

**Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS)
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2019
Bismarck, North Dakota**



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.

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 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.