

**Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) Annual Business Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2017
Oacoma, South Dakota**

President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM CST.

Executive Board members introduced themselves: (in person) Andrea Orabona (President), Jim Hays (Vice-President), Justin Hamilton (Member At-large), and Shelly Deisch (Member At-large); (via conference call) Laurel Badura (Secretary/Treasurer), Stephanie Ferrero (Member At-large), Adam Behney (Member At-large), and Aleshia Fremgen (Newsletter Editor). Twenty-four CMPS members were also present for the meeting. This constitutes a quorum.

Andrea Orabona gave a presentation on the background of CMPS, reviewed bylaws and proposed changes, discussed our Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, and talked about the Spring Newsletter. Andrea emphasized that the Central Mountains and Plains Section is the liaison between State and Student Chapters and The Wildlife Society (TWS), and that we are here to serve our members.

Andrea Orabona read the minutes from the 2016 CMPS Annual Business Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Bill Vodehnal made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynn McDaniels seconded the motion; discussion included a request from Gary White to change the word National in the minutes to The Wildlife Society, as TWS is now international in scope; Andrea stated that this could not be changed in the newsletter that has already been sent out, but that we would make those corrections from here on out; motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Laurel Badura gave the Treasurer's report. Our total expenses were \$2,435.82, and \$11,011.60 is our total current income. Laurel gave an update on the CD in question. The CD had been cashed out and included in our total income. It looked like an additional \$2,400, but it was actually part of our balance. She does have a few more checks to deposit, which total around \$1,100, and we also have two awards to pay for. Gary White made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to approve the Treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Bob Lanka, Section Representative to TWS Council, gave a presentation on TWS Council updates. He talked about The Wildlife Society turning 80 years old today; discussed upcoming national meetings; discussed member numbers, statistics, and demographics; reviewed new member benefits; and presented his Section challenge with an emphasis on recruiting new members from First Nation Tribes. Bob also discussed TWS's Leadership Institute; the Give Back Program; the 1,000 Program; and legislative work with the 115th Congress. He gave an overview of presidential legacies, and how TWS needs to be involved with wildlife issues regardless of our current President and Administration. He offered quotes by Teddy Roosevelt, Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, and the first TWS journal in 1937 that talked about science and advocacy. These were all examples to show that we are facing some of the same challenges that our predecessors faced. Bob made a pitch to join TWS, because we can have a bigger impact on conservation by joining together than we can each accomplish individually.

Andrea Orabona discussed nominees for the upcoming opening of the Section Representative to TWS Council position. The renewal is in October 2017, and we will be able to vote in June through TWS. The two nominees are Bob Lanka and Adam Ahlers. Thanks to both candidates for their willingness to serve CMPS and TWS in this capacity!

Jim Hays discussed the CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award and the Professional Award. Both awards winners are from South Dakota this year and will be at the banquet this evening to receive their awards in person. Jim encouraged everyone to nominate worthy recipients for these awards. Jim also discussed that he chairs the Audit Committee, and that the Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Audit Committee before the meeting and was found to be accurate.

Andrea Orabona discussed our CMPS bylaws and that they were reviewed by the Executive Board and updated to include things like conference calls, website information, voting electronically, etc. Andrea will make final suggested changes, send them to TWS for approval, and then make them available via our newsletter so members can vote on accepting the changes.

Aleshia Fremgen discussed the newsletter and asked for members to send information to her for the 2017 Spring Newsletter. She also discussed changing the deadlines to April 1st, July 1st, and November 1st to better accommodate scheduled events. Newsletters will be released approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. Aleshia also asked for information for the CMPS Facebook page.

Laurel Badura gave an update on the next CMPS meeting, which will be a joint meeting between CMPS and the Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The meeting will be in February or maybe January, following the results of the Nebraska survey on meeting time. Program development ideas can be sent to Laurel. They have discussed having it in Kearney, but no meeting location has been decided upon yet. Updates will be provided by Nebraska TWS to CMPS members about the meeting.

Andrea Orabona discussed the trial basis of how states can host the CMPS Annual Meeting: 1) CMPS meeting is held in August separate from the host's State Chapter meeting, 2) State Chapter moves its meeting to August for a joint meeting, or 3) CMPS meeting is moved to be held jointly with the host's State Chapter meeting. This trial suggestion was made at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Steamboat Springs, as some members thought it was costly to have two meetings a year and potentially difficult to get members to attend both. This is a trial basis, and for now the decision is made by the host state.

Bill Vodehnal discussed the Conservation Affairs Network. There are bimonthly conference calls to discuss what is taking place at the State Chapter and Section levels, and with TWS. Along with Keith Norris, members have discussed the Farm Bill and the issues of feral horses and burros on public lands. They are in the process of cataloging all position statements, letters, etc. from State Chapters and Sections from the last 10 years. Bill and Andrea Orabona have also been working on a Land and Water Conservation Fund letter; Congress is authorized to spend \$900 million but they have been spending \$300-\$400 million per year to various projects and land acquisitions. These funds go back to the states. Bill has submitted a letter to Andrea for review from the Section. Bill encouraged the South Dakota Chapter to write a letter to their Congressional delegation regarding LWCF allocation, as well. The Wyoming Legislature introduced a bill on privatization of wildlife that would allow permitted individuals to collect up to 1,000 wild Greater Sage-Grouse eggs and raise them in captivity for later release.

Andrea Orabona discussed the opening for President-Elect and two At-large Board Member positions that will come open this August. President-Elect is a 4-year commitment (President-Elect for 1 year, President for 2 years, and Past-President for 1 year). The At-large Board Member position is a 2-year commitment. The terms of Justin Hamilton and Adam Behney (who took over for Lindsey Messinger after she moved out of the Section's region) will end this August. Position descriptions are on the CMPS website and in the bylaws.

Lynn McDaniels stated that the CMPS banner displayed at the meeting needs to be updated (it still includes 3 Canadian provinces). Andrea Orabona replied that it was found in someone's office and sent to her and is the only banner we currently have, but a new one would be ideal.

Bill Vodehnal is working on the Rangeland Working Group, and asked Section members to be involved in available TWS working groups. It only costs \$5 to join.

Gary White stated that the Section has not nominated a candidate for the Distinguished Service Award for the last 2 years. Gary discussed that each Section is allowed to nominate one member per year, and encouraged the Section members to nominate a deserving candidate. The award is for long-term distinguished service to The Wildlife Society and is to award someone for "always being there". See the website for more details. Award nominations should be sent to Jim Hays.

Gary White made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bill Vodehnal seconded the motion; motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously. Andrea Orabona adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM CST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Justin Hamilton, Shelly Deisch, and Andrea Orabona