

## Spring/Summer Secretary Report

By Daly Edmunds, Secretary

Since beginning of 2020, the WY-TWS Board has met virtually three times – on February 12, March 3, and April 23.

The February board meeting involved welcoming new board members, deciding roles and responsibilities for the two new board-member-at-large positions, updating the WY-TWS By-laws (now posted online), planning for the 2020 conference, and committee updates.

The March board meeting involved discussion on how best to proceed with the 2020 annual meeting, which this year is to be held jointly with Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS), given uncertainty and concerns related to Covid-19. Shelly Deisch (SD Game Fish & Parks) joined in on call, representing planning committee for CMPS. Virtual options were discussed, and decision made to send a survey to members to obtain their feedback. Committee updates also provided.

Summary of committee work:

- *Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage* (COWCH; Chair: Stan Harter) – compiling list of individuals interviewed to date, getting cost estimate on getting previous interviews transcribed, and looking into creating a short clip of highlights.
- Student Chapter (Liaison: Sara Locker) – UW student chapter trip to Big Bend was canceled, will keep money (\$1,000 annual donation) from WY-TWS, working to get student chapter more actively helping with annual meeting – perhaps take on Quiz Bowl.
- Audit Committee (Chair: vacant) – Morgan Graham and Nyssa Whitford completed 2019 audit. Thank you!
- Legislative Affairs/Conservation Affairs Network (Chair: Rhiannon Jakopak) – Rhiannon volunteered to be point on both committees. Was a short session. Covid continues to impact procedures. Good to have someone able to engage with other conservation groups that are present during the session. Rhiannon organized [WY-TWS letter to Representative Cheney](#) asking her to become a co-sponsor to Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742). So far no.
- Communications (Chair: Ashleigh Rhea). Thank you to new chair! Continuing to work to update website and develop newsletters, elevating issues as we need when communicating with members.
- Science Committee (Chair: Dan Thompson) – on 3/12/20 submitted formal comments to the BLM on proposed solar farm near Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge, which had pronghorn movement and avian concerns ([Raven Solar Energy Project](#)). On 4/13/20, WY-TWS joined other organizations in Wyoming in sending a [letter to Representative Cheney](#) urging her support for federal funding for wildlife roadway crossing projects in any forthcoming legislation. On 5/20/20 submitted comments to APHIS on proposal to remove *Brucella abortus* from current list of select agents and toxins ([Brucella letter](#)).