

Pennsylvania Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Council
January 9, 2024 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

In Attendance:

S. DeArment, P. Hentz, L. Stallings, S. Gallagher, R. Graboski, S. Acosta, C. Eyler

I. Interviews

The council interviewed Stephanie Stundon and then Sydney Glisan for an upgraded permit at the Schuylkill Center. Stephanie gave a presentation showing photos of improvements to the center. On a motion by SueD second by Peggy, all agreed to suggest both be issued permit upgrades.

II. CTO / Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:49 a.m. On a motion by Leah seconded by Robyn, minutes of the November meeting were approved.

On a motion by SueD, seconded by Robyn, all agreed that approved minutes be submitted to Peggy and Sandra for uploading on the PAWR website within one week. Website minutes will be redacted of sensitive/personal information, or anything to interfere with law enforcement investigations.

III. Finances

Leah provided a written treasurer's report prior to the meeting:

- Total balance as of last council meeting = \$37,675.43
- Income as of last council meeting = \$25,956.32
- Expenses as of last council meeting (conference expenses) = \$40,036.29
- Current balance = \$23,595.46

On a motion by Peggy, seconded by Robyn, the report was approved.

Leah also provided a written P&L Statement for the conference:

- Total Income (including beginning balance of \$9320.54) = \$57,536.52
- Total Expenses = \$42,336.29
- Total Profit = \$15,200.23

Sandra asked about options for investing and/or using surplus funds to benefit rehabilitators. All liked the idea of reinstating HPAI grants.

On a motion by SueD seconded by Robyn, all agreed to have Leah look into money market account options at three different financial institutions.

Sandra will continue investigating 501c3 status for PAWR.

IV. Law Enforcement

Chad reported there will be 38 cadets coming in for a new Game Officer class. Twelve cadets will graduate in March of 2024.

III. Conference

All agreed to begin planning the 2025 conference as soon as possible, with the first order of business being choosing a venue. Peggy had been advised by Betsy Shank that if the council chooses Lancaster again, booking should be done ASAP. Peggy agreed to ask Betsy to look into Lancaster pricing for 2025.

SueG asked if costs could be compared with State College, and Robyn agreed to look into costs at the Ramada. Robyn also agreed to accepting the heavier workload necessary for conference planning, if the event is held in State College. Robyn reported that in 2019, with 98 registrants, the State College conference had cost roughly \$10,000.

All agreed that things to consider when choosing the location for a 2025 conference include size and number of available breakout rooms, vegan food options/availability, and accessibility from across the state.

Leah will look at registration data for 2023 to see if certain areas of the state were underrepresented, specifically western PA.

The council will meet again (virtually, via Zoom) on Tuesday, January 23 at 9:30 am to discuss this matter specifically. Peggy will invite Betsy to this meeting.

V. Other

All reviewed the letter Sandra had drafted in response to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] concerns over social media postings by a permit applicant. SueD will forward this finalized copy to Chad for review.

Chad stated that the PGC does not give advice on what is or is not ethical behavior, but only enforces the law. If a rehabilitator's or applicant's behavior appears unethical, there is likely already a statute or regulation under which the matter can be addressed.

Peggy gave an update on pursuit of an additional permit class (cottontails, all squirrels and opossums). She had forwarded information on the request to

Representative Tara Brobst. Peggy asked that the topic be tabled until Representative Brobst gets back to her. Peggy will share any new info once received.

Sandra stated she will continue to pursue 501c3 status for PAWR, with new by-laws. She also has ideas for updates to the PAWR website. Peggy welcomed help with the website. Sandra will need about one month to present something actionable to the council. She will have something prepared by the March meeting.

VI. Action Items

SueD reviewed the following action items from this meeting:

- SueD will contact applicants from the Schuylkill Center to let them know the council voted to recommend upgrades
- Sandra and SueG will submit past minutes (with redactions as needed) to Peggy and Sandra for upload to website
- Leah will investigate money market accounts for council funds
- Leah and SueG will review registration data from 2023 conference for insights into attendance
- SueD will give Chad the letter from Sandra for his review, then will send the letter to Tamarack
- Robyn and Peggy (with Betsy) will gather info on hotels for 2025
- Sandra will work on 501c3 status for PAWR
- Peggy will relay any updates from Tara Brobst on the additional permit classification as they are made available

Dates for upcoming meetings are as follows:

- January 23—9:30 am, conference planning
- March 12
- May 14
- July 9
- September 10
- November 12

On a motion by SueD, seconded by Robyn the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.

Susan Gallagher
Recording Secretary