Wild Ones, Tri-State Driftless Chapter
Board Meeting
March 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 1:01 p.m. by President Mary Edwards.

Board members present were: Mary Edwards, President; Lori Thompson, Treasurer; and Marie Chenery, Secretary.

Also present was Barbara Kelkhoff, Program Chair.

Minutes of the Annual Member Meeting were approved without amendments.

President's Report: Mary is looking to the future by trying new programs and presenting more often in Dubuque, Iowa. We may want to start presenting in other nearby tri-state towns perhaps by looking at where members live or the Platteville Library since the Dubuque and Galena libraries are so welcoming.

Treasurer's Report: Lori reported a balance of $1,557.51 consisting of $1,153.10 in savings and $404.41 in the checking account. Year to date we have collected $152 in member dues and a $25 donation. We have paid $100 speaker honorarium for the Dark Skies presentation. She will join the upcoming Wild Ones National Treasurer's call. Lori will have Mary review the Chapter Quarterly Financial Report before she sends it to National.

Membership Report: Mary reports that year-to-date nine members have renewed, five memberships have expired, and there are two new members. That puts us at 64% retention. National likes chapters to have at least a 52% retention rate. One new member responded to the New Member Survey.

Mary started a system of giving "member" badges for members to wear at presentations, but it was awkward and she doesn't know if people will give them back for re-use, so she may not continue with it.

There was a discussion of complimentary memberships. One motion was passed to offer a complementary membership to Jeff who built and donated several bluebird houses, or to a person of his choosing should he not care to become a member. A second motion was passed to offer a complementary membership to the activities chair of the Carnegie Stout Public Library in Dubuque, Maggie Turza.

Barb hopes to combine the member social with another activity sometime after June.

Programs Report: Barb has two programs scheduled. On April 5, Bats of the Tri-State Area will be presented by the Dubuque County Conservation and National Mississippi

River Museum and Aquarium. On May 3 Spotlight on Native Bees will be presented by Holly Faust.

Barb is new to the area and welcomes program ideas. She hopes to have a presentation on oaks trees and one on nature photography.

Unfinished Business:

The attached 2025 annual budget was approved ($737 revenue / $700 program expenses). We budgeted less for memberships because National will take a larger cut this year and budgeted more for programs hoping to present more.

There was a discussion of how to correctly report payments to speakers which morphed into a discussion on whether someone is bringing the honorariums to the two groups who are speaking at the April 5 program. It was agreed that Lori will cut two $50 checks to be presented as a donation to the two organizations.

A motion was approved that the President or Treasurer can spend up to $100 without prior board approval.

We discussed the amount of gas money we will pay Holly for her bee talk. Lisa has notes that it had previously been agreed to pay her $110 to $112. Barb will confirm the amount Holly agrees to. If it is more than $110 we will vote on that later.

We discussed whether to keep chapter elections in January or move them to November. It was agreed to table this issue so we can review the election rules. There were thoughts of combining the annual member meeting with elections.

We confirmed that board meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We discussed whether we can just post this on our website rather than emailing the membership every month. The Wild Ones Chapter Secretary Best Practices, under Meeting Notifications, states it must be via email, mail, or text according to WOCB 7.d.

Per the research on plant sales that Mary and Lori did, we do not need an Iowa grower's license to sell natives in Iowa, but we are not ready to navigate selling plants and dealing with sales tax. The Wild Ones rules say that we cannot ask for donations for plants, but can put out a donation jar. We will have a sign asking for donations at the River Museum event in May and Mary will ask the Dubuque Farmers Market if we can do the same at our table there in June.

New Business:

Mary reports that it is already in our Bylaws that we can vote via email outside of board meetings so there is no reason to discuss this.

We will all be on a special committee to create an onboarding plan for new members. National has a PowerPoint introducing Wild Ones. A meeting was set for April 14.

National suggests that the Secretary be responsible for safekeeping of photos, but Mary already has a drive where she stores them and she posts them on the Facebook page. She requests that we all help her to take photos at events.

We agreed that we will approve the minutes via email so that Marie can send them to the non board members who have requested them.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Marie Chenery
Secretary
(Minutes approved via email April 13, 2025)