



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

CMPS Officers

President:
Adam Ahlers

Vice-President:
Stephanie Ferrero

President-Elect:
Shelly Deisch

Secretary/Treasurer:
Ty Werdel

TWS Council Representative:
Andrea Orabona

Members At-large:
Andy Little
Kyle McLean
Julia Nawrocki
Tara Wertz

Newsletter Editor:
Aleshia Rummel

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
CMPS/WY-TWS Meeting	2
CMPS Business	3
TWS Business	13
Council Report	16
State & Student Chapters	19
Upcoming Events	20
CMPS DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes	21
CMPS Directory	27



CMPS website:
<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

Message from the President

Fall/Winter 2020 Volume 74

Hello, All! This will be my last newsletter message as the CMPS President. It has been a wild two years. I hope you and your family and friends have remained happy and healthy over the last 7 months and you had some time to get outdoors.

I am excited to be passing the torch to Shelly Deisch. She is a proven advocate for wildlife conservation and management in South Dakota and has volunteered much of her time and energy to advance the missions of TWS, CMPS, and SD TWS. I have been very lucky to have her working closely with me and our CMPS Executive Board as President-elect and I am excited to see her step into this new position. I am confident that Shelly's leadership will enhance the effectiveness of CMPS.

I am also excited to watch Andrea Orabona step into her new role representing CMPS as our representative to TWS Council. Those of you who have been lucky enough to work with Andrea know she is dynamic, super organized, and a great collaborator. She is a rock-solid leader who is always full of insightful ideas. When I first became CMPS President (and for some time after), Andrea was a great mentor and patient with me while I learned the ropes. I am grateful that she has always volunteered her time to help me become a better leader and also to help advance the mission of CMPS. Her voice on TWS Council will no doubt benefit all members of CMPS.

Although my term as President is over, I am happy to work with the CMPS Executive Board for another year. Shelly has some great ideas to move us forward and I look forward to helping where I can. It has been a chaotic and fast-paced couple of years - I hope we can regain some normalcy soon. Feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns, and I look forward to seeing you (virtually) in a few days!

- Adam Ahlers, CMPS President



Mark Gocke



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 2

Section Business

CMPS and Wyoming Chapter of TWS Joint Annual Meeting

We are approaching the joint WY-TWS/CMPS 2020 Annual Conference. This will be a virtual, 1-day event on **Wednesday, 18 November**. Our planning committee has lined up some great speakers.

There is no registration fee required. However, you will need to register to participate.

Details about the agenda and registration can be found in the attached announcement (all times are MST). Please feel free to share widely!

Because this is a virtual event, our planning committee was able to invite a star lineup of natural resources speakers from across North America:

8:30-9:15 am (MST), **Drs. Wini Kessler and Selma Glasscock**—*Where were the women? Rethinking our profession's history*

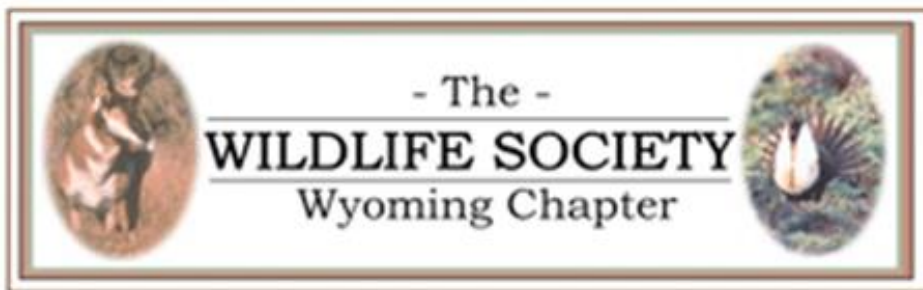
9:20-10:05 am (MST), **Mr. Joshua Rapp Learn**—*Two-eyed seeing: interweaving indigenous knowledge and western science*

2:00-2:45 pm (MST), **Dr. Viviana Ruiz Guterrez**—*Reversing the decline of North America's avifauna: the importance of conserving species across the Americas*

2:50-3:35 pm (MST), **Dr. Tony Goldberg**—*Effects of infections that affect people without infecting people*

In addition to our speakers, we will also have the Annual WY-TWS Board Meeting (10:15-11:15 am), CMPS Annual Business Meeting (12:15-1:15 pm), and results from our elections and award presentations (1:15 - 1:45 pm).

For any questions, please find more information at <http://wytwconference.org>, or contact Tayler LaSharr (tlasharr@gmail.com).





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 3

Section Business (continued)

Warm Greetings from New CMPS President Shelly Deisch

Hello from somewhere in eastern New Mexico! Yes, New Mexico is out of our CMPS 7-state range, but my husband, sister, and I are trapped from driving north by an iconic “southern” ice storm and on the west by an ice-snow-maybe blizzard. I didn’t even know that these parts of western Texas-eastern New Mexico experienced storms like this, especially in October. As we inched across I-40, wedged in by truckers, I looked at the landscape new to me and watched hawks, ravens, and LBJs covered in rain, snow, and ice. I wondered how they survived these storms when the vegetation and terrain are encased in ice.

Now that we are safely hunkered down in a hotel and blanketed by at least a foot of snow, I take delight in escaping the perils of the highway to bring you my first greeting as your new CMPS President. I am a wildlife biologist of over 30 years. I am currently employed by the Wildlife Division of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) in Rapid City. I function as a habitat biologist and as our Department’s liaison to the U.S. Forest Service. My job challenges me because it encompasses both the mixed conifer-hardwood forests of the Black Hills and the expansive prairies of the Northern Great Plains. The ecological subjects which make me get up in the morning are the appreciation and management of hardwoods (aspen, birch, oak), green ash woody draws, riparian areas, and conservation of native grasslands. To be an effective federal lands liaison, I liken myself to a translator. I have had to learn to speak another language (feds love their acronyms) and comprehend the mission and culture of another agency. At the end of the day, I relate this knowledge back to my co-workers or SDGFP’s publics.

I find that I have evolved into one of those “older” sage-people who looks back at her career and am stunned at all the cool things and amazing places I’ve experienced in wildlife science and management. As a female who was told the tired (eye roll) phrase of “you can’t do that as a female”, I have tracked grizzly bears in Montana, studied nesting Great Blue Herons, identified aquatic macroinvertebrates, studied black-tailed prairie dog ecology, live-trapped mammals (small mammals), came to despise black flies and no-see-ums in the New York Adirondacks, captured the most adorable endemic island fox on Catalina Island outside of LA, and lastly, lost my mind and took a short detour as a paralegal where I learned legal analysis skills which have served me well in my liaison and NEPA duties.

My avocations include escapades with my husband (also a wildlife biologist) and our dog Pendleton (as in whiskey, wool blankets, and Oregon). My husband and I enjoy hunting, fishing, travel, and cooking because we have finally stopped renovating houses and are learning to relax!

As your new President for the next 2 years, I want to create new liaison positions between CMPS and State and Student Chapters to better communicate with you. At the recent TWS Annual Conference, it was made clear that science and human diversity are two critical topics for TWS. I want to bring those topics closer to our CMPS membership through advocacy and environmental review of issues that impact us. Later on that!

It takes a village to bring our CMPS membership the benefits of regional networking and other facets of TWS. I am following the inspirational leadership of several CMPS members that have given their talents to you over the years. Most recently is our out-going President, Adam Ahlers, and out-going CMP Section Representative to TWS Council, Bob Lanka. The good news is that Adam will still be on our Board as Past-

Section Business (continued)

Warm Greetings from New CMPS President Shelly Deisch (continued)

President, and our former CMPS President, Andrea Orabona, is now our Section Representative to TWS! Our Vice-President, Stephanie Ferrero, is serving a second term. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Ty Werdel, is soon to explore new adventures outside of TWS and Dr. Dustin Ranglack will assume Ty's duties. Our Members At-large include Tara Wertz (second term), Andrew (Andy) Little, and Julia Nawrocki. Outgoing Member At-large is Kyle McLean and incoming is Embere Hall. And, none of our communications would happen without our excellent Newsletter Editor, Aleshia Rummel. Thank you all! Please go to our website to learn more about our team that contributes to CMPS: <https://wildlife.org/cmp/officers/>.

I am committed to conservation of the only planet we currently inhabit and want to connect with you across our 7-state region. When we can gather again in person, I hope to attend your banquets, fundraisers, and events. PLEASE KEEP ME IN MIND. Now that you know a bit about me, I want to know what CMPS can do for YOU and look forward to what that means. Contact me at: shelly<dot>deisch<at>state<dot>sd<dot>us (periods and @ removed to avoid phishers).



Section Business (continued)

CMPS Awards Summary—Professional Award and Citizen’s Conservation Achievement Award

On August 7th, the Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) hosted a virtual award presentation for the 2020 Professional Award and Citizen’s Conservation Achievement Award. The award nominators were present to share their congratulations. The following award recipients were named.

Andrea Orabona received the Professional Award for her long-term dedication and service to the CMPS. As one of her nomination letters stated “She is definitely an ambassador for TWS at all levels.” In addition to being the Nongame Bird Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Andrea served as Member At-large Board member of CMPS, President-Elect, President, Past-President, and now CMPS Representative to TWS Council. She frequently reaches out to the public on wildlife issues and enjoys organizing Student Quiz Bowls for many TWS conferences.

Mike McEnroe was presented with the Professional Award to recognize his significant contributions to wildlife conservation in the CMPS region. Mike has been very instrumental with protecting wetland easements in North Dakota. He has also been promoting land conservation with the oil and gas industry. He has an extensive track record of TWS membership. He served as President of the North Dakota Chapter of TWS and on the CMPS Board in the 1980s.

Jay Fuhrer was given the Citizen’s Conservation Achievement Award for his strives in soil conservation in the CMPS geographic area. Jay is a Soil Health Specialist for Natural Resources Conservation Service. He works with private land-owners locally and internationally to foster soil health. He hosts hands-on workshops and engages his audience with memorable, entertaining stories about soil management. Jay encourages a holistic approach to landscape management and inquisitiveness about how to improve land practices.



Section Business (continued)

CMPS Awards Summary—The Executive Group Achievement Award

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) recognized 28 Prairie Pothole Project Leaders and Refuge Managers with the Executive Group Achievement Award on September 24th. This unique award recognizes the outstanding contributions these wildlife professionals have made to conservation through enhancing legacy landowner partnerships. The group award recipients included:

Executive Group Achievement Award

Outstanding Contributions to Wildlife Conservation through Enhancing Legacy Landowner Partnerships

USFWS Prairie Pothole Project Leaders & Refuge Managers

 Brad Johnson Wildlife Refuge Manager Washburn WMD	 Brian Vose Wildlife Refuge Manager Devils Lake WMD	 Bryan Schultz Wildlife Refuge Manager Madison WMD	 Chad Zorn Wildlife Refuge Manager Deer Lacs NWRI	 Chris Roed Wildlife Refuge Manager Devils Lake WMD
 Dan Severson Project Leader Arrowwood WMD Complex	 Dave Azure Project Leader Western SD WMD Complex	 Frank Durbian Project Leader National Elk Refuge	 Gary Williams Acting Project Leader Northwest ND WMD Complex	 Jared Newton Wildlife Refuge Manager Long Lake WMD
 Jay Peterson Wildlife Refuge Manager Sand Lake WMD	 Jeff Dion Acting Wildlife Refuge Manager Chase Lake WMD	 John Takala Wildlife Refuge Manager J. Clark Saylor WMD	 Jonathan Beyer Wildlife Refuge Manager Huron WMD	 Kathy Baer Wildlife Refuge Manager Audubon WMD
 Kory Richardson Wildlife Refuge Manager Lostwood WMD	 Kurt Tompkins Wildlife Refuge Manager Valley City WMD	 Matt Sprenger Project Leader Eastern ND WMD Complex	 Matt VanThuyne Wildlife Refuge Manager Devils Lake WMD	 Mick Erickson Wildlife Refuge Manager Klein WMD
 Natoma Hansen Project Leader Eastern SD WMD Complex	 Patrick Fitzmorris Wildlife Refuge Manager Tewaukon WMD	 Paul Halko Wildlife Refuge Manager Arrowwood WMD Complex	 Robin Donohue Wildlife Refuge Manager Lake Andes WMD	 Scott Williams Wildlife Refuge Manager Crosby WMD
 Stacy Whipp Wildlife Refuge Manager Arrowwood WMD	 Todd Frerichs Project Leader Central ND WMD Complex	 Tom Pabian Wildlife Refuge Manager Upper Souris NWRI		

US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Noreen Walsh and Acting Assistant Regional Director for Refuges Maureen Gallagher offered their heartfelt congratulations and emphasized that the work of these professionals has been critical to enhancing wildlife conservation efforts across North America. Current TWS President Gary White and recent CMPS Representative to TWS Council Bob Lanka shared their enthusiasm for the “in the field” efforts of these professionals. Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, and North Dakota Natural Resources Trust leaders also added their applause and recounted stories of the extraordinary difference these professionals have made for populations of waterfowl, grassland birds, and pollinators in North America. Each award recipient will receive a personalized certificate in honor of their vital work protecting ~3.1 million acres of wetland and grassland easements essential for 50% of upland duck production in North America.

For more information visit <https://wildlife.org/section-honors-prairie-pothole-leaders/> or <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/pressrel/2020/10272020-Prairie-Pothole-Leaders-Win-2020-Wildlife-Society-Award.php>

Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020

By Shelly Deisch, TWS CWB, CMPS President-Elect

I am SO excited to report CMPS's 2020 funding for four students to attend this year's conference.

For years, CMPS has financially supported students to defray part of or all costs related to travel to The Wildlife Society Annual Conference through the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grants. Without these grants, some promising students would not be able to attend our Annual Conference, which brings together natural resource scientists and managers from around the world. The conference is a platform for students to not only network and mentor with current and future colleagues, but to attend seminars, poster sessions, film festivals, various working groups, annual business meeting, socials and other forms of gathering to share science. Many students also present their research, which is often their introduction to public speaking. This conference is a valuable steppingstone into students' early careers.

With threats to gathering due to COVID-19, the Annual Conference was virtual with reduced registration fees. CMPS modified its grant application process to accommodate 2020's conference nuances with a virtual platform. While CMPS only expended a total of \$440 grant funds this year, some of these grant recipients would not have been able to attend without assistance. I'd like to introduce you to our four recipients; each one wrote a synopsis of their conference experience (as seen in the subsequent pages).

But first, the other GREAT news is that one applicant was not a member of The Wildlife Society in any form (a requirement of the Wayne Sandfort Grant criteria), yet needed financial assistance to be able to pay for conference registration in order to present her research. However, through the efforts of Mariah Simmons, TWS's Unit Services Manager, and Dr. Melissa Merrick, Chair of the International Wildlife Management Working Group, funding was acquired for this student through other channels! THIS is one reason why I admire TWS members – everyone goes the extra mile to be inclusive and support each other.

The four 2020 CMPS Wayne Sandfort grant recipients were:

- Elizabeth Teige, MS graduate student in Biology at Kansas State University, Manhattan. Ellie presented her paper: *Assessing the Role of Translocation in Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation*
- Amanda Medaries, MS graduate student in Biology at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. Amanda presented her poster: *Repairing Relationships: Providing the Glue to Mend Conservation Management and Public Opinion*
- Nicholas Parker, MS graduate student in Horticulture and Natural Resources, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Nicholas presented his paper: *Effects of a Megafire on Lesser Prairie-Chickens in the Mixed-Grass Prairie*
- Jacquelyn Gehrt, MS graduate student at Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Jackie presented a paper on: *Effects of Management Strategies and Military Activity on Greater Prairie-Chicken Ecology on Fort Riley Military Reservation* and a workshop

Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020 (continued)

on: *Small Scale – Big Results: the Impact of Urban Restoration and How to Inspire Others*

Another requirement of a grant recipient is to submit to CMPS a short synopsis of what they experienced at the virtual conference and we've attached those summaries. Common themes expressed by the four students included:

- The virtual platform was much more engaging and community oriented than anticipated.
- The ability to log back into the conference proceedings for several months after the conference has offered them the ability to catch sessions that they would have missed via an in-person conference.
- The recognition that science is more critical than ever.
- Their research is relevant and is part of something much larger than they imagined.
- Extreme gratitude for receiving grants to attend the conference.



Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020 (continued)

Jacki Gehrt

Although The Wildlife Society Annual Conference looked different this year, it still inspired me and gave me hope for the future like the other TWS conferences I have attended did. This was a welcomed feeling since 2020 has been anything but hopeful or inspirational for me; it has been discouraging to hear the heated arguments and see people from different sides of an issue being unwilling to collaborate and work together to reach an agreement. Even more discouraging is that most of these issues have been centered on the validity of science and the trustworthiness of scientists-further revealing how science is coming under attack more and more and unfortunately the “us versus them” rift is more apparent than ever. Getting off this doom and gloom soap box though, The Wildlife Society Annual Conference was a welcomed relief as thousands of passionate and engaged scientists came together to share about exciting research, inspiring efforts, successful collaborations, and overall learn from one another. As a scientist who is really just starting out on her professional journey, I was so grateful to learn from the experiences of more “seasoned” scientists during the plenary, symposia, and working group meetings.

One main takeaway that I had throughout this conference was the willingness of people to collaborate and work together-scientists, landowners, politicians, whomever. It was nice to hear of these efforts and see examples of these successful partnerships in light of the divisiveness that seems to be the mantra of society recently. I enjoyed watching the talks in the “Creating and Designing Wildlife Friendly Cities” symposium and hearing about the willingness of people with diverse agendas, professions, and viewpoints come together to create change for the good of wildlife and people who call these cities home. Another takeaway I had throughout this conference was the resiliency of people, particularly when they are passionate about a project. Within the symposium I previously mentioned there was an effort to make buildings more bird friendly in New York City. This effort spanned decades, but there were enough people in a variety of sectors who bought into this project that they saw it through and because of their efforts there is now legislation mandating new buildings to be constructed in a bird friendly way.

I also took part in a workshop entitled “Small Scale-Big Results: the Impact of Urban Restoration and How to Inspire Others”. This was a great way to spend an afternoon because I was able to engage with professionals who work to provide high-quality wildlife habitat in small urbanized spaces while also engaging community members to care about nature and wildlife found within their cities. This was an inspiring workshop because it bridged the gap between the rigidity of science and the creativity of habitat design. I also enjoyed the opportunity to temporarily break away from the world of science and scientific communication and focus on science communication-how to engage various audiences and get them interested about nature and conservation.

Overall, this conference was a great opportunity to learn about new and exciting science that is happening across different niches outside my area of study, explore and learn about careers that I never even knew existed, and engage and learn from the experiences of other scientists. I definitely missed the atmosphere that an in-person conference brings, but am glad to still have had the opportunity to participate, learn, and regain some hope and inspiration in this virtual setting.

Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020 (continued)

Amanda Medaries

I first wanted to take a moment to thank the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS. Without their 2020 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant opportunity, I would not have been able to attend such a progressive, unique, and overall inspiring conference. While I was slightly nervous about such a large conference being entirely virtual, The Wildlife Society created one of the most user friendly platforms I have ever experienced. I unfortunately did run into a few issues with the timing of the sessions due to my teaching/class schedule that week, but I still made sure to attend at least a few sessions each day of the conference. Starting with Monday, September 28th, I was able to attend the incredible Out in the Field Meeting, which showcased some amazing people who were able to share their experiences so openly. I was also able to catch the plenary, Keeping Science Scientific, which had some incredible guest speakers. Tuesdays are my busiest days, but I was still able to catch the panel discussion of Avian-Solar Interactions: State of the Science, which yielded some very interesting questions from the audience. On Wednesday, I took the small window of time I had to look over some of the On-Demand videos. Two of the videos I watched that really stuck out to me were Navigating the Path to Professional Success and the Wildlife and Prescribed Fire Effects on Wildlife in US Forests. I am an avid birder and my partner is a wildlife firefighter so being able to see all of the research done on how fire affects avian species was an exciting combination of our two interests. I made sure to not miss the session, Dismantling Systemic Racism in the Wildlife Profession. It was one of the most humbling and eye-opening experiences I have had. I think this topic is so important, especially with everything going on in the world right now, so I am very thankful TWS made space for it within this conference. The workshop I was able to attend, and afford thanks to the Student Travel Grant, was eBird Status and Trends: Working with Modeled Products in R. I had not worked a lot in R before this workshop, but I have utilized the eBird app a lot on my phone. It was very easy to follow along and I believe I learned a lot from the experience. Overall, I think The Wildlife Society did the absolute best job given the circumstances of having to go entirely online. It was an absolute honor to be a part of such a well-known conference and I look forward to being able to attend the one next year, hopefully in person!



Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020 (continued)

Nicholas Parker

Despite the unusual format, The Wildlife Society Annual Conference was a valuable and enjoyable experience. Similar to last year's Annual Conference, the sheer amount of presentations and things happening at this conference was overwhelming. However, the virtual format of the conference this year allowed for exploration beyond the normal scope of the conference. Rather than being constrained to one room or session, it became possible to move around and check out other sessions that I ordinarily would not have explored. In addition, having the sessions available on demand gave me more time to watch more presentations and visit more posters over more time. By spreading it out, it was possible to absorb a lot more information and return to them at my leisure. Symposia covered a wide range of topics, with deep dives into wildfire and urban wildlife that I found fascinating. They also introduced me to practical skills and different ways of thinking, such as dealing with unexpected adversity, mentoring and working with people from different backgrounds, and succeeding professionally. It has also given me more to think about in less traditional ways, with the wildlife film festival supplying a wealth of both creative and informative movies to watch when I needed a break from more serious presentations. Even now, a couple weeks after the conference began, I have returned to the online platform to watch new presentations and am still discovering exciting new research and ideas. As I have started to implement thoughts and ideas from the conference into my own work, it has been great to return to talks to refresh my memory and refer to them when working on my own analyses and writing.

I was surprised and impressed by the sense of community I felt even while attending this conference online. Knowing that I was one of thousands also logging in to watch the plenary broadcast live (as evidenced by the technological issues) gave me a sense of being a part of something larger. Seeing the overwhelming flood of positive feedback and support people received via message boards and in Q&A sessions was incredible. My work all of a sudden did not seem unimportant or meaningless because here were a group of people that cared and are also working every day to make a better world for wildlife and people. I was surprised at how strongly I felt by this, but I think in these times of COVID-19 and quarantine I have often felt alone in my struggles to continue my research and studies despite everything happening in the world. The opportunity to attend this conference gave me the chance to reconnect with an old boss and friend who I had not spoken to in three years that I would have not had otherwise. Overall, attending this conference gave me a sense of belonging to something bigger, and rejuvenated my passion for my work and research.



Section Business

CMPS Awards Funding to Four Graduate Students to Attend The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, 2020 (continued)

Elizabeth Teige

I was nervous about the conference being online because I assumed people would be less engaged than usual. To my surprise, the conference was almost more engaging because it was extremely easy to leave comments and ask questions about anyone's talk. I was lucky enough to have quite a few questions about my talk. Several were through email or comments on my talk, and one person did come by my in-person office hours to ask a question. I have never gotten so many questions before. I was able to ask questions and reach out to others, as well. I dropped in on my previous undergraduate advisor to talk and catch up about everything that was going on, which was lovely. Honestly, it was the most connected I have felt at a TWS Annual Conference.

This year was also a great value to attend because I now have access to most of the content for six months. I really enjoy that because I have learned so much that I want to apply to my own project; however at a traditional meeting I would not have been able to go back and review a particular talk. I feel the virtual setup will really benefit me in this way. It will be great to look back at those talks and review them again, especially for conducting analysis for my thesis.

Besides talks and posters, I also enjoyed the special live panels and the film festival. The live panel gave me insight into what other types of studies or issues are up and coming in the field. The film festival has been a new edition in the last few years of the meeting but I had never made the time to go before. The film festival is a chance to give my mind a bit of a break from actively absorbing information and allowing myself to learn about issues in a more artistic passive way. It was nice to be able to watch the short films at my own pace, as well (like pausing to go to the bathroom). The mixture of all different content at the virtual meeting was great, as always, with the added benefit of being able to view most whenever you wanted.

Overall, I really enjoyed my conference experience this year. Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend.





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 13

TWS Business

TWS Operations and Outreach Internship

The Wildlife Society (TWS) has an opening for a paid operations and outreach intern with an interest in professional development and non-profit operations. This will be a six month appointment running from mid-January – late June 2021.

DUTIES: The operations and outreach intern will be an integral part of TWS' professional development programs and organization unit services. These programs work to 1) improve communication and engagement between TWS and among organization units, 2) develop and administer TWS' professional development offerings, and 3) lead diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Interns are responsible for:

- Assisting with the development and implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Creating and updating program content and resources (Webpages, Webinars, Email Announcements, etc.)
- Writing articles for wildlife.org
- Representing TWS on committee and partner projects
- Contributing to member outreach and promotion
- Processing and maintenance of program data

POSITION: This internship is a full-time, six-month, paid position, with a stipend of \$2,000 per month. The internship will be taking place remotely, with the option for a DC-based opportunity dependent on easing of COVID-19 in-person work restrictions and the intern's comfort in relocating. No in-person work will be required for this internship term. The intern is responsible for their own housing and insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference will be given to applicants that have obtained or are currently pursuing a degree in wildlife management, wildlife biology, or related natural resource or non-profit management degrees. The ideal applicant will have:

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and multitask for long periods
- Demonstrate initiative in taking on new tasks
- Have an interest and/or previous experience with diversity, equity, and inclusion work
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office and Google Suite, and experience with WordPress is a plus

Membership and/or previous involvement with The Wildlife Society is beneficial, but not required.

COLLEGE CREDIT: This internship is an excellent educational opportunity to learn about management and engagement in a non-profit organization in the wildlife and natural resources field. The Wildlife Society will cooperate with universities and colleges that offer credit for internship programs; however, students must make all arrangements for receiving academic credit with their institution.

TO APPLY: Submit a cover letter, resume, contact information (email/phone/address/title) for two references, a college transcript (unofficial or official), your dates of availability, and an essay (1000 word limit) which summarizes your view on the importance of professional societies and the flow of communication between local, regional, and international levels, and ideas for supporting a diverse and inclusive conservation workforce. If possible, please submit all documents as one PDF. Finalists will be interviewed via video conferencing. ***Applications must be submitted by 10 November 2020.***

Send completed applications via email (hard copies not accepted) to:

Jamila Blake, AWB@, Professional Development Manager
jblake@wildlife.org, 301.897.9770 ext. 307



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 14

TWS Business

TWS Joe Burns Memorial Wildlife Policy Internship

The Wildlife Society (TWS) has an opening for a paid wildlife policy intern with an interest in federal natural resource policy issues. This will be a six month appointment running from mid-January – late June 2021.

DUTIES: The wildlife policy intern will be an integral part of TWS' Government Affairs program. This program works to ensure 1) TWS' members are informed of policy issues and the impact policies have on their work in wildlife conservation, and 2) that wildlife science is the foundation upon which wildlife-related policy decisions are made. Interns are responsible for:

- Researching wildlife conservation and management policy issues
- Preparing background information for use in testimony, letters, or comments
- Creating and updating policy-related TWS and coalition content (Fact Sheets, Webpages, Policy Briefs, etc.)
- Writing policy articles for wildlife.org
- Representing TWS at coalition meetings
- Engaging in legislative hearings and agency briefings

POSITION: This internship is a full-time, six-month, paid position, with a stipend of \$2,000 per month. The internship will be taking place remotely, with the option for a DC-based opportunity dependent on easing of COVID-19 in-person work restrictions and the intern's comfort in relocating. No in-person work will be required for this internship term. Intern is responsible for own housing and insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference will be given to applicants who have obtained or are currently pursuing a degree in wildlife management, wildlife biology, or related natural resource or policy degrees. Applicants should have excellent writing and communication skills, the ability to work independently for long periods, and show initiative in taking on new tasks. Membership and/or previous involvement with The Wildlife Society and knowledge of the federal policy process are beneficial, but not required.

COLLEGE CREDIT: This internship is an excellent educational opportunity to learn about wildlife and natural resource policy and the management and engagement of non-profit organizations in the policy arena. The Wildlife Society will cooperate with universities and colleges that offer credit for internship programs; however, students must make all arrangements for receiving academic credit with their institution.

TO APPLY: Submit a cover letter, resume, contact information (email/phone/address/title) for two references, a college transcript (unofficial or official), your dates of availability, and a writing sample of ≤500 words that provides an overview and analysis of a specific wildlife policy issue of interest to you (e.g. legislation, agency rule, etc.). If possible, please submit all documents as one PDF. Finalists will be interviewed via video conferencing.

Applications must be submitted by 10 November 2020.

Send completed applications via email (hard copies not accepted) to:

Caroline Murphy, AWB®, Government Relations Manager
cmurphy@wildlife.org, 301.897.9770 ext. 308

The program is named in honor of one of The Wildlife Society's first policy interns, Joe Burns. Joe devoted his career to federal service, and spent over 20 years working on behalf of conservation programming within the US Forest Service. Joe was an extremely active proponent of TWS' policy program, and was selfless in his mentorship of new professionals looking to engage in the profession.

TWS Business

TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist

TWS recently hosted a webinar explaining the process of becoming a certified wildlife biologist. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the recorded webinar. For more information on the Certified Wildlife Biologist program, please click [HERE](#).

New CMPS Representative to the TWS Council—Andrea Orabona

Bob Lanka served as the CMPS Representative to The Wildlife Society Council for two consecutive three-year terms. After his final report in subsequent pages, he is moving on from that role. His successor is Andrea Orabona, former CMPS Board Member At-large, President-Elect, President, and Past-President.

Greetings and best wishes for health and happiness! I wish we could meet in person at the upcoming joint Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section and Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society on November 18th, but virtual will have to do for now. I hope to “see” many of you via Zoom during the one day conference that highlights several powerful speakers and leaders across our Nation!

Meanwhile, for those I haven’t yet had the pleasure to meet, allow me to introduce myself. I have had the good fortune to work for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as the Nongame Bird Biologist for the past 28 years. In that role, I manage hundreds of non-hunted avian species across the state, so my vocation continues to thrill and inspire me every day. Field work has always been a favorite part of my job, from conducting monitoring surveys for songbirds, marshbirds, colonial waterbirds, and raptors, to species-specific surveys for Burrowing Owls, Mountain Plovers, and other grassland birds. I am also active on several working groups—Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Golden Eagle, Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions, Audubon, and the Central Flyway Nongame Migratory Bird Technical Committee.

As a field technician decades ago, I enjoyed learning and expanding my knowledge from each amazing project and species I worked on—black-footed ferrets (see photo of retrieved ferret telemetry collar), Yuma (now Ridgeway’s) Clapper Rails, white-tailed prairie dogs, small mammals, and Kokanee salmon, to name a handful.

My involvement with The Wildlife Society started as an undergraduate at Colorado State University, and has continued throughout my career. I am extremely grateful to my friend, former co-worker, and Section Rep predecessor, Bob Lanka, for his exemplary leadership in this role. My goal is to serve you with the same excellence, so feel free to reach out at any time with your questions, comments, concerns, and ideas.



TWS Council Report

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

TWS Council met virtually September 26-27, just prior to our recently completed virtual Annual Conference.

2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The just completed TWS Annual Conference was successful beyond all expectations. Over 2,500 people registered, making this conference the best “attended” TWS conference ever. This first ever virtual conference was pulled together by TWS Staff in just four months. Council waited as long as it could to make the call on whether to hold or cancel the in-person conference. Finally the reality of what we needed to do for our members forced our hand, so this past June the decision was made to go virtual. Consequently, the timeline for TWS Staff to figure out how to make this happen for the first time ever in a meaningful way for our members was incredibly short. I know from personal experience that there were some technical difficulties during the Plenary on Day 1, maybe other events as well. If you experienced an interruption in service, I hope your reaction was one of kindness and understanding. In recognition of the incredible performance of TWS Staff in planning this conference, really above and beyond any expectations, Council spearheaded by Vice-President Gordon Batcheller, developed and read a proclamation praising them at our Annual Meeting of the Membership held Thursday evening ending as follows:

Be it proclaimed that The Council of The Wildlife Society heartily commends and congratulates all TWS staff for their tremendous effort and dedication in holding the 2020 virtual conference thereby making a tangible contribution to the advancement of both wildlife science and the wildlife profession.

Adopted by unanimous consent by the Council of The Wildlife Society at the annual members meeting held on October 1, 2020.

BUDGET

In March 2020, pre-pandemic, Council passed a fairly standard FY21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) annual operating budget of about \$2,777,000. Because of the uncertainty surrounding things like membership, conference attendance, and partnership and personal donation income resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Council reduced the annual operating budget by about \$883,000 to about \$1,894,000 in July. Council and Staff will be monitoring this situation throughout the remainder of the year to ensure that adjustments are made as needed to keep TWS on solid financial footing. Fortunately, due to higher than expected income in FY20 and lower than expected expenses, TWS ended FY20 with a substantial budget surplus. With uncertainty expected to last for the remainder of this fiscal year and possibly even impacting next fiscal year, this surplus plus TWS’s Permanent Reserve Fund (fund goal is to have 6 months of TWS operating expenses in reserve, which has been achieved) should enable TWS to weather the storm.

TWS Council Report (continued)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Council has continued its work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The Wildlife Society website now includes a DEI page where members can read about TWS DEI efforts (<https://wildlife.org/dei/>). Take a look and sign up to add your voice if you want. TWS joined The Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM; <https://societiesconsortium.com/>) in 2020. According to the Council Diversity Committee's report, "This Consortium is an initiative of academic and professional disciplinary societies to advance professional and ethical conduct, climate, and culture. It is focused on effectively, and cost- and time-efficiently, operationalizing sexual harassment prevention and response." Council voted to establish a TWS Ombuds Office. While details are not yet finalized, it looks like this will be a small, trained office of TWS members available to provide Ombuds services to TWS members. Staff and Council will work to develop this office, hopefully in time to implement by our next Annual Conference. Finally, Council provided funding for a temporary staff person to help Jamila Blake (TWS Professional Development Manager) and Mariah Simmons Beyers (Unit Services Manager) develop a draft DEI Strategic Plan for Council's consideration.

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following members of our Section who were recognized by TWS for their exemplary service.

- Dr. Michael Gutzmer of Nebraska – Special Recognition Service Award
- Jim Hays of Kansas – Distinguished Service Award
- Tom Ryder of Wyoming – Honorary Membership

TWS awards (<https://wildlife.org/engage/awards/>) are an excellent way to recognize the efforts of your colleagues. I know it takes time to put together a meaningful nomination statement, but the effort is worth it. This year there were no nominations for the Jim McDonough Award. This award goes to a CWB who is on the front lines making conservation happen on the ground. As a past recipient of the McDonough Award, seeing no nominations this year really struck home. Obviously I am as guilty as each of you for not nominating a deserving individual. I ask you to join me by committing to nominating one person or group for a TWS awards for 2021. They will thank you.

ODDS AND ENDS

Council and Staff continue to work with the recently incorporated Canadian Section to ensure that the Section and all the Chapters in Canada are in compliance with Canadian nonprofit laws while still maintaining close ties with TWS. TWS recently received a petition from several TWS members in Mexico to

TWS Council Report (continued)

form a chapter there. TWS will be working with these individuals to ensure that how we make this happen is in compliance with the laws of Mexico and consistent with the purposes and mission of TWS. Melissa Merrick and others on TWS's International Wildlife Management Working Group put together a fantastic report to Council making several recommendations on how TWS might increase our involvement internationally. Council will be considering their recommendations in the near term.

Thanks to the work of Steven Castleberry and others on the Certification Review Board (CRB) team, Council approved several changes to the CRB handbook. Changes included a cap on how many course credit-hours can be substituted with experience, and the acceptance of unofficial transcripts with an application (among others). Council also approved Dr. Terry Messmer of Utah State University as the CMPS representative on the CRB. Thanks for volunteering Terry and congratulations.

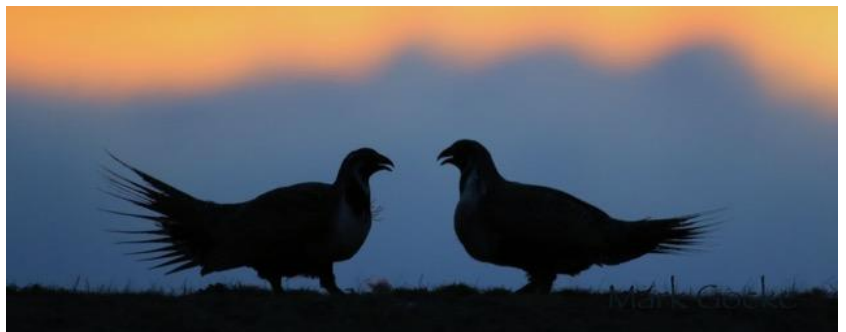
THANK YOU AND WELCOMING OUR NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNCIL ANDREA ORABONA

This was my last meeting as Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative to Council. After six years on Council, I can safely say that being allowed to serve our professional society, The Wildlife Society, and all its members was one of the top highlights of my professional career. Part of my duties as Council Rep involved traveling to Chapter Meetings in each of the seven states of our Section, as well as our Section meetings. It was wonderful to get to know so many of you and I appreciate all the hospitality. To all that have stepped into leadership positions with your State or Student Chapter or with our Section, thank you for answering the call to serve. Your contributions are important positive contributions to the mission of TWS at all levels.

I would be lying if I told you I won't miss our interactions and developing relationships with new leaders throughout our Section and on Council. But after six years as your voice on Council, I know that change is a good thing. So I want to personally welcome our new Council Representative, Andrea Orabona. Andrea and I have known each other for years through our work with TWS at multiple levels and with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. She will bring her ever present smile and important new perspectives to Council deliberations. I look forward to her leadership and know that the future of our professional society, The Wildlife Society, is in great hands. Andrea, my friend, I hope you enjoy your time on Council as much as I have.

I will always be yours in conservation.

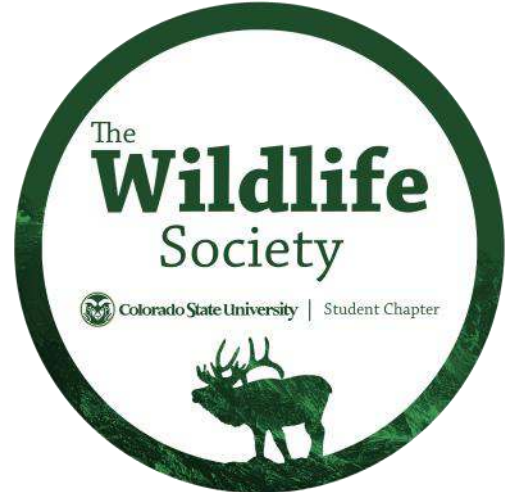
Thanks for all you do.



State and Student Chapter Updates

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Colorado State University Student Chapter has had an interesting fall/winter to say the least! While we haven't been able to take any exciting out of state trips, our chapter has seen a lot of participation from our members in local, socially-distanced outings. Limiting the participant numbers to 10 or less, we've had near maximum participation at our raptor monitoring outings and for a workday helping the nearby wolf sanctuary evacuate their old facility. We're also holding our elections soon and we're excited to see how our next semester turns out!



Mark Gocke



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 20

Upcoming Events

CMPS and Wyoming Chapter Joint Meeting—VIRTUAL

November 18, 2020

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/cmp/annual-meeting/>

WAFWA Desert Bighorn Council Workshop—VIRTUAL

April 6, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/desert-bighorn-workshop/>

WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop

Hood River, Oregon

April 12, 2021

VENUE AND LODGING: Best Western Plus, Hood River Oregon

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/mountain-lion-workshop/>

WAFWA Deer and Elk Workshop

TBD, California

May 17-20, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/deer-and-elk-workshop/>

WAFWA 31st Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Bend, Oregon

June 14, 2021

VENUE AND LODGING: TBD, Bend, Oregon

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

Wildlife Disease Association and European Wildlife Disease Association Joint Conference

Cuenca, Spain

August 30-September 1, 2021

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlivedisease.org/wda/CONFERENCES/UpcomingInternationalConference.aspx>



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—July 30, 2020

MINUTES – CMPS Award and Student Travel Grant Meeting

Thursday, 30 July 2020, 12:00 pm (CST)

Present: Adam Ahlers (AA), Shelly Deisch (SD), Julia Nawrocki (JN), Kyle McLean (KM), Ty Werdel (T Werdel), Tara Wertz (T Wertz), Andrew Little (AL), Stephanie Ferrero (SF)

Guidance on Awards and how to evaluate

SF: The CMPS Board does not have to select someone just because they are nominated. The Board needs to make decisions on how to evaluate and select award recipients.

AA: If someone took the time to nominate a person, they should get it unless there are some very bad extenuating circumstances. This shouldn't be an issue this year with so many nominations.

AA: There are issues on how to select award recipients. There is unclear wording on how awards are given out.

SF: Usually it is hard to get nominations, but this year has been a lot better. SF is wanting to highlight USFWS for the group award because the work they are doing in the prairie pothole region is difficult and impressive. The award criteria states that recipients must be Chapter, Section, or TWS affiliates to receive an award. After speaking to others, affiliate means member of TWS. This presents challenges on how to interpret group awards; if one member of the group is in TWS, does that work as an affiliate to represent the group? Historically, the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award (CCAA), has been given to a group, or an individual, or a group with an individual recognized.

AA: CMPS could create an official award in our bylaws for a group achievement award. However, this would not be for this year. This year for the Professional Award, the CMPS Board should vote as a group on winners, but Adam can create a different award for another group.

SD: It is important to recognize the USFWS due to budgetary and political climates. Many of the support letters did not mention TWS, so the individual or the group may not even be connected to TWS. If only 1 person is representing 27 people, it is a stretch. We should create our own group award because some don't fit into the Professional Award because they aren't really affiliated with TWS. Can we create an award now?

AA: We cannot make an official CMPS award now, but can make an executive award. Moving forward, wording needs to be changed for the awards in the CMPS bylaws.

SD: The Board would not want to remove TWS's affiliation criteria for the existing awards, but we can make our own new award for CMPS members.

SF: Maybe give preference to TWS members but not exclude non-TWS members.

AA: It is a lot of work for people to get nomination applications in. The Board can't change wording or structure without a vote at this time. The Board should consider non-TWS members for the award this year, and if they don't get it, maybe create an executive award. Any ideas on ranking nominations?

SF: The recipient should have demonstrated through their professional career service to the membership, above and beyond regular work duties, and should have created a legacy. This should be our ranking system. The award should honor who shaped wildlife conservation for our region.

AA: A ranking system will need to go into effect next year. Right now the Board can't. The Board will need to have a full CMPS meeting to update ranking, language in the awards, and new awards. Right now, what we have is what we have to work with. How are we going to rank them? How should we vote?

How many nominations? Three nominations for the Professional Award and one nomination for the CCAA.

SF: We can vote yay, nay right now, but we can also be anonymous with SurveyMonkey.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 22

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—July 30, 2020 (continued)

Unanimous decision to vote right now.

AA: Call for a motion to award Jay Fuhrer for CMPS CCAA. SF motioned, KM seconded. Motion passed.

SD: For the Professional Award the nominees are Mike Enroe and Andrea Orabona, both highly qualified.

A discussion ensued about both candidates being exceptional nominees, whether or not the CMPS Board can and should do two awards, and if the CMPS Board should hold over nominations for future years and present the award to only one person per year.

T Wertz: Uneasiness about holding people over, if someone is deserving of an award now, why are we holding their nomination over? If we hold someone over this year, we cannot say for sure what we are going to do next year. All the people nominated are worthy, but that's probably true every year. You can't continue just holding over.

SD: Can we award more than 1 Professional Award?

SF: In the past, more than one person has gotten the same award.

SD: If we can give 2 awards, we should give it to both of them right now.

AA: AA checked the bylaws to see if more than 1 person can get the award. AA agrees with T Wertz that we can evaluate the packets we get right now.

SD: Bylaws do not specify number of people that can receive the same award.

SF: Multiple people have been given the award in the past.

T Wertz: Moves that we give the award to both nominees.

SF: The CMPS Board received multiple nominations last year but only awarded one recipient with an award last year.

SD: We don't even have to give an award, but shouldn't get too hung up on the numbers of recipients in the past.

T Wertz: Just because you're nominated doesn't mean you get the award, but if there are 2 nominations so qualified why not give it to both?

SF: We should have consistency moving forward, but SF supports giving 2 awards this year.

AA: AA is good with giving 2 awards this year and recognizes the need to update criteria for the future. We should recognize who we can this year.

AL: AL was in the process of reviewing grad applicants, and thinks we should have a rubric to outline the criteria.

JN and KM: Agrees with what's been said.

T Wertz: Motion is still on the floor, SD seconded.

AA: Mike McEnroe and Andrea Orabona are both awarded the Professional Award this year. The Executive Group Achievement Award will be given to the USFWS Prairie Pothole Project Leaders and Refuge Managers.

SD: Are we just giving 1 plaque to the group? If so, we should put everyone on the plaque.

SF: \$200 for the plaque.

AA: All in favor of the group achievement. SF will order the plaque. The awards ceremony will occur during the virtual meeting.

SD: The CMPS Board should give physical awards the year they receive it.

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 23

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—July 30, 2020 (continued)

AA: Give the physical awards to the State chapter President to award the recipients.

SF: For the Executive Group Achievement Award, should we mail it?

SD: T Wertz, do you think they need a news photo with receiving the physical award?

T Wertz: Give the award to Noreen Walsh and she can figure out the best way to distribute the news to the media.

AA: The CMPS Board can send a blurb to Mariah Simmons (TWS) and let her know who the award recipients were and what the awards mean. AA is going to do that. SF will take care of the awards and discuss with AA about what's going on that.

Should we talk about the Student Travel Grant?

SD: We need to narrow down the number of applicants for the Student Travel Grant. Recommendations were already sent in by Board members. This group can narrow down the options.

AA: The CMPS Board needs to schedule a meeting soon because grants need to be in by September 1.

SD: Do we want to issue awards (and if so, in what format), or bypass and do next year? Early registration for the TWS Conference is August 15.

AA: AA is not a fan of virtual meetings and believes they do not provide the atmosphere for the intent of the grant to promote networking. AA is in favor of holding funds over to next year.

SD: SD is in favor of holding funds until next year and believes conferences need to have in person contact. SD would prefer to save the funds and send more people in person next year.

JN: JN is fine with rolling over funds, but people might miss out this year because they may be seniors and not have an opportunity next year.

SF: SF is leaning towards to what JN said, and does not really want to turn away applicants this year.

AA: To offer another approach, not on the list, what if the CMPS Board alters criteria so that the student must be presenting for this year to receive the award?

SF: If we are concerned about whether they attended or not, we could put in a stipulation that you have to have a little write up about their experiences.

AA: Registration costs are lower, so we could include a criteria that we could provide funds to cover registration and 1 workshop. We would still be under the cost of normal registration fees. The CMPS Board could only accept individual applications and not groups, like in the past.

AL: AA's idea sounds reasonable. We will need to pay extra if we want to see over the free limit of respondents to the election.

AA: Let's pay so that everyone's voice can be heard.

SD: How many student awards should CMPS give this year?

AA: CMPS should pay registration and workshop fees for qualified applicants. SD will send out an email about this approach and the CMPS Board will vote by email about this in the future.

SD: What do you mean by vote by email, or can I just ask people the old fashioned way?

AA: Tell everyone we want their final input on this option. Vote as a voting Board next week on this option. Get firm

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—July 30, 2020 (continued)

guidance from the Board, and get website, etc. updated. Ask for applications. The CMPS Board voted on student award recipients last year by September 1st. The deadline for discussion on this option should be Monday July 3rd. AA will review the email from SD tonight.

SF: Maybe we should just send a draft and have the Board review it.

SD: SD will send a draft to both AA and SF. If the Board doesn't agree with it they have until the 3rd to say something about it.

SF: At the next Board meeting, the CMPS Board will talk about the Annual Meeting.

AA: The Annual Meeting date is set for November 18th.



DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—September 21, 2020

MINUTES – CMPS Sponsorship for Free-roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability (FREES) Summit

Monday, 21 September 2020, 4:30 pm (CST)

Present: Adam Ahlers (AA), Shelly Deisch (SD), Kyle McLean (KM), Ty Werdel (T Werdel), Tara Wertz (T Wertz), Andrea Orabona (AO), Stephanie Ferrero (SF), Andrew Little (AL)

AA: Do we want to sponsor the Free-roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Summit?

AO: Will this be in person or virtual?

AA: Not sure.

SD: SD sent out an email earlier. They are looking for an actual sponsorship rather than a donation, or you can also donate for a meal, but that doesn't make sense if it is virtual. Would anyone on the Board attend?

AO: AO feels strongly about it but no one feels comfortable being around a huge group of people.

The Board should discuss sponsorship types and whether anyone would want to participate. AA can participate on Wednesday, AO is busy on that Wednesday so that might work.

SF: We could have someone from CMPS membership participate as well.

AA: Is this something we should sponsor? How much money do we have?

T Werdel: Around \$9,000 for next year with no other real expenses.

AA had grants paid for TWS, AO had her employer pay for most of the trips to TWS. Most of the time employers pay and CMPS does not have to pay for Board members trips.

AO: AO is hoping upcoming TWS State Chapter Annual Meetings will be virtual and she may need to jump through some hoops to actually get to in-person meetings.

AA: If there are in-person meetings, we may send someone. No money coming into CMPS, so we need to be mindful of that. We can say that our sponsorship covers remote participation.

AA: What does everyone feel about the \$1,000 sponsorship level?

If we do \$1,000 we will ask for it to be a virtual registration split across a couple members, likely split between AA and AO.

T Wertz moves that we give \$1,000 with 2 online registrations. SD seconds.

SD: Are any State Chapters sponsoring anything? We don't know for sure.

All in favor. Everyone.

No discussion.

We will give \$1,000 and ask for 2 online registrations.

If there is any pushback on this we will reconvene on the subject.

AO has a poster with Board members, mission statement, etc. that we may be able to display on the site. In lieu of being there in person, is there a way to get these things put up at the conference?

AO will send the PowerPoint to review it. AO has colleagues in Cody that could put it up for CMPS. AA thinks that would be useful.

AA: Moving forward, AA will contact Terry Messmer and let him know that we would appreciate that the money be used for virtual meeting, and that we would like 2 virtual registrations.

Meeting ended at 4:58 PM.

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes—October 23, 2020

MINUTES – CMPS Executive Board Conference Call

Friday, 23 October 2020, 9:30 pm (CST)

Attendance: Adam Ahlers, Ty Werdel, Julia Nawrocki, Stephanie Ferrero, Kyle Mclean, Andrew Little, Embere Hall, Andrea Orabona, Aleshia Rummel, Shelly Deisch

Call meeting to order (Ahlers).

Treasure's update (Werdel)

Balance = \$8,434.88, waiting for \$400 to come out for TWS honorarium.

Treasurer duties transfer

Dustin Ranglack is the new Treasurer. Ty and Dustin will set up a time for transfer files and duties.

Annual Conference Planning (Orabona, Ahlers, Hall, Deisch, and others)

Everything looks good for the conference, the planning committee may have a practice night to test technology.

Andrea said they are working on quiz questions for a virtual pub trivia event. They need to check if there is a cap for the Zoom meeting.

Will any talks be available after or are they only live?

There will be an awards presentation at 1:15-1:45 P.M.

Hours and hours of work have gone into this meeting, so thank you for all the hard work.

Treasurer audit: Every Annual Business Meeting we have an audit of our accounts. Tara and Ty will be in contact to go over how to do the Treasurer's audit.

Committee Reports

2020 ongoing awards topics (Ferrero)

Group Executive Achievement Award plaque going to the USFWS Regional office. Bob thought it would be a good idea for personal recognition for these people as well, so CMPS will be sending out certificates to each recipient individually. An announcement about the award is now on TWS's website.

CMPS has no Position Statement on conservation easements and wetlands. Might be a good time to put one together. Kyle and Stephanie are going to try to get some more information. Kyle thought maybe ND may already have a Position Statement, but thinks they would definitely want to collaborate. Stephanie explained that these position statements are a big part of our mission at CMPS.

Adam said he would like to help with this after he steps down as President.

How can CMPS better support wildlife professionals who are not yet members? Stephanie asked USFWS, and they said we can help raise awareness about issues on wildlife refuges (Stephanie). State Chapters can put together suggestions for wildlife issues that need comments at a larger scale and send them to CMPS. CMPS can draft and submit the comment letters (Embere).

Newsletter information (Adam or Aleshia)

Deadline November 1st.

Aleshia says we had a good amount of content. Needs minutes if there have been some since June.

Andrea and Shelly will provide introductions in the newsletter.

Shelly will get the student summaries to Aleshia and the rest of us; we can decide if we want to publish them.

Andrea will proof the newsletter before it goes out.

Other Business?

Stephanie: Northeast Section had a members survey. This may be something for CMPS to consider in the future.

Adam: This would be a lot of leg work, might be something that we want to do in the future.

Julia: Take the time to do it well. Members list would be a good place to start for a survey.

Embere: There is a limit for the Zoom sessions for our joint conference; 500 for main session and 300 for the business meetings. Everything is going to be recorded.

Adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 27

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	Angeline Canney				
President-Elect	Samantha Ulrich				
Advisor	Claire Ramos				
<u>WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Alyssa Rawinski				
President-Elect	Kristin Ross				
Advisor	Patrick Magee				
<u>EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Jera Wolke				
President-Elect	Tucker Eckols				
Advisor	William Jensen				
<u>KS STATE UNIVERSITY</u>					
President	Blair Pfeifer				
President-Elect	Robert Grosdidier				
Advisor	David Haukos				
<u>PITTSBURGH STATE UNIVERSITY, KS</u>					
President	Maggie Murray				
TWS Liaison	Madeline Gay				
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	Emma Raders				
President-Elect	Ty Masco				
Advisor	Dustin Ranglack				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF NE - LINCOLN</u>					
President	Carin Mellick				
President-Elect	Jack Carter				
Advisor	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				
Vice-President	Mallory White				
Advisor	Erin Gillam				
Advisor	Matt Smith				
<u>UNIVERSITY OF ND</u>					
President	Cailey Isaacson				
President-Elect	Seth Owens				
Advisor	Jason Boulanger				
Advisor	Susan Ellis-Felege				
<u>VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, ND</u>					
President	Skylar Yarbro				
President-Elect	Noah Kuck				
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				