



**Great Lakes Region 4 Regional Board Meeting Phone Call**  
**March 1, 2018**  
**1:00pm**

**Present:** Deb Nofzinger (Director), Laurel Zoet (Awards), Jenn Kirts (Secretary), Aaron Douglass (Communications), Jennifer McDowell (Deputy Director), Renell Roebuck (Membership), Becky Parkin (Ways and Means), Jill Vance (Scholarships), Bob Dispenza (Treasurer),

**Absent:** Cookie Ferguson (Archives), Kelly Bentley (Interpretive Project Grants), Nora Sindelar (Ways and Means), Will Gosnell (Student Involvement)

**Director's Report – Deb Nofzinger**

For the upcoming Regional Workshop, we need to decide how we are going to do the business meeting. She recommended doing the Speed Dating idea – everyone gets a date card and then each table has a bribe (candy, stamp, etc). If they go to each table, they get a stamp and turn in a full card at the end they will get entered into the drawing for something. It's also a way for each committee to get contacts for interested people.

Each committee should come up with 5 questions for people to ask your committee and get them to Deb by March 20. These questions should help members learn about the committee and its purposes/people/policies. Executive committee should do this as well.

No notes yet from the Executive Board meeting from National. There will be another one in July in Colorado.

**Deputy Director's Report –Jennifer McDowell**

Early Bird Deadline has been extended to March 7<sup>th</sup> for this RIW. We currently have 65 people registered and \$19,700 brought in. Sleeping Bear is currently the most popular mobile with Historic Leelanau is in second. The committee is still working out some final details with contracts and such. Kathy Evans will be the National representative at the RIW this year.

It sounds like most committee chairs have talked to the RIW chairs about their needs. Student Involvement is having a concurrent session as well as poster sessions at the Market Place of Ideas.

Deb brought up the lack of designated funding for Student Involvement. During budgeting we decided not to provide funding for students to present or bring posters to the RIW. Do we have a fund that specifically supports Student Involvement or does it just come from the general budget? Jen McDowell believes that it has just been generally funded. At this time, the only budget item is the Szabo/Weaver Scholarship Fund, if we add \$500 for the Student Involvement do we need to do a vote?

Move to place \$500 in the Student Involvement Committee to provide \$100 stipends for student presentations at the RIW. Deb Nofzinger moved, Bob Dispenza seconded – approved.

Jennifer McDowell has been working on placing documents in the OneDrive. She has a variety of documents from a variety of years.

2019 – Navigating the Waters of Interpretation – The next meeting is March 19 and they have 18 people on the committee. They are well on their way, looking at a hotel and beginning to think about mobiles.

2020 – Location will be in Cleveland, OH. RFPs for hotels have been sent out.

Jen McDowell has been trying to reach out to ON members to see if anyone is interested in hosting in 2021. She has only received a response from Kelley Bentley at the Toledo Zoo who is possibly interested in hosting.

### **Bob Dispenza – Treasurer**

We have money, let's spend it. Today he will send in a \$500 check for sponsorship from the Traverse City Conventional Bureau. He has not yet received invoices for things – he needs this in order to submit to National.

### **Jenn Kirts – Secretary**

Code of Ethics have been submitted to National and minutes will appear online soon.

### **Committee Discussions/Reports**

- Ways and Means – Becky Parkin
  - We are ordering additional shirts to compliment the stock we currently have.
  - The Traverse RIW team will have a pocketknife as a give-away and we will sell the remainder as Ways and Means items.
  - Interpretive Booklet – Acorn Naturalists had reached out to seek a re-print of a booklet and have them re-done, but we would need to grant permission to do that. With copyright issues and such, we think we will retain ownership of this.
- Membership – Renell Roebuck
  - Comp Memberships are due at the end of March. She's received one application so far. Feel free to nominate someone or have them fill out the application.
  - Deb said to be sure that correct forms are filled out and given to National
- Archives – Cookie Ferguson
  - No report
- Awards – Laurel Zoet
  - 16 submissions – gave members 3 weeks to read, review and score – she has 4 out of 5 that have come back. She will be able to turn it around very quickly and will begin notifying nominators and winners as soon as possible.
  - For those receiving awards, the nominators will be notified as well as the winners.
  - For those not receiving awards, only the nominators will be notified.
- Interpretive Project Grants – Kelly Bentley
  - No report
- Communications - Aaron Douglass
  - Working on website updates – did some rearrangements and deletions. How does it work?
  - Is someone ready to take pictures at Awards Night? Aaron is willing and able to take them. Laurel said yes please and Aaron will bring a camera.
- Scholarships and Grants – Jill Vance
  - 8 applications for RIW Scholarship; 5 scholarships available – have gone to committee members for review and they should be collected and ready to review within 2 weeks.
- Student Involvement – Will Gosnell
  - No report

**Adjourned at 1:49pm**

### **2017 Conference Call Schedule**

- July 12, 2018 – 3:30pm (Budget meeting)
- October 11, 2018 – 1pm
- January 10-11, 2018 – Annual Meeting at Pokagon