

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Board of Directors Conference Call - Thursday February 28, 2013

Board Members calling in: Wayne Folske, John Greene, Mark Kakatsch, Rob Monette, Russ Olson, John Regan, Patrick Smith, Bruce Urben, Eric Urben. Excused: David Sachs. Absent: Joe Gonyo, Tom Krsnich. Staff calling in: Don Kirby & Kelcy Boettcher.

Agenda:

- **6:30 – 6:40 Introduction of new Directors**

- **6:40 - 6:50 ED Report/Financials - Q&A**

Don went over January financials and the ED report. Don also reported that for the most part we are finalized with our 2013 statewide sponsors and donors. Moving forward we will have a separate line item for segregated Abrams income.

- **6:50 - 7:10 2013 budget review/discussion**

Don reviewed the final budget revision. As there were no objections to the budget, Bruce motioned to accept the budget as written, version 4, drafted 2.6.13. Eric seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **7:10 - 7:15 Abrams update: Stewardship/Red's Excavating/What's next...**

Bruce updated the board on grants secured for upcoming works at Abrams. Bruce also updated on the RC&D grant which will be used to pay the contractor, Red's Excavating. The observation deck is the next phase, and bids will be going out soon for the parking lot on Oak Orchard and Don is working on the driveway permits. Fire numbers have been assigned to both access areas. The DNR Forester will be going out soon to do our forest inventory so we can hopefully soon move forward with logging and management. Peter is putting together a prescribed burn plan for this spring as well. Bruce has also contacted PF and worked with Peter for seeding. A Fox Valley Tech College student is also interested in doing some of the work out on the site this year. The GB chapter also discussed with an event volunteer who works with another Oconto County nonprofit who has expressed interest in doing some deer food plots on the Abrams property to potentially showcase their seed.

- **7:15 - 7:25 Canine Life Membership concept**

John G. reported that other organizations (PF, Cal Waterfowl) offer a "Canine Membership" level at the \$500 donation level and you get a SportDog collar or similar. John G. suggested a \$50 lifetime membership with a camo collar gift that would have WWA on it that can also add the dog's name/phone number, hence having the dog advertising for WWA. The collar would cost \$14. There's about a two week turnaround for the collars and the vendor is willing to work with us, even with a potential for limited sales. Mark suggested a higher donation level with a leather collar with a brass nametag, also. Bruce also suggested other gift options such as a certificate of recognition, notice on the dog's passing, etc. Don and John will continue to move forward with this plan.

- **7:25 - 7:35 Determine plan for 2013 BOD call/meetings and date/time**

Eric proposed that the executive committee come up with a quarterly in-person meeting and monthly conference call dates to submit to the full board. Don suggested the next two in-person meetings be held on the dates of our golf outings, May 22 in Sussex and July 31

in Wrightstown and then a final one be scheduled for the second week of December. Bruce requested that in the meantime all board members reply with their availabilities.

- **7:35 - 7:40 Review opportunities for Board members at the outreach events listed in the December ED report, any further interest in setting up at Eau Claire Show, etc**

There is still need for volunteers to assist at the Milwaukee show, March 6-10. Bruce felt that due to the booth costs for the Eau Claire show that it may not be worth the time, and also that it sits on the same weekend as the WWHC.

- **7:40 - 7:45 Review Annual Meeting replacement concept**

While we do have a Bylaw requirement to have an annual board meeting, we are not required to have a statewide annual meeting as has been held historically. Due to the very limited interest in attendance, discussion was had on replacing the state meeting with a board meeting on the same Saturday date in January, start in the morning with board items and budget planning, do a volunteer recognition over lunch, and a project program presentation in the afternoon which could be open to our membership that wishes to attend. It was suggested that a possible move to two regional meetings (North and South) could work as well, having a fun event tied in such as a sporting clays shoot. It was suggested that we re-visit this issue at the executive level and move forward from there with a vote of the full board via email.

- **7:45 - 7:50 DNR Shooting Skills Clinic and Horicon LTH Updates**

Mark reported that we will again have the Horicon LTH which may be expanded from 6 to 8 days. There will also hopefully be a LTH in Waukesha and possibly a smaller one in Jefferson. The DNR has been given permission to move forward with a wing shooting for migratory birds program and WWA has been selected to be a part of the pilot program and Mark will forward information as he receives it.

- **7:50 - 8:00 Discuss web-site advertising concept**

Don had emailed out some information on proposed advertising on our website. The board asked that Don move forward to investigate the opportunities.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm