

Present: Julie Champion, Andrea Haslage, Marvin McNew, Haley Samuelson-Couchman, Wil Reding, Pete Stobie, Jenn Wright, Theresa Rody, Ginger Murphy, Tim Krynak, Leslie Witkowski, Amy Louella Gregg (Student involvement Committee), Rich Niccum

Call to Order: 11:30am

Director's Report (Julie Champion)

- National News and Issues
 - *Conferences or mini trainings- discussed whether to have special promotional membership 6 months or yearly.*
 - *Enos Mills funds will go into operational budget rather than a special fund.*
 - *New scholarship fund that as a region we can contribute to and dedicate funds for one of our region members to go to an International Conference.*
 - *All of this is to be discussed at NW.*
 - *Discussed with Lisa our concerns about NW rotation. Julie will type comments and follow-up with a phone call.*
- Bulk e-mail needs?
- Regional Business Meeting at National
 - Need reports from all who will not be attending
 - Attending: Wil, Tim, Marvin, Julie.
- Committee budgets due by Nov. 30, 2009 to treasurer, begin action plans for 2010 – *Need to get these by 11/30/2009.*
- Committee chair needs-Membership, Training and Membership Services

Secretary's Report (Jenn Wright)

- NAI Now contributions – Still happening every month. If nobody submits anything – there is no report.

Treasurer's Report (Marvin McNew)

- As of September 30th, 2009 Region IV has \$ 62,702.27 in the bank.
- Committee 2010 budgets due by November 30, 2009
- Final Budget results RIW 2009
 - RIW made \$10,630.17.
 - More on this in Marvin's report. \$5,000 donation really helped from Friends of Algonquin Park.
 - Reg. 5 Director wants to meet with Julie about our success in Ontario, Canada.
 - Ontario Parks also paid for some items.
- If we use the national online service for all credit card transactions there is a 5% fee.

Deputy Director's Report (Tim Krynak)

- Regional Workshops – 2009 RIW final report
 - Fantastic job on the 2009 RIW with good profit!
 - 2010 – Planning committee moving forward. Call for presenters deadline is approaching.
 - 2011 – Ahead of schedule and is moving along. Deb Nofzinger (NW Ohio 2012)
 - 2013 - Ontario again
- Procedures Manual-Update needs
 - Need some info from Jamie but otherwise it's in good shape.

Archives (Haley Samuelson-Couchman)

- No new materials donated since last call.
- A list of what's available in the archives will be on website by end of the year.

Awards (Pete Stobie)

- National Awards – None to report yet. Waiting for response from John Miller National Awards Chair.
- Nominations for 2010 Regional Awards due 01/08/2010
- Need two committee members to start for the end of 2010 – 2013. One from IN and one from OH.
- Working on a chair from Ohio. I have two possibilities.
- Website is updated. I now have the past National Award Winners up.

ACTION ITEM: Please review website and confirm that we are not missing anybody.

- Please encourage folks to nominate.

Interpretive Project Grants (Rich Niccum)

- 7 projects submitted applications by deadline. Recipients will be notified next week.
- Rick Stronks will be taking over the committee in January of 2010. Has a full committee at this point.

Membership (Leslie Witkowski)

- 2 new committee members, Jules Erwin & Judy Barnhart – still need member from MI and Ontario
- Current membership is 596
- The National office provides 2 comp memberships every year and those were given to Ruth Cook and Vicki Miller. Both work for the Outdoor Discovery Center in Michigan. Jules will be doing an article on both of them for the winter issue of FourThought.
- Waiting to receive a database from the National office so we can send out reminder cards to members who have a membership that is about to expire as well as to those who have had their membership expire. Jamie King said the database wouldn't be ready until December of '09.
- Still seeking someone to take over the Membership Committee as my term as Committee Chair expires at the end of this year.

Nominating (Ginger Murphy)

- Electronic nominations are out and should be in e-mailboxes
- Nominating committee worked hard to secure a strong slate of candidates.

Publications (Jamie Krupka)

- Fall FourThought
 - Delivery is 9 days behind schedule, but anticipates delivery by the end of the week electronically and mailed by Friday, Oct 25.
 - There was an excess of submissions for this edition - trying to keep it to a reasonable size (16 pages or less in print).
 - Some stories may be carried to the winter newsletter that is not time sensitive.
 - Thanks to all the committees and officers for sending info.
- Constant Contact working?
 - Constant Contact seems to be working well.
 - No data has been requested yet to see how many people are opening the messages being sent.
 - There have not been many additional messages to relay outside of the FourThought. The choice to have up to 1 weekly message plus newsletters has been adequate.
 - As we approach the next RIW, we will be able to see how it can improve communication within the region - referring to the flurry of emails that we experienced prior to the 2009 RIW especially those geared toward the logistics of the bus.
- Status of e-news vs. mailing
 - There are still approximately 70 hard-copy FourThought recipients.
 - There has been no strong indication yet positive or negative from membership if delivery via e-mail is good or bad.
 - A handful of people that did comment positively about the eco-friendly aspect of the delivery method.

- Printed newsletters have been able to be produced at a lower cost than years past due to printing in-house.
- Bulk mailing is no longer an option since the quantity of newsletters has been reduced, but still feel it necessary to produce a hard-copy of the FourThought and not force people into the electronic version.
- Only five comments have been made about the inability to receive the e-FourThought either due to the lack of an e-mail account or that it was not approved mail for a work account.
- How is NAI business e-mail working?
 - Not much activity at nai.region4@yahoo.com. Periodic messages about being “out of office” and a number of people correcting or adding themselves for electronic delivery of FourThought. It continues to be checked weekly.
- New Interpretive Insert status
 - A SUMMER themed interpretive booklet is being planned in accordance with Regional Action Plan which focuses on core natural or cultural history topics. A call for submissions was put in Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 FourThought with an unknown number of responses at this time. I plan to send out a call for submissions in November and again in January as people’s schedules potentially slow down.

Scholarships and Grants (Andrea Haslage)

- Academic scholarship info out to universities this week and should be in 4Thought coming soon. Deadline is 12/31/09, and we offered \$1,000 plus a full ride to the regional workshop for 2 winners.
- Submitted a proposal to 2010 RIW committee to do a certification session - will be basically the same as in 2008.
- School/Grant opportunities coming soon: regional workshop grants, non-NAI grants, certification reimbursements
- New committee chair in April 2010: Karen Wilson from Kalamazoo Nature Center. Shiela Wiebe from Canada recently joined. Carol Ward and Amanda Simmons staying on, Jamie and I rotate off in April.

Strategic Planning (Ginger Murphy)

- People are slowly getting updates to Ginger.
- Copy of updates has been distributed and we’ve completed about ½ of what we said we would do for 2009.

Student Involvement Committee (Wil Reding)

- Status of 2 free student memberships – in limbo and new co-chairs will be working on this. New co-chairs Dorothy McLeer & Amy Gregg.
- Committee member transition is in progress

Training and Membership Services (Robin Dungan)

- June 23-25 CIP near Mio Michigan. Mio Ranger Station.

Ways and Means (Teresa Rody)

- Committee members include: Teresa Rody (chair), Amy Roell, Mary Warren, Foster Brown, Kathleen Dougherty, Natalie Haley, Sharon Hosko
- We have reprinted Interpretive Booklets: *Bugs, Tips and Tricks for the Trail, and Naturally Selective*
- Currently retyping originals of *Preschoolers* and *Bugs*
- Acorn Naturalist continues to sell our interpretive booklets. I would like to increase our recycled content in the paper above 30% and increase the price to them from 2.25 to \$2.50. They purchase around 150 booklets per quarter.
- Need to obtain a digital original for *Winter*” booklet
- Mary Warren handled the Bird-a-thon for the committee. Most of the pledges were paid
- Amy Roell is working on the new display retractable banner. She and Sharon Hosko are asking for image and design input from Region 4 members. Evie Kirkwood has agreed to assist them with design work.
- The committee is seeking individuals who are interested in sustainable products and practices research to join the committee and help with these parts of implementing our strategic plan.

- We are looking toward drawing baskets at the national workshop and looking for volunteers to staff the booth at the workshop. Marv McNew will be driving the display to Connecticut. Also looking for donations.
- Asked national about their sustainability guidelines and all they have done is gone electronic no guidelines available.
- Lots of folks finishing in 2010 and will be looking for committee members.

Website (Rich Niccum)

- Everything is up to date.
- E-mail regarding article about Ray Novotony (Roger Tory Peterson newsletter as a nature educator)
- Photos and interesting items needed for the website – please send to Rich!
- Need to do better utilizing Facebook!
 - Recommendation to communicate with the students through Facebook!

Board Meeting-January 14 (1/2 day for board members) -15th (all chairs and committee members), Pokagon State Park

Officer and committee chair transitions

Adjourn: 12:40pm