NCTWS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2019/2020

Committee Name: Grants and Finance

Committee Mission: To 1) ensure the long-term sustainability of Chapter funds by examining future revenue opportunities, 2) identify revenue streams and linking those with existing chapter expenses and future financial needs, 3) analyze investment options and 4) develop and maintain a grants program for members, and review and select grant recipients.

Committee Chair(s): Pete Campbell

Committee Members: Kelly Douglass, Colleen Olenbuetel

Activities and Accomplishments for the past year (annual meeting to annual meeting):

- The NCTWS Conference Grant (up to early bird regular member registration; $550)
  - The conference grant was advertised to the membership on May 20th.
  - Received two grant applications for the TWS Conference Grant.
  - Committee discussed the applications via email and unanimously decided to award the grant to William Casola (NCSU graduate student).
  - James Sasser (prior chair) notified both applicants via email on June 21 and encouraged the non-selected applicant to apply for the Professional Development Grant

- The NCTWS Professional Development Grant ($250):
  - The spring grant was advertised to the membership on May 20th, 2019.
    - Only one application received for the spring PD grant.
    - Liz Rutledge (NC Wildlife Federation) received the TWS Professional Development Grant (Spring cycle). She used the grant to help with travel costs to the TWS-AFS Joint Conference in Reno.
  - The fall grant was advertised to the membership on November 4th, 2019.
    - Two applications received for the fall PD Grant.
    - Erin Binkley was awarded the grant and used it to attend the 2020 NCTWS Annual Meeting.
    - The other applicant was encouraged to apply to the NCTWS Annual Meeting Grants.

- The NCTWS Annual Meeting Grants (3 grants offered at $100 per grant)
  - Received 6 grant applications.
After verifying all 6 applicants were current NCTWS members, Christine Fox, John Caveny, and Kelsey Nicole Pistner were randomly selected to receive the grant to attend the NCTWS Annual Meeting.

- The NCTWS Board approved a new professional development grant opportunity for 2021. The objective of this grant program is to provide one grant for $500 to one member of NCTWS to assist them in offsetting the cost of attending the Southeastern TWS Field Course on Wildlife & Forestry Field Techniques held on May 26-June 2. The announcement was posted on February 9th, 2020 with a deadline of March 1st, 2020.

- The committee worked with Susan Miller to keep all NCTWS grant applications current on the North Carolina Chapter website.

- On February 4, 2019, Committee Chair, James Sasser officially stepped down as the Committee Chair effective April 1, 2019 as he will be unable to attend the NCTWS Annual Meeting due to military training requirements during that time. Kelly Douglass and Colleen Olfenbuttel stepped in to serve as Committee Co-Chairs.

- On November 1, 2019, Pete Campbell took over as Chair of the Committee. The committee met on Dec. 9th, 2019 to orientate him on the purpose and activities of the committee. In attendance were Pete, Kelly, Colleen, and James Tomberlin.

- Colleen completed revisions to the Procedures document to update it with this Committee’s responsibilities.

Plans for the upcoming year:

- Accept grant applications and make awards for the TWS Annual Conference Grant, awards for the Professional Development Grants and the 2021 NCTWS Annual Meeting Registration Grants.

- Implement a tracking system in Quicken to link revenue sources (e.g., annual meeting income, dues, fundraising, donations) to appropriate money market/expense.

- Pete is working to implement the committee’s proposal to move the Susan Sharpe Memorial Fund (SSMF) out from the oversight of the Chapter. This would free up a money market at SECU that the Chapter could then use for the Awards Money Market, the Grant Money Market, or the Chapter Money Market.

- Continue to attempt to set up a meeting with a financial advisor and provide the Executive Board with recommendations for the long-term sustainability of Chapter funds.