



NHANRS

New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists

Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 15, 2023

Via Zoom

Call to Order 4:04 PM:

Present: President: Collis Adams (CA); Vice President: Deidra Benjamin (DB); Treasurer: Luke Powell (LP); Secretary: Noah Buckner (NB); Membership Chair: Sarah Large (SL); Communications Chair: Elizabeth Olliver (EO); Education Chair: Randall Shuey (RS); Administrative Assistant: Brian Matott (BM); Mike Parsont (MP)
Absent: Legislative Chair: Kimberly Peace (KP)

Agenda Additions/Revisions:

Approval of Minutes:

EO made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. LP seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – Treasurer:

LP reported that the 2023 Annual Conference totals are finalized as the last of the receivables from NHDES has been collected. LP stated that we are over the projected budget for lobbying services for 2023 due to the extensive work being done on current legislation, including HB2, pertaining to certification repeal. It was noted that there would be more in-depth discussion on this and the contract amendment with Bernstein-Shur during the Legislative Committee report. LP stated that he has closed the Reserve Checking account and moved the funds to the Money Market account where it can accrue interest.

RS made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. EO seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

SL reported that there has been no additional membership activity over the past month. SL stated that the current breakdown of membership totals by category are virtually identical to 2022, with the exception of this year's increase in the number of Conservation Commissions. LP inquired if we had information regarding Certified Wetland Scientists and Certified Soil Scientists that are currently not NHANRS members for possible outreach.

SL stated that BM had provided a breakdown a few months back now (approximately March 2023). SL summarized that there are 32 active certified soil scientist (CSS) on the OPLC website and 67 lapsed. 21 of the active CSS are NHANRS members or 65.6% of the CSS are also NHANRS members. There are 178 active certified wetland scientists (CWS), 11 expired, and 131 lapsed. Of the active CWS, 76 or ~43% are NHANRS members. If targeted messaging to the active CSS and CWS that are not NHANRS members is desired, it would be a matter of determining the individuals and getting contact information for each and reaching out.

Communications:

EO stated that updates were made to the website that included providing information on upcoming workshops, updated BOD information and approved BOD meeting minutes. EO also sent out an email through Constant Contact apprising those subscribed to our email lists of the upcoming workshops. EO stated that the announcement for registration to the June 30 workshop should go out as soon as it is completed. BM stated that the necessary information was just received prior to this meeting. DB offered to perform the review on the finalized announcement prior to advising EO on implementation.

Legislative:

CA referred to the Open Letter for Public Support, stating that this is now on hold as this relates to legislation on certification repeals, which has been tabled for the moment. MP summarized that HB2 has moved on from the House to the Senate without the language surrounding certification repeals. MP stated that, over the summer, the House will research with each individual professional entity, how to move forward with an efficient Board and governing structure. In response to a question from DB, MP stated that NHANRS, the Board of Natural Scientists, the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC), and possibly others would be represented during these summer research meetings. MP stated that he had made the suggestion to the Legislative Committee that a representative from NHANRS attend the quarterly meetings of the Board of Natural Scientists to help keep NHANRS apprised of relevant content in a timely manner. On May 19th, the Board of Natural Scientists will be holding a quarterly meeting to discuss section 500 of the Rules. Section 300 of the Rules will be discussed at the scheduled July 26th quarterly meeting. MP stated that SB56 and 229 are up for vote and that there was some push back on SB56 requesting that the language be clear and well-defined. MP stated that the amended contract for lobbying at \$1,000 per month was our best option after reaching the 2023 contract maximum in April. While the amendment is a considerable expense, it may dwarf the cost of paying an hourly rate to aggressively work the issues we have seen so far this year.

Education:

RS stated that Luke Hurley is working toward a possible Quarterly Meeting on the topic of the new DES Wetland Rules. The current upcoming workshops are:

NH General Permit & Mitigation Re-Presentation on June 9th.
Wetlands as Wildlife Habitat on June 30th.
Stream Workshop on July 13th & 14th.
Summer Meeting on August 11th.

RS stated that there were other workshops in the process of development that include Wetland Data Plots, GIS Workshop, and Disturbed Mapping Units. SL inquired if the Highwater Mark Datasheet topic could be added to the June 9th event. RS stated that it would be considered. CA added that if there could be additional content included in the re-presentations, that we could then offer credit for attending. CA suggested an ethics presentation be considered to allow members to acquire the necessary second credit for recertification.

Administrative Assistant Report:

BM stated that the switch from the landline to a cellphone has been completed with the successful transfer of the original phone number.

Old Business:

New Business:

For the Good of the Association:

Adjournment:

DB made the motion to adjourn. SL seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM

Minutes submitted by: Brian Matott