

## Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Business Meeting, 10 August 2016

Vice President Jim Hays stood in for President Karie Decker, who was unable to attend, and called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Laurel Badura, Justin Hamilton, Lindsey Messinger, Mindy Rice, Andrea Orabona, and Jim Hays.

**Secretary's Report:** Laurel presented the membership with the 2015 Annual Business Meeting minutes. Bob Wood motioned to approve the Secretary's report. Mindy Rice seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laurel presented the membership with the treasurer's report. The current account balance is \$13,239.48. Bob Wood motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Stan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Audit:** Andrea and Jim audited the books and all was found to be satisfactory.

**Nominations and Elections:** Justin presented the new Executive Board members to the membership.

- Jim Hayes is continuing as the Vice-President.
- Stephane Ferrero is our new Board Member At-large. Stephanie serves Colorado and Kansas.
- Shelly Deisch is our new Board Member At-large. Shelly is from South Dakota.

Gary White motioned to "destroy" the Survey Monkey. Bill Jensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Membership:** Weber State University and the University of Utah are our new Student Chapters for 2015-2016. Valley City State has applied to become a new Student Chapter and is pending approval. Valley City State University resides in North Dakota.

**Publicity:** Andrea reported that our Newsletter Editor is Aleshia Fremgen so please submit articles to her for inclusion into our newsletter (fremgenal@missouri.edu). Andrea will be attending the State Chapter meetings at least once during her term. She will be taking a poster giving membership information about CMPS.

**Resolutions and Statements:** None offered.

**Awards:** We received two nominations for the Professional Award and one nomination for the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. Awards will be presented at the Evening Banquet.

### Old Business

**Bylaws Changes:** Jim mentioned that the Board will contact membership with bylaws changes so the membership can vote on any changes that may be needed. The Board is trying to keep in mind items such as the Annual Meeting including auction proceeds, travel, and organizing. Andrea has gone through the current bylaws and feels there aren't a lot of major changes, just discrepancies in language such as "Board" and "Executive Board". Andrea would like to clean up the format and language. Andrea mentioned that we will be discussing, with Chapter input, the way CMPS meetings will be held. This will keep in mind what works for the State and Student Chapters. The Board is seeking suggestions from the membership during this process.

**Conservation Affairs Network:** No report at this time.

### New Business:

#### **Keith Norris, Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships:**

This office recognizes that the policies at the Federal, State, and Regional levels support the work you do to sustain wildlife populations on the ground. One of the initiatives this office has started is the Conservation Affairs Network. That idea was developed out of the idea that National, Section, and State Chapters weren't communicating as well as they could on wildlife affairs and policies. Most of the Chapters already had committees in place to handle policy issues but National was interested in

facilitating support to the State and Sections by creating a network amongst the levels to increase communication. National is creating a policy library with a database that will be searchable through the membership portal. This library will be able to tell you past and present TWS policies so there is a more consistent message throughout the Nation.

Keith mentioned that Certification is simpler to apply for now and the process is quicker. The entire application can now be done online.

A membership directory has been developed similar to a LinkedIn profile. Keith is asking for members to log in to the membership portal and update their information.

An auto-renewal membership is now in place. Members can save \$5 if they enroll in auto-renewal. The 1,000 initiative is a strategic effort which carries the catch-phrase "Leading By Example". It is a donation effort (minimum \$100 donation) through National that allows members to donate to their program of choice within National. Initiatives include early career membership, policy support, and many more.

National has new partners that are year-round partners now, not just partnerships that occur around the meeting. Bayer Bee Care and Ducks Unlimited are the most recent partnerships. Several other partnerships are in process.

New policies National is working on include Wild Horse Management and an initiative to implement and improve new management strategies for overpopulated wild horse populations on Forest Service and BLM lands. A congressional briefing and testimony in front of Congress has occurred over the last year. National will be seeking further action from members.

Blue Ribbon Panel Legislation (Recovery of America's Wildlife). This is a bill that seeks to support Wildlife Conservation Funding. It is very similar to State Wildlife Grants but would be permanent funding to support State Wildlife Action Plans.

Gary White pointed out that the new way to contact congressional leaders is very convenient to do as an individual. Bill Jensen would like more separation between contacting congressional leaders as an individual and a Chapter representative. Keith recommended that you should create separation by, as a Chapter representative, sending in a letter directly to the congressional leader rather than using the Action Center provided by National, which is more individual oriented.

**Bob Lanka, Central Mountain and Plains Section Representative to TWS Council:**

- Bob reported the National Meeting is October 15-19, 2015 in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2017, the meeting will be held in September at Albuquerque, NM. Amongst the great reasons to attend the meeting, networking and professional development tops the list.
- TWS had a tough budget struggle in recent years but Ken Williams was committed to change this and, for the first time in several years, there was a surplus in budgeting in 2015 and 2016. Despite a bump in the road with 2016 investments, TWS still reported a surplus of approximately \$190,000 in 2016.
- Membership had been declining in the past years but this past year, we had a bump of 54 members. Not a large bump, but a bump just the same.
- Member statistics—70% male, 30% female, 94% Caucasian, 25% habitat and wildlife management, 14% students, and 5% CMPS members. Bob encouraged collaboration with Tribes to get more members.
- Bob asked to increase Section members by 12.5% in 2016. Today, a report from National identified 433 new members to the Section. Bob will be verifying these numbers.
- New member benefits—As of January 1, 2017, Council and Staff have worked to make membership more valuable. A regular membership fee will include all of the journals available online. This will cost the Society \$125,000 a year and will be a substantial portion of the budget. The hope is that more wildlife professionals will become members of National.

- Leadership Institute—A wave of retirements is going through the profession right now. Since 2006, TWS has committed to train new members to fulfill the open roles left behind by retirements. We have one CMPS member, Adam Ahlers (Kansas State University), attending the Leadership Institute and Bob will be his mentor. The application deadline for next year is March 2017.

Bob finished with a moving speech to encourage members to continue membership in The Wildlife Society and to encourage new members to join. Renew your membership, encourage those you know, join TWS!

**Lindsey Messinger:** Lindsey wanted to remind everyone that she is the representative from CMPS for the Editorial Advisory Board. She stated her term has no limit and is asking if anyone would like to take her place.

**State Chapter Updates:** Jim asked State Chapter representatives to be available to the members to give the Chapter updates.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** South Dakota is the next Annual Meeting location.

**Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant:** We've received 8 applications for the Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant. The Board will be reviewing the applications and giving their recommendations for recipients.

**Bob Wood motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gary White seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.