a way to redirect Student Affairs
 - Student-specific membership perks
 - We made connections through the Career Development workshop from our advertising of the event

Diversity Chair Updates

- TWS Diversity Study
 - Discussed the barriers to careers in wildlife biology and STEM in general
 - It found that a lot of barriers start early in life, and suggested some pathways to take action to increase workplace diversity
- Survey to the chapter

- We are planning to develop a survey of our members to explore how their early experiences brought them into the path of wildlife bio to inform how we could encourage diversity by reaching out to younger folks
 - This can also be an opportunity to explore barriers in the field, different experiences, and why people leave the field locally
- Learning from outdoor organizations that introduce communities to the outdoors
 - We have a lot of local and regional organizations that seek to engage communities in the outdoors (Youth Outside, Latinos Outdoors, Outdoor Afro). We have an opportunity to reach out to them and see if they have opportunities for us to tangibly support them, and otherwise learn from them how our organization can approach diversity since these organizations have a lot of really critical, structural knowledge and experience
 - Other Local Organizations
 - Scientific Adventures for Girls, Techbridge, Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT), Girlventures, DiversifyOutdoors, Venture Out, Out There Adventures, Outdoors Empowered Network, Melanin Basecamp, Get Out, Stay Out (central CA), Girlventures
 - We could reach out to some of these organizations and see if they would be interested in partnering with us for a build-a-box workshop where our Chapter would cover costs and buy all the materials and youth could participate in one of these facilitated activities

Public Outreach Updates

- Starting to brainstorm ideas
- Opportunities to outreach to local and regional community colleges that host virtual career fairs or have Biology departments that could be a good connection
 - For example, American River College in Sacramento has a MESA program that is dedicated to providing support and opportunities for disadvantaged adults to find meaningful careers in STEM
- There seems to be a lot of possible synergy between Student Affairs and Public Outreach

Website Updates

- New board members should send Bios by 3/23

Historian Updates

- No updates

Newsletter Updates

- Absent

Meeting called by President: 8:02 PM