

**Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS)
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2018
Kearney, Nebraska**



President Andrea Orabona called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM CST.

Executive Board members introduced themselves: (in attendance) Andrea Orabona (President), Jim Hays (Vice-President), Adam Ahlers (President-Elect), Shelly Deisch (Member At-large), Stephanie Ferrero (Member At-large), Laurel Badura (Secretary/Treasurer), and Bob Lanka (Section Representative to TWS Council). A quorum of members was also present. Also introduced were Mariah Simmons (TWS), Gary White (TWS), CMPS past Presidents and long-time members, and the NETWS Board and planning committee.

Andrea Orabona reviewed CMPS and emphasized that CMPS is the liaison between State and Student Chapters and TWS, and we're here to serve our members.

Laurel Badura read the minutes from the 2017 CMPS Annual Business Meeting in Oacoma, South Dakota. Members voted to accept the minutes.

Laurel Badura read the Treasurer's Report. Members voted to accept the report.

Andrea Orabona gave the final Bylaws revision update. Bylaws revisions were made by the CMPS Executive Board and approved by TWS; updated bylaws were voted on and accepted by CMPS members; Mariah Simmons (TWS) placed the updated bylaws on the CMPS website.

Adam Ahlers lead a discussion on the CMPS Strategic Plan. No changes to the Strategic Plan were suggested.

Bob Lanka, Section Representative to TWS Council, presented his report.

Andrea Orabona gave an update on CMPS's Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant. Deadline of September 1, 2018 was determined for submitting grant requests for the 2018 TWS Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Andrea Orabona gave a communications update for Newsletter Editor and Publicity Committee Chair, Aleshia Fremgen. Newsletter article due dates for 2018 are April 1, June 15, and November 1; members discussed Spring Newsletter content. All are encouraged to submit photos and information for our CMPS Facebook page.

State and Student Chapter officer information is due to the CMPS President by April 1st each year.

Jim Hays discussed the Professional Award and Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. No nominations were received for the professional award; two nominees were received for the citizen's award. The CMPS Executive Board voted to present both citizen's award nominees with an award this year.

Andrea Orabona opened discussion on TWS's Distinguished Service Award. Gary White presented this at the 2017 CMPS Business Meeting. CMPS has not submitted a nomination for a few years. Each Section can nominate 1 member per year; we have many worthy candidates in the CMPS region, so we should nominate someone for 2019. This award is for long-term distinguished service to TWS and for "always being there". Send nominations to the CMPS Vice-President. See TWS's website for more information.

Bill Vodehnal (CMPS CAN Chair) gave an update on the Conservation Affairs Network and Rangeland Working Group.

Andrea Orabona gave an update on TWS's Editorial Advisory Board Member from CMPS. Lindsey Messinger has filled this role for several years but has moved out of the CMPS region; she has several months left in her term and will serve until the position is filled. Gordon Batcheller is the EAB Chair, knows the situation, and can help navigate questions about the EAB Member role and recruitment process. It is a 3-year term, with an option to extend to a second 3-year term if reappointed by CMPS.

Andrea Orabona opened a discussion on upcoming CMPS Executive Board candidates. Terms start in August; Vice-President (replacing Jim Hays) = 2 years, 2 Members At-large (replacing Shelly Deisch and Stephanie Ferrero) = 2 years each, Secretary/Treasurer (replacing Laurel Badura) = appointed. All position descriptions are in the CMPS Bylaws and on the CMPS website.

Group discussion on updating our CMPS banner. Our old banner still includes 3 Canadian provinces. Do members want to spend CMPS funds for a new banner? If so, do we want a new logo (suggested by a member last year)? Len McDaniel made a motion to spend funds to update the banner; Bill Vodehnal seconded; motion passed. Jim Hays and Andrea Orabona will pursue this.

North Dakota is the State Chapter host for the 2019 CMPS Annual Meeting. Andrea Orabona went to the 2018 NDTWS Annual Meeting and started the meeting process with NDTWS Board members.

Group discussion on the timing of the CMPS Annual Meeting. Implementing different scenarios of how State Chapters can host the CMPS Annual Meeting was suggested at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Steamboat Springs. Some members thought it was costly to have 2 meetings per year, and it can be difficult to get members to attend both. Three scenarios were proposed on a trial basis: 1) CMPS meeting is held in August separate from the host state's meeting, 2) host State Chapter moves its meeting to August for a joint meeting, 3) CMPS meeting is moved to be held jointly with the host's meeting. The meeting decision is currently made by each host state; is this working?

Discussion of switching host states for the 2020 and 2021 CMPS Annual Meetings. Currently 2020 = Utah, 2021 = Wyoming. If agreed, we could ask these State Chapters to switch host years so Bob Lanka's last year as Section Representative to TWS Council will coincide with the CMPS Annual Meeting in Wyoming, Bob's home state. Andrea Orabona will pursue this with the UT and WY State Chapters.

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM CST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laurel Badura and Andrea Orabona