

Manitoba Chapter, The Wildlife Society – Conservation Affairs Committee

Meeting December 6, 2017, 19h00, Assiniboine Park Zoo, 54 Zoo Drive, Winnipeg

Agenda

- Review agenda
- Review previous minutes
- Topics for discussion-
 - U of M Student Wildlife Term Paper Ideas
 - Committee member has had student contact and did presentation already
 - APZ also had a meeting with wildlife feeding issue
 - **Action: Post list to chapter website**
 - **Action: Get final reports and suggest student presentations at TWS AGM in March.**
 - Birtle Transmission Project; Pellet feeding and CWD; City of Winnipeg “Shape Winnipeg for Tomorrow”; feral cats
 - Put on hold for the moment
 - Meeting with Minister Squires
 - Updated the group. Minister specifically brought up interest in wolf management in the province and may look to us for information on this in the future. May have come out of recent meeting in Thompson on bears and wolves.
 - **Action: Follow up with Jim Duncan on wolf management for moose/caribou document and TWS policy and copy ministers office on letter including recommendations.**
 - Manitoba Fisheries Concerns and Letter
 - Moving fast. Article was sent out from WPG free press (Dr. Scott Forbes). There was a meeting with working group including Lake Wpg walleye group and recreational groups. FMMC sent out envoy report quickly. Fishers are now out of the marketing board even though the majority wanted to stay on the board.
 - Marketing board still exists but in private contracts with Northern fishers, NWT, N. Sask.
 - Some data has been released and suggests problems with populations exist. Is this what we should be commenting on? Recreational fishers seem on board with population conservation but commercial fishers is a different story. Concerned about changes to quotas. Recommendations from Scott Forbes is 20% reduction in quotas.
 - TWS could provide scientifically-based recommendations rather than feelings-based. Unbiased group.
 - **ACTION: Committee member to send out reports from fishers recommendations**

- Press release in spring 2017 that there would be a joint survey of the herd between Manitoba and Nunavut
 - Wait to hear more about this
 - Neonics and effects on grassland birds, insects, etc.
 - Christy Morrissey from Saskatchewan has been publishing on this topic lately.
 - Where is the province at on legislation of use? It seems like it's more of a federal licensing issue. Pest management regulatory agency in charge of legislation. Some of this is under review at the moment by Health Canada.
 - Do we want to get Canadian Section involved?
 - Federal comment and phase out is coming over the next year.
 - **Action: Committee member to put some thoughts together on neonics impact on wildlife and would like to see statement being put out there eventually and will keep eyes open to opportunities to comment.**
 - **Action: Committee member to speak with Jim DeVries to get some updates on neonic situation.**
 - Provincial green plan comments (due Dec. 22)
 - At ministers meeting discussed commenting on relevant sections of the green plan. Committee member has offered to throw some information together on the water section.
 - Focus in on water and nature sections and give kudos that climate change is recognized.
 - Recommendations on spending from revenue- support research on effects of climate change on wildlife
 - **Action: Committee members to tackle water section, nature section and summarize and write letter and have reviewed by Dec 22.**
- Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm
 - Next meeting January/February