

# 2013 Annual Business Meeting of the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Whitefish, Montana Feb. 28, 2013

Meeting Opened at 7:07 a.m.

Treasurer Report

## Financial Report of the MT Chapter of TWS

Prepared by Chuck Bowey

### Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2012

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Endowment - U of M Valley Bank	23,692.00
Checking	17,172.24
<b>Savings</b>	
Bob Watts	8,262.71
Savings - Other	<u>16,026.56</u>
<b>Total Savings</b>	24,289.27
Special Projects	<u>44,787.13</u>
<b>Total Valley Bank</b>	<u>86,248.64</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>109,940.64</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>109,940.64</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>109,940.64</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Balance Equity	35,927.99
Retained Earnings	90,650.77
Net Income	<u>-16,638.12</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>109,940.64</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>109,940.64</u></b>

Old Business

Chuck Bowey moved to accept the 2012 Treasurer Report. Lynn Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

John Vore moved to accept the 2012 minutes. Brent Mitchell seconded. Motion carried

## New Business

### *Exurban Housing Development and Wildlife Position Statement Update*

John Vore gave an update on the Exurban Housing Development and Wildlife Position Statement that was passed by the membership on February 28, 2013. The Development working group is looking at where they go from here. The working group would like to see a separate tab on the MTTWS chapter website for the development information and link to the position statement and publication. The website should also have a link to FWP's CAPS webpage. Other links relative to development should also be on this website so that all the outreach materials are available to the public. The working group would like to see all of the scientific information that has been gathered relative to housing development available in one place.

The development working group would also like to have an online bibliography similar to the Effects of Recreation online bibliography that is available. The working group will pursue what would be involved in creating the online bibliography and get back to the board with any costs associated with the bibliography development. Bryce Maxwell offered to append the development bibliography to the Effects of Recreation bibliography. The working group would like to see a separate website so users are not confused by the Effects of Recreation information. Discussion ensued on potential methods of using the Effects of Recreation bibliography for the Development bibliography and having it be user friendly. Terry Lonner mentioned that he recorded the 1999 Subdivision and Development Conference in Bozeman and could get that conference transcribed and made available online. The working group has permission from the board to continue working on these items and update the board as necessary.

Shawn Cleveland mentioned that the National TWS would like to use the Montana Chapter's Exurban Housing Development and Wildlife position statement as a recommendation for other state chapters and the national chapter.

### *Intermountain Journal of Sciences Upgrade*

Terry Lonner gave an update on the proposal to upgrade the Intermountain Journal of Sciences (IJS) and make it available online. The Montana Chapter of TWS membership accepted the proposal to contribute funding for the IJS upgrade on February 28, 2013. The Montana Chapter of AFS also approved the proposal to contribute funding to get IJS online conditional on this chapter approving it. Costs are the same as white paper information with \$2500 needed upfront and \$250 annually for maintenance. Rick Douglas is the new editor in chief.

### *Leadership Institute Request for Funding*

The Leadership Institute has requested funding for the 2013 class. Shawn Cleveland gave an update on what the Leadership institute is and discussed how many Montana Chapter members have participated over the years. TWS national currently needs \$5000 to fund the 2013 class due to some unexpected funding cuts. National is looking for donations from the subsections and chapters for this year so they can get funding figured out for future years. The money would come out of the special projects account. Discussion followed about supporting the Institute. The money would only

be needed for this year and minimal overhead is taken out of the donations. The money would go directly to sponsoring workshop attendees. If more money is donated than the \$5000 needed for the 2013 class, then an endowment will be started to make the program self sustaining.

John Vore moved to donate \$1000 to the Leadership Institute with funding coming out of Special Projects. Justin Gude seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

Membership committee update – Chuck Bowey

Treasurer will take on role of updating the membership database to eliminate redundancy. The membership committee will take on the roll of getting chapter members.

Awards Committee – Joanne Dullum

Allison Begley, Don Sasse, Craig Knowles, and Lewis Young served on the Awards Committee. The committee had 8 nominations this year: 3 for the Distinguished Service Award, 3 for Wildlife Biologist of the Year Award, 1 for the Wildlife Conservation Award, and 1 for the Bob Watts Communication Award. Sending out more than 1 reminder email in the fall and before the holidays seemed to help participation. Cost for the 6 plaques (4 TWS, 2 Wynn Freeman): \$524.50. A press release will be sent out and a letter from TWS will be sent to the recipients along with the nomination letters.

Small Grants and Scholarship Committees – Vanna Boccadori

Two applications for the MTTWS small grant for \$1000, Lynn Kelly was the recipient. Erin Kenison was the recipient of the \$500 Counter Assault grant. This was the last year of a 5 year MOU with Counter Assault for this grant. Joe Weigand is going to work on extending the MOU. The Counter Assault General Manager will present the grant at this year's banquet. Next Year Claire Gower will be on the Small Grants Committee to replace Vanna Boccadori.

Nominations and Elections – Julie Cunningham

Julie needs help since she has done it on her own this year. Joe Weigand, Ashley Beyer and Shawn Cleveland will also help with the nominations committee. Julie had difficulty recruiting members to run for officer positions this year. Current and past officers need to help get other members unafraid and educated about the requirements of being an officer. Gael Bissel discussed having clipboards for interested people to sign up to be contacted to be on a committee. A description of each committee will also be included.

Financial Committee – Chuck Bowey

Committee members will help draft a budget and give the chapter some financial direction.

## Legislative Affairs Committee - Gael Bissel

The chapter sent \$1000 each to MWF and Audubon to lobby on behalf of MTTWS. There was some discussion about donating money to MWF and Audubon in the off years as well as the legislative years. Chuck Bowey mentioned that the fund only has \$200. It was pointed out that the money for lobbying should come out of special projects. Chuck will make the corrections for the donations that had come out of the operations fund. The chapter is currently supporting what these two organizations are generally saying. If the chapter wants the lobbyist to say something specific on a particular bill on behalf of MTTWS then the Executive Board would have to contact her with the chapter's position. This is the reason that the chapter needs a more active Legislative Affairs Committee. John Vore questioned whether the chapter should have their own lobbyist. However the chapter would need some kind of insurance in case of litigation. If a chapter members testifies on behalf of the chapter that is not lobbying. It was generally agreed that the chapter needs to be more active in the legislative sessions. The chapter receives many emails from Keith Aune calling for the chapter to be more active. Terry Lonner mentioned that the chapter did have its own lobbyist once, but it takes the right person to be a lobbyist. Diane Boyd would like to see the chapter donating to the Sportsmens' Alliance. This organization has been very beneficial for sportsmen in Montana and has been active in the legislative sessions. Diane suggests making the donations \$750 to the 3 groups instead of \$1000 to MWF and Audubon. The legislative affairs committee needs to get in contact with National TWS because National already has a lot of information put together on TWS involvement in politics with their Government Affairs department. It was a consensus among meeting participants that the chapter needs to be more involved.

## Species of Concern Committee – Bryce Maxwell

Members of the species of concern committee were Bryce Maxwell, Paul Hendricks, Kristi DuBois, Catherine Wightman, and Lauri Hanauska-Brown. During the past year and a half the Species of Concern Committee has been requested to review the conservation status ranks of 96 species. The conservation status scoring process involves documentation and categorization of Population Size, Range Extent, Area of Occupancy, Long-term Trend, Short-term Trend, the severity, scope, and immediacy of Threats, Intrinsic Vulnerability, and Environmental Specificity. Generally species are scored by review of readily available information; often in conjunction with, or review by, species experts. In order to make conservation status reviews more transparent and encourage more involvement, documentation and scoring for underlying scoring criteria and the overall status ranking is being added to species accounts on the Montana Field Guide; only around 15 species have their conservation status scoring information posted at this point, but this should be completed within the coming year.

There was discussion about dropping the PSOC list and focusing on some sort of data deficient species list over the past year but feedback has weighed heavily toward keeping the PSOC list and additionally categorizing species by their survey/inventory/monitoring status. Given that feedback, the committee is in the process of categorizing the survey/inventory/monitoring status of all vertebrate species (e.g., regular survey, irregular survey, recent baseline, outdated baseline, no baseline).

## **Overview of Conservation Status Reviews in 2012/2013**

### **Removals from the SOC List (2)**

Bald Eagle  
Grasshopper Sparrow

### **Removal from PSOC (1)**

Swainson's Hawk

### **Additions to the SOC List (4)**

Northern Hawk Owl  
Varied Thrush  
Green-tailed Towhee  
Evening Grosbeak

### **Additions to PSOC with higher conservation concern score (3)**

Eared Grebe  
Virginia Rail  
Boreal Owl

### **Additions to PSOC with no change to conservation concern score (5)**

Short-eared Owl  
White-footed Mouse  
Water Vole  
Porcupine  
Uinta Ground Squirrel

### **Moved from the SOC List to the PSOC List due to lack of information (6)**

Eastern Red Bat  
Black-tailed Jack Rabbit  
Hispid Pocket Mouse  
Meadow Jumping Mouse  
Western Spotted Skunk  
Uinta Chipmunk

### **Higher Conservation Concern Score, but no change in SOC or PSOC list status (11)**

Northern Pintail  
Osprey  
American Kestrel  
Horned Lark  
Black-billed Magpie  
Lark Sparrow  
Common Grackle  
Pine Grosbeak  
Northern Redbelly X Finescale Dace  
Stonecat  
Moose

**Lower Conservation Concern Score, but no change in SOC or PSOC list status (5)**

Spotted Bat  
Townsend's Big-eared Bat  
Pallid Bat  
Great Basin Pocket Mouse  
Paddlefish

**Same Conservation Concern Score and no change in SOC or PSOC list status (48)**

American White Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
White-faced Ibis  
Turkey Vulture  
Ferruginous Hawk  
Golden Eagle  
Peregrine Falcon  
Greater Sage-Grouse  
Sharp-tailed Grouse  
Whooping Crane  
Mountain Plover  
Upland Sandpiper  
Long-billed Curlew  
Black Tern  
Western Screech-Owl  
Burrowing Owl  
Barred Owl  
Common Poorwill  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Black-backed Woodpecker  
Pinyon Jay  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Canyon Wren  
Sprague's Pipit  
Brewer's Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Baird's Sparrow  
McCown's Longspur  
Chestnut-collared Longspur  
Bobolink  
Cassin's Finch  
White-winged Crossbill  
Western Silvery Minnow  
Brassy Minnow  
Plains Minnow  
Creek Chub  
Flathead Chub  
Burbot  
Brook Stickleback  
Little Brown Myotis

Yuma Myotis  
Pika  
Pygmy Rabbit  
Hoary Marmot  
Idaho Pocket Gopher  
Gray Wolf  
Mountain Goat  
Bighorn Sheep

**Species Still Under Review (11)**

Western Toad  
Clark Fork Sculpin  
Black-tailed Prairie Dog  
Swift Fox  
Grizzly Bear  
Fisher  
Wolverine  
Canada Lynx  
Spiny Softshell  
Common Sagebrush Lizard  
Pygmy Shrew

Recreation Impacts Committee – Bryce Maxwell

Fifty more references were added from Amy Waller to the Effects of Recreation bibliography. The online bibliography has also become more functional with the latest updates however the amount the bibliography is used is unknown. It was decided that the chapter newsletter would have a constant note about the links to the bibliography and other great resources available on the TWS website. Bryce mentioned that if the subdivision would like their information on the website all the links would be in one place.

Education committee – Terry Lonner and Steve Gniadek

Terry Lonner and Steve Gniadek attended the 2012 MEA/MFT convention with the MTTWS booth. This was the first time the chapter has had a booth at the convention. The Education Committee recommends the chapter has another booth this year in Belgrade. The committee also recommends the chapter attends the convention the next 3 years to adequately cover the state and then see where we end up. Terry mentioned the Chapter should have more people help with the booth so it isn't just 3 retired wildlife professionals. To be more effective at the booth the Chapter needs people current on the issues. The committee also suggests that the Chapter needs to be able to meet with the schools in order to get exposure for the Chapter and the current wildlife issues. The Education Committee states the Chapter shares some of the wildlife management issues in the legislature and the Chapter needs to help with the lack of knowledge about wildlife issues in Montana. The Education Committee like the Legislative Affairs Committee need to be more involved. This venture should be financially supported by the Chapter because we won't get members up to the Capitol who have to incur out of pocket expenses. Lynn Kelly would like to be a presenter at the MEA-MFT

convention using Project Wild and tie into the MTTWS booth. Whisper Camel brought up the idea of a committee report budget. The education committee would like \$1200 for the 2013 MEA/MFT Convention.

Terry Lonner moved for \$1200 for the Education Committee to attend the 2013 MEA/MFT Convention. Seconded by Joe Weigand. Motion carried.

Whisper Camel would like to have the committees send out an email with a contact phone number for members to know what is going on with their committees. She would also like to get calls out the Chapter committees to get their budget reports to the Executive Board earlier.

### Other Business

Wildlife Legacy Project – Vanna Boccadori

Vanna stated that the Chapter needs to help get the “Back from the Brink” videos and books into the hands of the schools. It is proposed for the MTTWS Chapter and Media Works to sign an MOU in agreement to hold the funds for this venture. Charitable donors will contribute the money and then Media Works will bill the Chapter to cover the printing costs. The Education Committee will help raise the funding for this venture.

Vanna Boccadori moved to develop an MOU with Media Works to accept grants on behalf of the Education Committee to distribute funds for the printing costs of the “Back from the Brink” materials to Media Works. John Vore seconded. Motion carried.

Montana Sportsmen’s Alliance support – Sam Milodragovich

The Montana Sportsmen’s Alliance needs engagement from Montana wildlife professionals. Money is good support but the organization also needs people to talk to their local legislators. MSA does read letters of support for many groups and they can mention the Chapter if needed. MSA needs more people to contact their legislators in order to be more effective. The Chapter can get on mailing lists from wildlife organizations.

Another possible communication format for the Chapter would be to send out an emergency email or Facebook page in order to get people motivated for the Legislative Session.

Valerie will create a Facebook page for the Chapter to disseminate information. Lynn Kelly motioned for Valerie to create a MTTWS Facebook page. Joe Weigand seconded. Motion carried.

Lynn Kelly motioned for adjournment. Gael Bissel seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:04AM