



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

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Shelly Deisch

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Aleshia Rummel

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CMPS website:

<http://wildlife.org/cmp>

Message from the President

Spring 2020 Volume 72

Hello, All! I hope you and your family and friends are healthy and happy. As you are well aware, this pandemic has slammed into most of our work and home lives and affected any daily routine we might have had prior to this spring. It has also complicated all of our plans for employment, research, habitat improvement projects, extension activities, and family activities. In my own life, I have quickly transitioned to become an online instructor at Kansas State University and a home school teacher for my two daughters, all while also trying to salvage my lab's summer research projects. I'm sincerely grateful to have a job and safe place to live during all of this mess – there are many other wildlife professionals who are not so fortunate. I realize that this statement is now cliché, but these are indeed unprecedented times.

As we move forward trying to plan for the future I wanted to highlight a couple things I think are important to consider. All of us have been affected to some degree, and some more than others. For instance, I've spoken to several seasonal wildlife technicians who are now in limbo waiting to hear if the jobs they planned on working this summer are going to be funded. Their financial security is not certain and they are scrambling to develop a Plan B. Other state and federal biologists are trying to salvage their own critical wildlife management programs while also teaching their children at home. Other non-permanent wildlife professionals have been furloughed. Moreover, many of us are close to people who have been directly impacted by the virus. As each of us navigate uncertainty it is important to realize we are all striving to do our best given our own unique circumstances. Please be kind to everybody and offer to help where you can. This is a simple statement that I repeat to my daughters often. However, these are powerful actions that help us work together as a team and ensure our colleagues have our support.

Although it is unclear when things will be back to normal, it will happen at some point. Until then, take some time to get yourself and your family/friends outdoors. Although our lives and economies have been disrupted, nature still persists. Prairie grouse are still on leks, turkeys are gobbling, crappie are biting, moths are popping up, chorus frogs are calling, and sandhill cranes recently passed through our part of the central flyway. For me, it is comforting to know that these things will happen like clockwork even when disruption occurs in our own lives. I hope you all can remain happy and healthy through this mess, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Lander, Wyoming in November.

- Adam Ahlers, CMPS President

Section Business

Greetings from President-Elect and South Dakota Meeting Summary

Hello from your CMPS President-Elect. I was only able to attend one annual State Chapter meeting so far this year but look forward to attending as many of our 7 states' events as possible in the future. I am anxious to meet you all, connect face-to-face with each Chapter, and learn what are some of the critical issues and accomplishments in each of your states. I hope to attend TWS's Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, September 27 – October 1, 2020 and the joint Wyoming State Chapter/CMPS Annual Meeting in Lander, November 17-19, 2020. CMPS will host our Annual Business Meeting at the joint meeting. Of course, this all depends upon the COVID-19 situation and if TWS gives the ok to gather and meet.

February 26-28, 2020, I attended my state's South Dakota Chapter meeting. The theme was biodiversity and, as stated in the Chapter's winter newsletter, "This year's theme should certainly strike a chord with our collective interests. As our landscape, environment, and socio-political atmosphere continues to evolve and change, elevating awareness on how these influencers affect our resources has never been more pivotal." Excellent summary of the comprehensive list of speakers and topics organized by the Chapter's then President-Elect and now President, Casey Heimerl. I have been to many of our state's Chapter meetings and this meeting by far was one of the most expansive and fascinating, in my opinion. A small sample of the topics that Casey and her team brought together included: pollinators, aquatic insects, native woody plants in the Northern Great Plains, Dakota skipper captive breeding program, flora and fauna surveys of Black Hills Game Production Areas, bryophyte and lichens, Ferruginous Hawk movements in North America, camera traps to record river otter movements, bobcats, false map turtle distributions, and the list kept going! The list of student presentations further demonstrated the wide diversity of topics and natural resource concerns in the Northern Great Plains. Casey and her team also presented two TWS short videos; one on the upcoming TWS Annual Conference and one from the Western Section's diversity of students in natural resources.

I was afforded some time to introduce myself as President-Elect and the importance of membership with our Society. Many attendees did not know that each State Chapter pays \$1 per member for Section dues for each member. Many attendees did not even know what the Section is or its role with the 7 represented states. As your upcoming Section President, I hope to expand that message and encourage engagement at the Section level.



Section Business

Greetings from President-Elect... (continued)

The banquet keynote feature speaker was Mike Phillips of the Turner Endangered Species Fund. His presentation, "Politics, Science, and the Biodiversity Crisis" was captivating from the first sentence he spoke. Mike is a wildlife biologist and also Montana state legislator. He highlighted the critical importance for us natural resource people to get out of our comfort zone and become engaged in local and regional policy making. This means some of us introverts who prefer nature to people could re-evaluate the importance of role as scientists to local decision making. Powerful and poignant. His message couldn't be more important than in these challenging times.

Lastly, and most surprising, I won the kayak raffle! I know what I will soon be learning to expand my recreational endeavors. Thank you SD-TWS Chapter for a marvelous, inspiring, and educational meeting in 2020!

Shelly Deisch, CMPS President-Elect



Nominations for CMPS Awards Due June 26th, 2020

Each of us knows people who are doing outstanding work for wildlife whether they are wildlife professionals or citizen conservationists. To acknowledge and celebrate these achievements, you can nominate the deserving people for an honorary award from the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society.

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society offers two prestigious awards once a year to honor the accomplishments of worthy groups or individuals. **The Professional Award** is given to a professional individual or group, and the **Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award** is given to an individual or group of citizens. Both awards recognize outstanding contributions towards the enhancement of wildlife endeavors within the Section. Award recipients receive a personalized wooden plaque at the annual CMPS conference and are featured in the CMPS newsletter.

Nomination criteria for each award can be found on the CMPS website (<https://wildlife.org/cmp/awards/>). Nominations of unsuccessful candidates remain in the candidate pool for a maximum of three years, unless the individual is re-nominated. Nominations or questions about the awards should be e-mailed to the CMPS Vice-President, Stephanie Ferrero (sferrero.tws@gmail.com) and must be received by Friday June 26th, 2020 to be considered.

Don't miss this special chance to thank the people you know who are making a difference for wildlife. Take just a little bit of time now to share what these heroes do and to inspire other people in conserving wildlife. Nominations can be made anytime between now and June 26th.

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Section Business

Seeking Nominations for Officers to CMPS Board

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society is seeking candidates to fill the Vice-President position and two Member At-large positions (see below for position descriptions).

All positions are 2-year terms. Nominations are due by June 15, 2020. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Andrew Little (alittle6@unl.edu). Please strongly consider serving at the Section level for TWS.

VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

MEMBERS AT-LARGE. Members At-large shall assist in the general administration of Section business affairs.

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Deadline is September 1, 2020

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) announces the availability of travel grants for students who plan to attend TWS' 2020 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Travel grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to a limited number of Student Chapters of TWS to assist with expenses incurred while attending the Annual Conference. Students may apply through their college or university Student Chapter of TWS or individually to CMPS. Applications must be submitted electronically by September 1, 2020 to CMPS President-Elect, Shelly Deisch (Shelly.Deisch@state.sd.us).

Preference will be given to the following (but all applications will be considered):

- Current undergraduate students.
- Students who are currently or who have recently been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, or a local TWS Chapter.
- Group applications of three or more individuals.
- Students who have pursued additional sources of funding.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the State or Student Chapter.
- Be a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section.
- Be a member of The Wildlife Society. Be a recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.

For more information and an application packet, please visit <https://wildlife.org/cmp/student-travel-grant/>.

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Section Business

CMPS and North Dakota Chapter Meeting



2019 CMPS Award Recipients: Professional Award—Bob Lanka (left), Best Student Poster—Hannah Karevold (second from left), Special Recognition Award—Andrea Orabona (second from right), Best Paper Presentation—Adam Ahlers (right), Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award—Stacy Hoeme (not pictured).



Bob Lanka, Section Rep to TWS Council, received the CMPS Professional Award presented by CMPS President Adam Ahlers



2019 CMPS Professional Award: Bob Lanka
 CMPS Special Recognition Award: Andrea Orabona

Section Business

CMPS and North Dakota Chapter Meeting—Field Trip to Prairie Potholes Region



Section Business

CMPS and North Dakota Chapter Meeting—Field Trip to Prairie Potholes Region



Rick Warhurst of North Dakota was the excellent and knowledgeable field trip leader. The tour included the environmental and climate field station in the prairie pothole region of North Dakota.



Section Business

Transcontinental Travel: Migration of Wyoming's Burrowing Owls Across North America

By Courtney Conway and Andrea Orabona

Burrowing Owls used to be common across grasslands in the United States and Canada during the summer breeding season. However, in some parts of the owls' range, numbers have declined and distribution has shrunk. To understand the reasons why, we also need to know where the owls spend the winter months and their migration pathways between breeding and wintering grounds.

The Burrowing Owl is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the 2017 Wyoming State Wildlife Action Plan due to unknown population trends and habitat loss or degradation. To address knowledge gaps for this species, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department joined a regional Burrowing Owl study that includes 11 states in the western U.S. and 3 provinces in Canada. Since 2013, almost 100 adult Burrowing Owls have been captured on their breeding grounds and fitted with solar-powered transmitter backpacks so we can follow their seasonal movements. We call this a full annual life-cycle conservation project.

In July 2019, numerous partners and volunteers across Wyoming helped us locate Burrowing Owl nests, capture and band adult and juvenile owls, and deploy transmitters on adult males and females. The results so far have been remarkable! Below is a summary of the captures and the owls' movements and migrations thus far.

We deployed solar-powered satellite transmitters on 12 Burrowing Owls (6 males and 6 females) at 11 nest sites in 6 locations around Wyoming: Pinedale Mesa (west of Pinedale), Jonah Field (southwest of Pinedale), Red Desert (northwest of Wamsutter), Red Wash (north of Baggs), Buckskin Mine (north of Gillette), and Thunder Basin National Grassland.

- 2 of the 12 transmitted owls never left the state, so are likely down or dead. 1 was from the Pinedale area, and 1 from the Gillette area.
- 10 of the 12 transmitted owls initiated migration southward from late July (earlier than usual) through late October.
- 3 of the 10 migrating owls stopped transmitting signals while en route (2 in west-central Colorado, and 1 in eastern Wyoming near Torrington). We are waiting to see if we get any additional locations from these owls. They may be dead or the transmitters may not be receiving enough solar power to communicate with the satellites. During fall and winter, when day-length is shorter and skies are



Burrowing Owl with a satellite transmitter PTT backpack unit.

Section Business

Transcontinental Travel: Migration of Wyoming's Burrowing Owls Across North America (continued)

more overcast, sometimes the transmitters don't receive enough solar power but then 'turn on' again in the spring.

- 1 of the 10 migrating owls was killed by a farming operation while stopping over in southern Kansas (see the dark blue line on the map that ends at the Kansas-Oklahoma border). That farmer contacted our U.S. project lead, Dr. Courtney Conway (USGS University of Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit) and sent him the owl carcass (Courtney's name and phone number are on each transmitter).
- 6 of the 10 owls that initiated migration wintered in Mexico.
- During their southern migrations to Mexico, 2 owls from the Pinedale area stopped over in Arizona (1 in south-central and 1 in northeastern Arizona), and 2 owls from the Gillette area stopped over on the northwestern plains of Texas (from west of Stratford to west of Amarillo to west of Lubbock). 1 owl from Thunder Basin had a brief stopover in southern Kansas, and 1 from the Red Desert area travelled nonstop to Mexico.

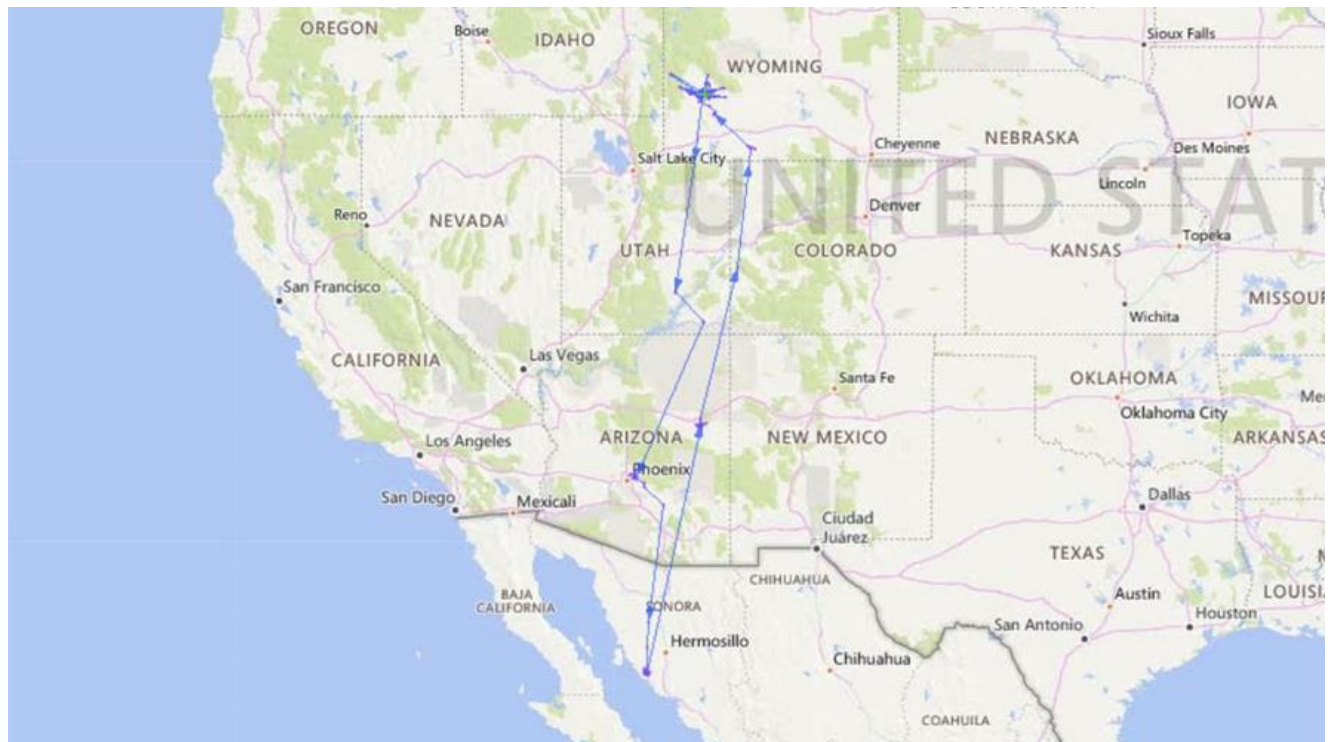


Fall migrations as of 27 January 2020 of the 12 Wyoming owls transmitted in 2019 (the map also includes the 6 owls transmitted in Nevada in 2019).

Section Business

Transcontinental Travel: Migration of Wyoming's Burrowing Owls Across North America (continued)

- 3 of the 6 Wyoming owls in Mexico wintered in coastal areas on the west coast of Mexico – 1 from the Red Desert area migrated to the west coast of Baja California, and 2 from the Pinedale area flew to the coast of the state of Sonora.
- 3 of the 6 Wyoming owls in Mexico (all from the Gillette area) wintered inland in the central rib of Mexico's mainland – 2 of those owls wintered in the Chihuahuan Desert Grassland in the state of Coahuila, and 1 continued migrating to southern Mexico (more information below).
- 1 of the 6 owls in Mexico flew to Ocotequila, in the state of Guerrero. This location is the furthest south and the longest migration ever documented of the any of the ~100 Burrowing Owls trans-mitted in the western U.S. and Canada during this project! This female owl migrated 2,200 miles one-way from her breeding area north of Gillette to her wintering area in southern Mexico (northeast of Acapulco). En route, she stopped over to rest and refuel on the eastern grasslands of Colorado, the northwestern plains of Texas, and the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands in north-central Mexico.
- A male owl from the Pinedale area that wintered on the coast of Sonora initiated spring migration between 6-8 March 2020. This is a very early spring movement – most owls initiate their northward migration in late March and early April. He flew ~435 miles in 48 hours from Mexico to northeastern



This male Burrowing Owl from southwest of Pinedale, Wyoming returned to the exact location where he was captured in 2019, after wintering near the coast of Sonora, Mexico.

Section Business

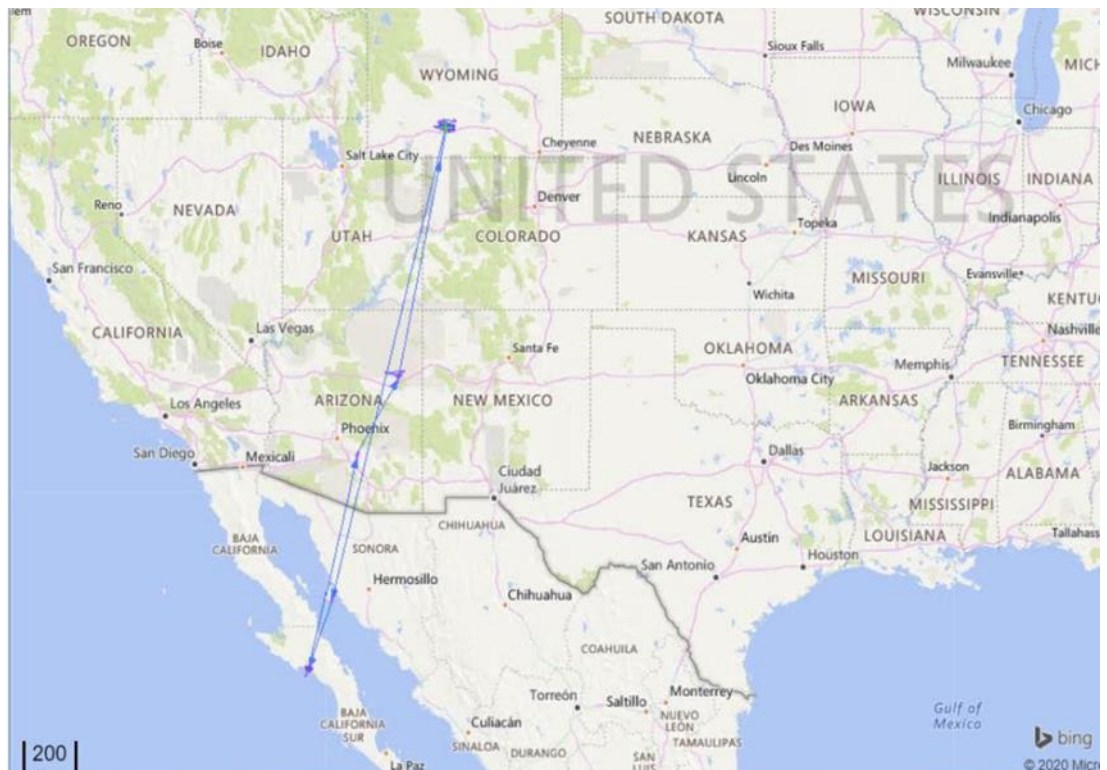
Transcontinental Travel: Migration of Wyoming's Burrowing Owls Across North America (continued)

Arizona just east of Holbrook near Petrified Forest National Park. On 5 April, he flew to western Colorado, crossed the Wyoming border on 7 April, and returned to his exact 2019 location on 11 April.

- A female owl from the Pinedale area that wintered near the coast of Sonora flew to southeastern Arizona on 24 March 2020, flew into west-central Colorado on 28 March, and flew into Wyoming in the southern Red Desert on 31 March.
- A male owl from the Red Desert area that wintered on the west coast of Baja flew to northeastern Arizona near Petrified Forest National Park on 24 March 2020, and returned to his exact 2019 location on 11 April.
- The record-setting female owl from the Gillette area that wintered northeast of Acapulco flew to south of Mexico City on 24 March 2020, continued northward to Coahuila on 5 April, and flew to southern Texas on 9 April.

For Burrowing Owls that breed in Wyoming, we've learned thus far that both the timing and length of migrations and stopovers are variable; certain parts of Arizona, Colorado, and Texas are important migratory stopover hotspots, and several states in Mexico are important wintering areas.

We plan to deploy more transmitters at more breeding areas in Wyoming in 2020. Project results will help direct where our conservation actions should occur on the landscape, and provide a framework for collaborative management efforts for Burrowing Owls across transcontinental boundaries.



This male Burrowing Owl captured in Wyoming's Red Desert wintered on the west coast of Baja, California in Mexico, and returned to the exact location where he was captured in 2019.

TWS Business

TWS Awards Nominations

Nominations are due May 1, 2020

More information can be found at <https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/> and through the following links:

Education Awards

[Conservation Education Award](#)

[Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship](#)

[Excellence in Wildlife Education Award](#)

Professional Achievement Awards

[Aldo Leopold Memorial Award](#)

[Caesar Kleberg Award For Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research](#)

[Diversity Award](#)

[Jay N. "Ding" Darling Memorial Award for Wildlife Stewardship Through Art](#)

[Jim McDonough Award](#)

[Special Recognition Service Award](#)

[Wildlife Restoration Awards](#)

Service Awards

[Chapter of the Year Award](#)

[Distinguished Service Awards](#)

[Honorary Membership](#)

[Student Chapter Advisor of the Year](#)

[Student Chapter of the Year Award](#)

[W.L. McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor](#)



TWS Business

Native Student Professional Development Program

The Wildlife Society Announces a Professional Development Program for Indigenous Students Interested in the Wildlife Profession.

As a scientific organization for professionals who manage and conserve wildlife and habitats, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity within the profession. Diversity is essential for the profession to grow and meet a myriad of conservation challenges. The Indigenous community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession.

TWS's Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group (NPWMWG) membership, composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, recognizes native peoples' cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the NPWMWG support the development of Indigenous wildlife professionals.

TWS believes that one of the most effective ways to support Indigenous wildlife students is to give them the opportunity to attend TWS's Annual Conference. Therefore, TWS and NPWMWG announce the 2020 Native Student Professional Development (NSPD) Program.

How the NSPD Program Works: Individuals selected for this program will receive funds to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals, and transportation to and from the conference. Program participants will also receive a one-year membership in TWS and become members of the NPWMWG. TWS's Annual Conference is the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in North America. There, you can learn about cutting-edge research in wildlife biology, management, and conservation. The conference offers hundreds of paper and poster presentations, half-day and full-day workshops, field trips, and many networking opportunities. Additional student activities include a career fair, student-professional mixer, and quiz bowl. Find out more about the 27th annual conference here: <https://twconference.org/>

As TWS members, NSPD participants will receive the bi-monthly magazine *The Wildlife Professional*, the weekly electronic newsletter *The eWildlifer*, free online access to TWS's journals, access to TWS's Member Directory, and more!

Eligibility:

- Member of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, or identify as Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology
- Display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation

Students within 6 months of graduation are eligible. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the NPWMWG, two other NPWMWG members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners.

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TWS Business

Native Student Professional Development Program (continued)

Applications must include:

- Name, address, email, phone number, tribal affiliation, name of college or university
- Current level of study (undergraduate or graduate) and field of study
- Most recent official transcripts
- Essay (500-750 words) explaining why you would like to participate, how this program might benefit your career development, and how your personal and cultural experiences and skills contribute to the wildlife profession. Mention relevant extracurricular activities, societies, honors, or awards

Email all application materials to Ty Werdel (werdel@ksu.edu).

[Deadline: July 15, 2020](#)

TWS 2020 MEETING PENDING COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Find out more about the NPWMWG here: <https://wildlife.org/npwmwg/>

TWS thanks the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Sundance Consulting, USDA National Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Forest Service, and others for generous contributions to the NSPD Program.

If you would like to support this program, please contact Nick Wesdock at nwesdock@wildlife.org





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TWS Council Report

Bob Lanka, Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative (boblanka5839@gmail.com)

TWS Council met on March 8-9 in association with the 85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Omaha, NE. Even as we met in Omaha, a lot was changing and certainly a lot has changed since then. After the conclusion of the North American, one of our Council members tested positive for COVID-19. Very glad to report that our Council member has since recovered and no other member of Council or TWS Staff has tested positive. We had a productive meeting, passed the FY21 budget, and many other things that were really important at the time. Amazing how quickly perspectives on what is and isn't important change.

Time self-isolating after the Council meeting and isolating/social distancing in general since then has provided me an opportunity to reflect and think. I have thought about what is the proper perspective given our current situation? My Mom turned 97 at the end of January and decided it was finally time to give up driving. I wish all of you the longevity and health she has enjoyed. Hope some of those longevity genes passed on to her baby, me. But at 97, there can be no doubt she has perspective. She was born just after the end of WWI and the 1918 worldwide flu pandemic. She didn't live through either but her folks and brothers did. Amazing they all lived, since best estimates put the death toll in the U.S. from the 1918 flu at 675,000 and worldwide at 50 million <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/1918-pandemic-history.htm>. She lived through the Great Depression (September 1929 – 1939) when U.S. unemployment hit 24.9% <https://www.ushistory.org/us/48.asp>. She and her 6 brothers (5 of whom served) lived through WWII and the rationing associated with it here on the home front. During that war she became “Rosy the Riveter”, building portable radio equipment used by the GIs at the Western Electric plant in Cicero, IL just outside Chicago https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorne_Works, the place where she and my Dad first met. If you have never seen this video on military and civilian deaths in WWII, it is worth your time and may leave you speechless, as it did me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwKPFT-RioU>. She lived through the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and every war since, Sputnik and the rise and fall of McCarthyism, the Polio epidemic of the 1950s https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_polio, the assassination of one U.S. President, the impeachment and resignation of another, landing a man on the moon and bringing him safely home again, the unrest of the 1960s, and the passage of landmark civil rights and environmental legislation. And now she is living through the current pandemic. Perspective is a hard thing to have when the person who gets sick or dies from COVID-19 is a loved one. It is also hard while this event is ongoing to even discuss perspective gained from past experiences without coming across as crass. But I believe it is important for each of us to remember that over the past 100 years there have been many instances of uncertainty in our country and around the world. With all of us doing our part, our species will find a way through this most recent example and, I hope, come through stronger and more united.

I have also thought a lot about the meaning of the word ‘independent’ in all its forms. Can't tell you how many conversations I have had over the years where independence was equated to an individuals' financial

TWS Council Report

ability to buy things. If nothing else, this pandemic should make absolutely clear that individuals of our species are not at all independent, but are likely the most interdependent species on the planet. Run low on TP lately? Money isn't much good if there are no goods on the shelf. Others produce most, if not all, of the food we eat; still others harvest and process that food so it can be delivered to our local grocer; others produce the clothes we wear, the materials needed for the homes we live in, the fuel needed to keep those homes warm and to power transportation; they mine the materials necessary for microprocessor technology; and others still are our first responders, our doctors and nurses, our teachers, our religious and political leaders, and those who lift the human spirit through art, music, and literature. Indeed, even in this time of worldwide uncertainty, we all have a lot to be thankful for. A big part of our thanks must go out to the millions and possibly billions of people all around our planet who make our lives possible.

The fate of our Annual Conference (9/27-10/1 in Louisville, KY) will depend upon how this pandemic plays out. I have no idea what may happen other than to say that any decision to hold, delay, or not hold our Conference will be based on what TWS needs to do for our members. That decision will be based on the best medical advice available. Keep your eye on *The eWildlifer* and TWS's website for further details. In the meantime, take a moment to let those closest to you know that you love them and to thank all those out there who work hard every day so that each of us can pursue our passion for wildlife and wild places.

Thanks for all you do.



State and Student Chapter Updates—Wyoming Chapter

In late February, several members of WY-TWS planned to attend the Wyoming Wildlife Federation's Camo at the Capitol function to learn about legislative processes and how to appropriately advocate and lobby for Chapter interests. A large winter storm and several road closures cancelled these plans for most WY-TWS members. President Eric Maichak attended evening festivities solo, where he visited with the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and several attendees about WY-TWS and our current activities.

On March 13, leadership at The Wildlife Society advised Sections and State and Student Chapters to postpone or cancel events until at least October 2020 in hopes that the COVID-19 pandemic would fizzle out. Last week, in line with this recommendation, the WY-TWS Executive Board voted to change an in-person meeting to a teleconference meeting in late April. Given the current understanding of COVID-19, as well as numerous temporary restrictions and recommendations, the WY-TWS Executive Board is continuing to plan for our upcoming conference and hosting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section Annual Meeting this November. We encourage members to continue to plan to attend, assist, and enjoy this event scheduled for November 17-19, 2020 in Lander, WY. The Executive Board and all individuals responsible for planning and coordinating this event will continue to adjust as needed, and most importantly, keep our members informed in the event of a scheduling change.

For the 2019-2020 hunting season, and second year running, WY-TWS again partnered with Maven Optics to provide a pair of binoculars as one of several prizes for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's blood raffle. Blood samples and associated information are needed from harvested elk to help monitor and understand management of the disease brucellosis. The raffle, with prizes from several sponsors, was created to thank hunters and incentivize return of useable samples. The return of samples in 2019-2020 was similar compared to previous seasons, suggesting that the raffle helped maintain consistent sample sizes in a year when the harvest of cow elk (the primary target for sampling) was low.

In March, the Science Committee reviewed and commented on a proposed solar farm project in southwest Wyoming, highlighting potential impacts to sage-grouse, bats, and migrating pronghorn. Their report can be found here: <https://wildlife.org/wyoming-chapter/about/special-reports/>





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Upcoming Events

WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop—POSTPONED

Hood River, Oregon

May 11-14, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus Hood River, Hood River, Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/mountain_lion_workshop/

WAFWA 31st Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop—POSTPONED

Bend, Oregon

June 22-25, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Tetherow Resort, Bend Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/sage_and_columbian_sharp-tailed_grouse/

North American Ornithological Conference—VIRTUAL

Formerly San Juan, Puerto Rico, Now Hosted Virtually

August 10-15, 2020

MORE INFORMATION: <https://naocbirds.org/>

WAFWA Pronghorn Workshop

Deadwood, South Dakota

August 24-28, 2020

VENUE AND LODGING: Holiday Inn Resort Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, South Dakota

MORE INFORMATION: https://www.wafwa.org/workshops/29th_pronghorn_workshop/

Wildlife Disease Association and European Wildlife Disease Association Joint Conference

Cuenca, Spain

August 30-September 5, 2020

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/>

[UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx](https://wildlifedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx)



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2019 CMPS Annual Business Meeting Minutes (August 23, 2019)

Friday, 23 August 2019 (12:00 – 1:30 pm)

Call the meeting to order

Adam Ahlers – 12:00 pm

Introductions by Executive Board Members

Present: Adam Ahlers, Andrea Orabona, Kyle Mclean, Adam Behney (online), Ty Werdel (online), Tara Wertz (online).

Nonvoting Members Present: Bob Lanka, Aleshia Fremgen (online).

Secretary Report

Adam Ahlers read the minutes from the 2018 CMPS Annual Meeting.

Adam Ahlers asked for a motion to accept the minutes, Andrea Orabona made the motion, Chris Smith seconded.

Adam Ahlers asked for further discussion. Members voted to accept the 2018 CMPS Annual Meeting Minutes.

Len McDaniel said the CMPS banner is a gift from his brother, and Andrea Orabona thanked him for doing this.

Treasurer's Report

Ty Werdel gave the report, current is \$10,108.20, received \$50 from TWS for membership. Adam Ahlers said the only money we spent was for student travel (\$2,700, and for plaques). Adam Ahlers mentioned we still have not received dues from some states. This money is spent for student travel and other things. He will track down that money (almost 10% of our budget right now).

Adam Ahlers asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tara Wertz made the motion, Bob Lanka seconded.

Adam Ahlers asked for discussion, none. Members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections Report

Upcoming positions for 2020 (Section Representative to TWS Council, 2 Members At-large, Vice-President).

Adam Ahlers discussed positions we voted for (above). Shelly Deisch ran for President-Elect, 4 people ran for Members At-large. Voting opened July 10 and closed on 9 August. We only had 40 votes. We ran voting through TWS and not through Survey Monkey and this probably caused low turnout. Adam Ahlers introduced Shelly Deisch as the new President-Elect and will serve a 1-year term, 2 years as President, and 1 year as Past-President. Adam Ahlers also introduced Andy Little from UNL and Julia Nawrocki (Leadership Institute graduate and NEGPC).

Adam Ahlers called for a motion to destroy the ballots, Andrea Orabona moved, Tara Wertz seconded.

Adam Ahlers called for discussion, Andrea Orabona asked who the other candidates were and Adam Ahlers said Kevin Agar (CO) and Pam Moore (KS).

Adam Ahlers mentioned voting issues and asked for people to speak with him and tell him their issues. We moved from Survey Monkey because of the costs and some other political issues. Less than 1% voted. Andrea Orabona said one of the reason we went through TWS is because after we have more than 100 voters, CMPS must pay to use Survey Monkey for the election.

Patsy Crooke asked about CMPS Bylaws for number of candidates for President-Elect. Adam Ahlers stated that we only needed one, but would need 2 for the Section Representative to TWS Council.

Bob Lanka provided some guidance about email voting, and Adam Ahlers noted there may be issues with privacy.

Membership

Valley City State University status as a student chapter of TWS.

Adam Ahlers mentioned that Valley City State University has now met all requirements for a Student Chapter of TWS.

Adam Ahlers consulted Andrea Orabona about who should vote on this (whole membership or just Executive Board). Andrea Orabona confided just the Executive Board. Adam Ahlers called for a motion to accept the VCSU Student Chapter of TWS into CMPS. Kyle Mclean made the motion, Andrea Orabona seconded. Adam Ahlers called for discussion. The Executive Board voted unanimously in favor. Bob Lanka mentioned this is the 17th Student Chapter in CMPS. Patsy Crooke mentioned that 2 universities from ND were trying to combine efforts to be a TWS Student Chapter (Jamestown and Sitting Bull) but did not know where they were in the process. Andrea Orabona noted we should add the VCSU information to the website.

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2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes (August 23, 2019), continued

Publicity

Aleshia Fremgen talked about publicity. We put together a newsletter 3 times a year. Discussed what is included and called for more information. She mentioned November 1, April 1, and June 15 deadlines. Aleshia wanted more information on State and Student Chapter updates and encouraged folks to send more content. She also mentioned we have a Facebook page and wanted information to populate that, also.

Adam Ahlers said Aleshia Fremgen does a very, very good job at this work and thanked her for all of her hard work.

Adam Ahlers also asked Student Chapters and professionals to send photographs and small blurbs about their work.

Andrea Orabona also formally applauded Aleshia Fremgen for her hard work.

Resolutions and Position Statements

Adam Ahlers reported no new news regarding resolutions and position statements. He mentioned a conservation issue with Bob Lanka about being aware of issues happening throughout CMPS. He also discussed how CMPS finds and makes statements based on the rubric in the bylaws. Gary White stated that we should be really pushing for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Andrea Orabona noted that there is an excellent toolkit regarding how to promote these things on your own Chapter website. Len McDaniel noted that it is important for CMPS to take the lead on these statements, as sometimes there is political pressure from a state for an agency person to make a statement. CMPS is removed from all of this and would be a better advocate. Bob Lanka mentioned that sometimes retired agency folks will sign on to these letters and statements.

Awards

Professional Award and Citizens Conservation Achievement Award were discussed, and the process for nominating individuals in CMPS.

Adam Ahlers presented this information for Vice-President Stephanie Ferrero, who was online. He noted we had a lot of good candidates and we would talk more in depth at the awards ceremony. He also thanked folks for completing the nominations and recognizing folks in their states. Gary White talked about the Distinguished Service Award and noted that CMPS did not recognize anybody this year. He also asked folks to think about making a nomination for 2020. These nominations must go through the CMPS Executive Board and be pushed forward to TWS. Adam Ahlers mentioned that he would send out email reminders to State Chapter Presidents. Bob Lanka also reiterated that this must come through the CMPS Executive Board via the membership. Andrea Orabona said we should include information in the upcoming newsletter.

The Wildlife Professional Update

Adam Ahlers introduced Elmer Fink, the CMPS Representative for TWP. Elmer Fink said it was important to support TWP and called for particular topics to be included for CMPS. He provided his contact information and asked folks for potential topics, discussion on topics you don't like (but always looking for stories that are not one-sided). Elmer Fink also said he would make an effort to travel to State Chapter meetings to get information for TWP. Elmer Fink also talked about the shakeup with the Editorial Board and potential changes happening at TWP. Adam Ahlers also discussed the process of selecting and vetting articles for TWP via the Board.

Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant Update

This is a big expenditure for our budget. Our application deadline is 1 September 2019. Adam Ahlers mentioned that we are looking for a quick turnaround this year (only have 3 applications now). Adam Ahlers mentioned to send all applications to him or contact him with questions.

Concerns for Wild Equids (Terry Messmer)

Adam Ahlers introduced Terry Messmer to chat about the issue with wild equids in CMPS and North America. Terry Messmer presented in detail the issue regarding free-roaming equids at WAFWA. Terry Messmer mentioned that some working groups were formed from this summit. He mentioned that it is costing ~\$50million of the federal budget a year to re-wild equids. He said TWS and CMPS should be focused on efforts to reduce effects of this. He said everybody agrees there is a problem, but do not agree on the solution (e.g., euthanasia, spaying/neutering). He said adoption is not working, as we can't adopt enough young horses to make a difference. He said he will send some information for the newsletter.

Gary White mentioned the Horse Rich and Dirt Poor movie that TWS sponsored regarding the issues with free-roaming

2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes (August 23, 2019), continued

equids. Terry Messmer showed it at the summit, but activists did not want it to be shown.

Adam Ahlers asked for suggestions for direct action from CMPS. Andrea Orabona mentioned the documentary was one of the best she has seen as it doesn't point fingers at groups but highlights the actual problem. Terry Messmer will discuss this in more detail during his presentation later in the afternoon.

2020 CMPS Annual Meeting in Wyoming (2021 in Utah)

Adam Ahlers mentioned that our 2020 Annual Meeting will be in WY, which has changed from Utah. Utah will be held in 2021. Thanks to WY-TWS and UT-TWS for facilitating this change.

Discussion on Enhancing Participation

Adam Ahlers asked about ways to enhance participation in CMPS, and noted the low voter turnout for the previous election. A member from ND commented that he did not hear from CMPS very much. Adam Ahlers mentioned that CMPS sends information directly to State Chapter Presidents, and State Chapter Presidents will disseminate that to their membership. He also mentioned that there may be an issue with email listserves for the groups. Bob Lanka and Patsy Crooke highlighted that membership should look at their respective websites. A good conversation followed from membership regarding how information should be distributed throughout CMPS. Adam Ahlers also highlighted that this is a real issue that must be addressed. Stephanie Tucker mentioned possible alerts that would be sent to the membership if something was updated on the website. Terry Messmer said he had boxes of CMPS documents that could be digitized and archived in a central place. Andrea Orabona mentioned that she was interested in this, and that she updated all documents she had when she was President and maybe it was all digitized now. Andrea Orabona mentioned that there should be an ad hoc committee to review all historical documents.

Other Business

Adam Ahlers asked for other business. Len McDaniel mentioned that long-term member Larry Bidlake from Canada passed away. He wanted to pass around a card to send to his family. Adam Ahlers said he would pick up a card and Len McDaniel would distribute it to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Membership asked about the new Wildlife Techniques book and when it would be released.

Potential controversial TWS relationships with donors and partners was discussed by Bob Lanka.

Bob Lanka acknowledged all the past Presidents in the Section (Ken Higgins, Bob Wood, Terry Messmer, Gary White, Bob Lanka, Andrea Orabona).

Adjourn

Adam Ahlers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Messmer made the motion, Len McDaniel seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.





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Executive Board Meeting Minutes (January 22, 2020)

Wednesday, 22 January, 3:30 pm (CST), 2:30 pm (MST)

Call meeting to order

Adam Ahlers called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Present: Adam Ahlers, Shelly Deisch, Stephanie Ferrero, Ty Werdel, Tara Wertz, Julia Nawrocki, Kyle Mclean, Andy Little, Aleshia Rummel, Bob Lanka, and Andrea Orabona.

Treasurer's Update – Ty Werdel

2019 Report:

Balance 1/1/2019: \$6,594.20

2019 Income: \$3,582.00

2019 Expenses: \$2,398.19

Balance 12/31/2019: \$7,778.01

States yet to pay dues:

2018: Utah, Colorado

2019: Kansas, Utah, Colorado

2020: Everyone but WY

Balance as of 1/22/2020: \$8,253.01

Bob Lanka is going to the Colorado State Chapter business meeting and is going to ask for dues.

Adam Ahlers will ask Kansas for dues. It was brought up that it might be a good idea to have a Chapter liaison for each state.

Tara Wertz motioned, Andy Little seconded the motion.

Discussion on wanting to know the number of members; 1,468 approximate members. Adam Ahlers said these numbers were not exact, Andy Little will try to figure out exact numbers for Nebraska. All unanimously in favor of accepting the Treasurer's Report.

Discuss CMPS Executive Board members to committee chairs (Audit, Membership, Nominations and Elections, Publicity, Resolutions and Position Statements) – Adam Ahlers

Adam Ahlers discussing committee chairs. Tara Wertz is the chair of the Audit Committee and needs a few more people to help with internal auditing.

Membership committee: Stephanie Ferrero.

Nominations and Elections: need a chair; Adam Ahlers asked for volunteers. Andy Little volunteered and will be the new chair. States should help find candidates for these Executive Board positions.

Publicity committee: Aleshia Rummel.

Resolutions and Position Statements: Adam Ahlers is the chair and will continue.

Adam Ahlers asked if anyone has any specific questions about their duties. No one did.

This year we are looking for nominations for Vice-President and 2 Members At-large.

Please mention that we are looking for these positions at your State Chapter meetings.

Is Stephanie Ferrero interested in running for a second term? She is willing to help out but wouldn't mind if someone else would run.

All ballots must be completed 14 days before the CMPS Annual Business Meeting or July 31st.

Update on 2019 tax documents to TWS and State Chapter dues – Adam Ahlers

Everything is set to go, just need to populate the State Chapter membership before sending off on January 31st.

2020 Awards and awards deadlines – Stephanie Ferrero

Professional Award is given to an individual who contributes within the Section; Citizen Conservation Achievement Award can be an individual or group.

Bob Lanka, 2019 Professional Award; Stacy Hoeme, 2019 Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award.

We had quite a few nominations last year, which is very good. Before we didn't have enough nominations.

Contact Stephanie Ferrero or Adam Ahlers with any questions.

Nominations are due by the end of June. This gives us time for the plaques to be made and review of nominations.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2019), continued

Any thoughts on changing this?

Adam Ahlers wants to keep this nomination timeline the same so that it stays consistent.

Bob Lanka left the call at 1:57 pm.

Clarification on who won the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award; Stacy Hoeme. Stacy is from western Kansas and has not picked up his award yet, but we are trying to get a group of people to get together to give him the award. Would be nice to get some pictures with him and the award. KNRC might be a good place for it.

Adam Ahlers wants to know if the nomination deadline is still good, Stephanie Ferrero thinks it's still good.

Distinguished Service Award is for outstanding contributions to the Section or State Chapter. Nominations go through our Executive Board; due by April 1st. We haven't nominated anyone since 2014, so we really need to take the time to nominate people. Adam Ahlers explained the exact verbiage for the award. Adam Ahlers sent out an email for State Chapter Presidents to nominate people.

Adam Ahlers brought up the idea of diversity and maybe having that be a focus for the nomination process.

Refer to The Wildlife Society as TWS, The Wildlife Society, or the Society; not parent or national TWS.

Mariah Simmons sent out an email with the Section and Chapter Handbook for TWS and protocol for Sections. A good guiding document. Adam Ahlers will forward this document to all Executive Board members.

Lots of award nominations that we can look into and spread the news about.

Adam Ahlers is not sure if State Chapter Presidents are getting the emails out to their memberships. Bring this up at the Section and State Chapters meeting at TWS; are there better ways to communicate within the membership? Ask Mariah Simmons.

How many CMPS Executive Board members will attend TWS's Annual Conference in Louisville, KY?

Update on the Certification Review Board Representative Position – Adam Ahlers

Bob Lanka will complete his term as CMPS Representative to TWS Council this year.

Dave Haukos, Andrea Orabona, and Terry Messmer have expressed interest in running. Candidate names need to be given to TWS by February 21 for voting on February 28. We need to pick the 2 candidates soon. Andrea Orabona said she will step aside and continue just being an unofficial liaison for Wyoming, but Adam Ahlers would like to keep her on the ballot.

Need to review our bylaws for more than 2 people on the ballot. Adam Ahlers will email the Executive Board.

Have to nominate someone this year for the Certification Review Board for AWB and CWB certifications. 3-year term and has monthly calls and needs to attend TWS's Annual Conference (travel is paid by TWS).

Terry Messmer would like to do this, and other emails have been sent out.

Terry Messmer would like to be nominated, any thoughts?

Stephanie Ferrero thinks Terry Messmer would be a good candidate, but being a Section Representative to TWS Council and this position may be too time intensive so maybe he should choose one or the other. Adam Ahlers will have a talk with him.

Criteria for Certification Review Board is CWB and member of TWS and CMPS.

Adam Ahlers wants to look to Utah because we don't have much representation from that State Chapter.

Adam Ahlers will accept any other ideas and nominations.

Deadline for this one is February 1, so need to move quickly.

Are there any objections to Terry Messmer having this position? No.

Spring newsletter deadline – Aleshia Rummel

Adam Ahlers asked Aleshia Rummel for any updates.

This newsletter is pretty much done, just need Adam Ahlers to email and these latest minutes.

Updates from Student Chapters and State Chapters are less than a page with some pictures.

Conferences.

Updates to the directory.

Any deadlines.

Spring newsletter deadline is April 1st. Fall/Winter newsletter is almost ready to go.

Thanks Aleshia Rummel; Adam Ahlers is just behind.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2019), continued

Annual Conference planning – Adam Ahlers, Shelly Deisch, Stephanie Ferrero, Andrea Orabona

We have had conversations with WY-TWS.

Andrea Orabona is going to talk to the WY-TWS Executive Board.

Want Bob Lanka to be at the conference since this will be his last year as Section Representative to TWS Council.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Retirees Committee meeting is September 4th. Originally wanted our meeting September 2-4, but Bob Lanka was not available September 1-3 (he is on the Retirees Committee).

Workshops are being shifted earlier.

Venues are available.

Now emails are coming in saying this might not be a good time due to the amount of hunting seasons opening up.

Bob Lanka didn't want it to be in September at all.

Need to also think of college students.

Options are now August 25-27, 26-28, or anything else at the end of August.

Adam Ahlers still thought September was on the plate.

The meeting will be in Lander, WY. We are going to miss somebody somehow.

Shelly Deisch asked if is more important for professionals or students to attend? If we want to improve our future membership we should accommodate students and we need to have it in Laramie and not Lander.

Adam Ahlers thinks it may not just be the location but just getting the word out better.

Any other advice? Ways to increase student participation; give Student Chapters responsibility. Students may not want to miss the first week of classes if we do the August timeframe.

Any objections from the Executive Board on certain dates; Shelly Deisch thinks we should just rely on WY to determine the dates; Adam Ahlers thinks whatever they decide is fine and we will just make it work and show up and help out.

Andrea Orabona said there is overwhelming support from the WY-TWS Executive Board to host the meeting at the Lander Community and Convention Center. Joint WY-TWS and WLCI meeting there a couple of years ago and it went very well, so if WY-TWS is willing to pay for the cost of the venue it's a great place to have it.

Probably going to be in Lander in August or September, but that's all we know right now.

Just tell WY-TWS to go with what they think. Adam Ahlers is going to email WY.

Other Business?

Adam Ahlers is happy with the meeting; very productive.

Adjourn Meeting

Adam Ahlers asked for a motion to adjourn, Andrea Orabona moved, Stephanie Ferrero seconded, motion passed.





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DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes (April 21, 2020)

Tuesday, 21 April 2020, 11:00 am (CDT), 10:00 am (MDT)

Call meeting to order (11:04 am)

Present: Adam Ahlers, Andrea Orabona, Shelly Deisch, Bill Vodehnal, Julia Nawrocki, Kyle McLean, Aleshia Rummel, Stephanie Ferrero, Bob Lanka.

Review minutes from 2019 Annual Business Meeting and 22 January 2020 Executive Board Meeting

Minutes were sent out before the meeting but no one really had time to go through them.

Motion to accept minutes from August 2019 and January 2020, with Ty Werdel and Adam Ahlers making minor edits. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Ty Werdel

Balance as of 4/21/2020: \$9,503.01.

Adam Ahlers call for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Stephanie Ferrero moved, Kyle McLean seconded, no discussion, all in favor.

Membership list

We don't have a list of members who are not also State Chapter members.

Bob Lanka – can we get their contact info from TWS?

Adam Ahlers – we need a list serve for these types of members.

Bob Lanka – post the newsletter on the CMPS webpage to try to reach these people.

2020 Awards and awards deadlines (including Distinguished Service Award)

Stephanie Ferrero – Have a nomination for the Distinguished Service Award, Jim Hayes.

Adam Ahlers did a lot of work getting the nomination package together.

The CV from Jim Hayes is minimal due to it being from an online search, it is not from Jim himself.

20 years of membership a minimum for the award.

The website lists the other requirements for the award.

Adam Ahlers called for a motion to nominate Jim Hayes for the Distinguished Service Award, Kyle McLean moved, Shelly Deisch seconded, all in favor.

Discussion for future Distinguished Service Awards:

Stephanie Ferrero – For future years, it would be good if State Chapters would help letting us know who has put in 20 years or are close to 20 years as members. Awardees can't already be a TWS Fellow.

Adam Ahlers – Certifications do list years active, but a lot of members do not want to get certified.

Bob Lanka – Jim Hayes is very deserving, has kept the Section going when we didn't have a President and has served as Vice-President a few times. This is not a TWS award, but it's for our Section people who have served us well. We hope to get Jim Hayes to Louisville, KY in person if TWS's Annual Conference goes as scheduled.

Andrea Orabona – She will keep the CMPS Awards History document updated for our records and website.

2019 Professional Award, Bob Lanka; 2019 Citizens Conservation Achievement Award, Stacy Hoeme and The Hoeme Family Farm and Ranch.

Adam Ahlers thanked Stephanie Ferrero for her work on this.

Stephanie Ferrero – Next set of awards is due May 1st; State/Student/Advisor of the Year. CMPS 2020 Professional and Citizen's Conservation Achievement Awards are due June 28th. Had a number of nominations last year, hopefully the same this year. Can ask if we can use previous nominations for this year.

Andrea Orabona – Will work on a nomination this year for one proposed last year that was not completed.

Adam Ahlers – Got a nomination from ND for Natural Resource Trust, and asked Stephanie Ferrero to see if they will reuse those nominations.

Bob Lanka – TWS saves nominations for 3 years, so maybe we should do the same.

Adam Ahlers – Stated that nominations will be saved for 3 years.

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes (April 21, 2020), continued

Stephanie Ferrero will put that on the CMPS website.

Bob Lanka – Not aware of TWS pushing back nominations.

2020 Elections

Vice-President and 2 Members At-large.

If you know anyone who wants to run or volunteer, contact Andy Little.

Adam Ahlers – Referred to our Bylaws on the nomination process. You can definitely run again. Please consider that institutional knowledge (TWS) is key to these positions and helps move things forward.

Aleshia Rummel – June 15th is the Summer Newsletter deadline; may need to be moved to accommodate elections.

Bob Lanka – It was June 15th because we used to have an August CMPS meeting; we can count back 45 days required by our Bylaws from our meeting and make that the new newsletter deadline.

Adam Ahlers – Aleshia Rummel and Adam Ahlers will change the deadline.

Stephanie Ferrero – Are we going to shift the changeover in officers?

Adam Ahlers – Change over occurs during our Annual Business Meeting.

Stephanie Ferrero – Wants to know if turnover is going to change the term lengths.

Adam Ahlers – Do what we can to not change the Bylaws.

Bob Lanka – Change over has always been at the Annual Meeting.

Adam Ahlers – Ballots need to be received 14 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. New officers will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting.

Stephanie Ferrero – We can hold the Annual Business Meeting on a conference call, not necessarily at the conference. Advantage of doing a virtual meeting is that terms are similar and with COVID-19 issues it might be easier.

Shelly Deisch – WY-TWS has a conference call in 2 days so we will know more about the joint meeting soon.

Bob Lanka – the Annual Business Meeting is of the membership, not just the Executive Board, so we need members present.

Adam Ahlers – Leaves us in a predicament. Do we hold a virtual Annual Business Meeting, or do we wait until the joint Annual Meeting? Still leaning towards doing the changeover at the Annual Business Meeting. Does anyone have any strong opinions either way?

Stephanie Ferrero – Maybe extend the deadline for officer nominations if we are waiting until the Annual Business Meeting.

Adam Ahlers – If the Annual Business Meeting occurs November 18th, ballots need to be in November 5th, so nominations need to be in September 1st.

Aleshia Rummel – Summer Newsletter deadline is still June 15th.

2020 Student Travel Grant

Deadline for submissions is September 1st.

Adam Ahlers – We talked about moving this up sooner, but Bob Lanka had a compelling argument about why we should not do this.

Bob Lanka – We didn't move it back to the spring because we wanted to give students some time and let them enroll in the fall semester.

Stephanie Ferrero – We encourage students to apply in groups so we can send more students. Problem is 1 student usually does all the work for groups. Individual students seem to be getting more money than people in groups. We should have each student in the groups write up applications. The announcement doesn't say that the group will be ranked higher if everyone in the group writes up a summary, we should probably change that.

Adam Ahlers – The group essentially has a PI, and it makes it hard to rank because it only takes into account the one student who applies for the group. Let's try to tweak this so it is more representative of the group.

Shelly Deisch – She can work on this and clarify the application announcements.

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DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes (April 21, 2020), continued

Adam Ahlers – On the website, we need to change the language to enhance the grading. Shelly Deisch will take the lead on this. Julia Nawrocki and Tara Wertz will help with this.

Adam Ahlers – What are thoughts if TWS's Annual Conference is not in-person, could we shift the travel grant funds to the CMPS meeting? Better serving students to give them money to travel to a related conference, even if it wasn't TWS's Annual Conference.

Bob Lanka – Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant is specifically for TWS's Annual Conference, but because of these times, may still be a good idea. If the students are willing to attend, then it's a good idea. Need to make sure if they get the money that they show up. If Louisville is cancelled, can they carry the funds to the next year?

Update on CMPS Representative to TWS Council

Adam Ahlers – Nominations for this position are Andrea Orabona and Terry Messmer. Terry Messmer has also been nominated for TWS's Certification Review Board, so both positions may be a lot of work.

Spring Newsletter deadline

Adam Ahlers – Apologized for the late newsletters, because everything has been so hectic.

Aleshia Rummel – Spring Newsletter is almost put together, she was just waiting on the minutes from Ty Werdel and the President's Message from Adam Ahlers. Next newsletter deadline is June 15th. Content is lacking from Student Chapters, so try to get more information from them.

Adam Ahlers – Concerned that there is a shift in some of the Student Chapters from wildlifers to more zoo-centric students.

Aleshia Rummel – With multiple clubs on campuses, people are choosing different clubs.

Shelly Deisch – Will get ahold of the SDSU Student Chapter.

Bob Lanka – Updated the Student and State Chapter list. Will send the list to the Executive Board.

Adam Ahlers – Reach out to Grand Valley State since they are one of the newest Student Chapters.

Andrea Orabona – Will mention on the upcoming WY-TWS conference call.

Bob Lanka – Has no officers for Grand Valley State. Could someone send him the officers?

Adam Ahlers – will reach out to Grand Valley State.

Aleshia Rummel – Grand Valley State is not yet included in the newsletter.

Annual Conference planning; what we know so far

Adam Ahlers – Doesn't have an email from WY-TWS to join the upcoming conference call.

Andrea Orabona – Will send emails regarding the WY-TWS conference call.

Adam Ahlers – The Lander Community and Convention Center is reserved for November.

Andrea Orabona – Worked out well that we are having it in November rather than August or September due to TWS guidelines about gatherings due to COVID-19.

Shelly Deisch – Does the incoming President or outgoing President appoint the Secretary/Treasurer?

Adam Ahlers – CMPS Bylaws state that the new President appoints the Secretary/Treasurer.

Adam Ahlers – Laurel Badura was our Secretary/Treasurer for 9 years.

Andrea Orabona – New President information is in the Bylaws on page 6; appoint Secretary/Treasurer, etc.

Shelly Deisch – Will get ahold of Ty Werdel to talk about Secretary/Treasurer duties.

Adam Ahlers – Will submit the award packet to TWS and copy Stephanie Ferrero.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm. Motion to accept minutes from August 2019 and Jan-



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CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

Position	Held By				
STATE CHAPTERS					
<u>COLORADO</u>					
President	Nathan Galloway				
President-Elect	Nate Bickford				
<u>KANSAS</u>					
President	Justin Hamilton				
President-Elect	J.R. Glenn				
<u>NEBRASKA</u>					
President	Michelle McPherron				
President-Elect	Will Inselman				
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Jesse Beckers				
President-Elect	Jessica Johnson				
<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>					
President	Casey Heimerl				
President-Elect	Julie DeJong				
<u>UTAH</u>					
President	Dave Cook				
President-Elect	Blair Stringham				
<u>WYOMING</u>					
President	Eric Maichek				
President-Elect	Tayler LaSharr				
STUDENT CHAPTERS					
<u>CO STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Remi Pattyn				
President-Elect	Grant Pegram				
TWS Liaison	Andrew Don Carlos				
Advisor	Larissa Bailey				
<u>CSU-PUEBLO</u>					
President	Cody Back				
President-Elect	Adam Liao				
Advisor	Claire Ramos				
<u>WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Erin Blair				
President-Elect	Katie Bradfish				
Advisor	Patrick Magee				
<u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Katie Schrag				
President-Elect	Bethany Robertson				
Advisor	William Jensen				
<u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Blair Pfeifer				
President-Elect	Robert Grosdidier				
Advisor	David Haukos				
<u>PITTSBURGH STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
Advisor	Andrew George				
TWS Liaison	William Jensen				
<u>CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Justin Gress				
President-Elect	Kristin Van Beek				
Advisor	Teresa Frink				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - KEARNEY</u>					
President	Kelsey Menke				
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u>					
President	Carin Mellick				
President-Elect	Jack Carter				
Advisor	Dr. Andrew Little				
Co-Advisor	Elyse Watson				
<u>WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NE</u>					
President	Jewel Kneifl				
President-Elect	Diana Danowski				
Advisor	Mark Hammer				
<u>ND STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Madison Feulner				
President-Elect	Mallory White				
Advisor	Erin Gillam				
Advisor	Matt Smith				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u>					
President	Wayne Salem				
President-Elect	Grant Kapaun				
Advisor	Jason Boulanger				
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege				
<u>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</u>					
President	Dillon Praus				
President-Elect	Cole Thompson				
Advisor	Bob Anderson				
<u>SD STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Bridget Ragan				
President-Elect	Taysa Hutmacher				
Advisor	Kent Jensen				
Advisor	Mandy Orth				
<u>BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Tabitha Hughes				
Advisor	Tom Smith				
Advisor	Steve Petersen				
<u>UT STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Natalie D'Souza				
President-Elect	Dominique Davis				
Advisor	Dave Dahlgren				
Advisor	Frank Howe				
Advisor	Dan MacNulty				
<u>WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UT</u>					
President	Kade Peterson				
Advisor	John Cavitt				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF WY</u>					
President	Jake Marden				
President-Elect	Ashley Umphlett				
Advisor	Merav Ben-David				
TWS Liaison	Sara Locker				