

Conservation Affairs Committee

Description Created: November 1st, 2020

Description Revised: *Date*

Revision Approved by OCTWS Exec: *Date*

Short Description

Within the Ontario Chapter of The Wildlife Society (OCTWS), there exists a need to periodically review and provide feedback on developing and ongoing public policy and associated issues relevant to wildlife conservation and management in Ontario as well as elsewhere in Canada. As such, the OCTWS established the Ontario Conservation Affairs Committee (OCAC) to ensure such issues are given due discourse. The OCAC is responsible for the development and dissemination of science supported information required to inform public policy makers, wildlife professionals, other resource managers, and the public concerning these issues. The OCAC will also solicit and accept feedback from the Canadian Section (CSTWS) and Chapter membership with respect to those issues that warrant the attention of OCTWS, and determine, in consultation with the Chapter Executive, which issues will be considered for analysis.

The role of the OCAC is to:

- Identify and define priority issues surrounding Ontario wildlife management and where applicable, contribute relevant information to decision making processes at both the governmental and auxiliary levels with respect to other organizations that have an influence in wildlife and species management
- Provide scientific, technical, and ethical background information on conservation issues that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the OCTWS, CSTWS, and TWS parent organization
- Offer feedback to the CSTWS on wildlife management and conservation issues of particular importance to CSTWS, such that they can communicate with the parent Society to undertake its mandate sensitive to the needs of the Canadian membership

Bylaw Description

This committee shall review legislative proposals, administrative regulations, environmental assessments and impact statements, and other subjects or issues affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat within the organizational area of the Chapter and make recommendations to the Executive Board for any action that should be taken by the Ontario Chapter. The Chair may ask any Chapter member to assist with reviews. The Conservation Affairs committee shall be responsible for Resolutions and Public Statements as per Article VII, Section 5.

Committee Membership

All OCTWS committees should strive to include all members interested in participating and attempt to include students and professionals from multiple industries where possible. Committees do not have to include members of the executive but will report to the executive.

Minimum Number of Committee Members: 3

Committee Structure

Most OCTWS committees will consist of a chair and members. Chairs can appoint minute takers or other committee roles as deemed necessary.

Committee Duties

- Establish a terms of reference
 - Establish protocol to issue position statements
 - Investigate liability issues associated with position statements and member employer affiliations (e.g., government staff)
 - Investigate the potential of collaborating with CSTWS CAC on some issues
- Establish a list of relevant conservation issues worth committee attention specific to ON

Time Commitments/Meeting Schedule

The OCAC should expect to meet monthly for approximately 1 hour. In some cases, meetings may be more frequent or infrequent at the discretion of the chair.

Reporting Requirements

Annual reports are due approximately 14 days prior to the OCTWS AGM or at the discretion of the President. Annual reports should include a review of committee tasks over the year including a roster of committee membership. Additional reporting should be made by email to the President and Secretary for reporting to the executive at monthly meetings.

Committee Membership History

Year	Position	Name
2021/2022	Chair	Open
2021/2022	Member	Open