



# WYOMING CHAPTER – THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 67 ~ 420 North Cache Street ~ Jackson, WY 83001 ~ [wildlife.org/wyoming-chapter](http://wildlife.org/wyoming-chapter)

## WY-TWS Wyoming Chapter – Conference Call Board Meeting 12 January 2022 5:30 – 7:30 PM, MST

### Participating WY-TWS board members & leadership:

Aly Courtemanch (President), Anna Chalfoun (President-elect), Megan Smith (Treasurer), Jerod Merkle (Board Member-at-Large), Emily Reed (Board Member-at-Large), Heather O'Brien (Board Member-at-Large)

Called to order: 5:33 pm      Meeting Adjourned: 7:44 PM

### MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

Aly suggested we strike section 8 from the minutes due to privacy. Section 8 was a discussion during an executive session. Jerod made a motion to strike section 8. Megan seconded the motion. Motion passed. **ACTION:** Emily will strike section 8 and send out the edited minutes to the board for approval.

### 1. CONFERENCE PLANNING

#### A. GENERAL UPDATES

Aly will continue to do big picture stuff (i.e., venue work). Anna will be doing more detailed stuff such as abstract review and conference program planning.

Our last date to cancel the venues is Feb 24<sup>th</sup> (about 45 days ahead of the conference), should we cancel our venues after that date, we will have to pay cancellation fee's. It was agreed upon to hold a meeting a few days before the Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> date to make a final decision about holding the conference. Tentative date for that meeting is Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm. **ACTION:** Aly will send out an email to confirm meeting time/date with the board.

#### B. COVID THOUGHTS AND MITIGATION IDEAS DISCUSSION

Anna:

- It's about people's comfort level given their risk, this is not ending any time soon, it would be nice to get back together, but we should make every effort to make people feel comfortable.
- An idea for quiz bowl would be to contain it at our venue, instead of hosting it at a bar.
- Do we want to record presentations so people can watch them later? Something like Wyocast maybe?

Emily:

- Interested in TWS providing k95 masks to wear during conference.
- Encourage testing before coming.

-Require a vaccination before attending.

Megan:

-Teton county right now has the highest cases in the U.S. If we peak in Feb. we would be in a lull in April. The rapid test place in Jackson only takes people right now with symptoms because there is such high demand for test.

Jerod:

-Not sure what to do about masks, feels conflicted about a mask mandate.  
-Agrees that being in our own bubble is good.

Heather:

-Encourage mask/testing.  
-If there are folks that do not want to attend, could we do a live cast and or recordings to view later?  
-If there is mandatory masking, is there a way for it be more fun, like doing some masks with the logo?  
-Hard to find tests right now so it's not feasible for us to require testing before coming.

Aly:

-Giving attendee's options, during the day to help address comfort level. When we are listening to talks, people could be masked. Then in the evening, networking, drinking and talking time, masks can be off during this time. But you could get food to go and eat somewhere else safely with your mask off and then re-join with a mask on.

Anna:

-Having meeting in Jackson is expensive, if we have lower than avg. attendance do, we risk losing money? Aly responded, the biggest cost is the food, it's dependent on how many people register, they charge us based on our head count. It balances out well if we only have 100 people come instead of 200, we would still be okay.

Jerod:

-What if we eat at 4pm outside, we could mingle outside as a safer option, depends on weather. Could we rent propane heaters potentially? The parking lot is the only space at the conference center, but the hotel looks like it has a tiny courtyard.

Megan:

-Suggest that we reserve powder horn park. **ACTION:** Aly, reserves powder horn park.

Emily:

-We could do the poster session outside depending on how many poster stands we could find.  
-Maybe do a story-telling event in place of quiz bowl? So, it's safer and people keep their masks on?

Aly:

-Suggest that we do one dry night (no alcohol), that night could be the poster session evening. We could get a keg after poster session. It would help save us money for catering if we did a dry night.

Ana:

-If a new variant comes, would we cancel and maybe pull together a virtual option? Would we do it on zoom? Would we cut the number of talks in half? We could do different sessions at the same time. Encouraged the board to think about a backup option just in case we do have to cancel.

## 2. REVIEW CONFERENCE PLANNING TIMELINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Aly made a spreadsheet located in the google drive that outlines tasks for the board with dates.

**ACTION:** Anna sends Ashleigh an announcement before January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Aly: Embere is running the website and said it was ready to go. **ACTION:** Anna will get a link from Embere to include. Anna will also ask Embere to update the info on the conference website.

Discussion on abstract deadlines in regard to the reviewers schedules, it was decided that abstracts will be pushed back by a week, printing of programs will be pushed back by a week as well. **ACTION:** Aly, will update spreadsheet to reflect date changes.

Workshop, Dealing with conflict in professional settings, could be offered by Elevate WY.

**ACTION:** Aly, will contact Elevate WY

Workshop, Quantitative Workshop by WEST, Jason moved positions recently from WEST to WGFD. **ACTION:** Jerod will contact Jason.

Workshop, How to translate your science into popular communication products, Would Riley Black also do a workshop potentially? It was agreed on that it might be too much to ask her to do that. It was suggested that Emily & Bethann co-teach a session. **ACTION:** Emily will reach out to Bethann.

Workshop, NEPA, **ACTION:** Aly will reach out to Don.

Women in the Wildlife Roundtable

Aly: Invite 5 women in different areas, questions given ahead of time to panelists, it would be moderated, it would be open for discussion to the audience at the end. Would Riley be interested as a panelist? **ACTION:** Aly, will follow up with Riley on her interest in being a panelist.

Anna: Suggested opening up the discussion beyond women but to be more focused on diversity. The group agreed that this would be a good idea.

Integrating Science and Management Roundtable, **ACTION:** Anna check in with Don about this.

Keynote Speaker. ACTION: Aly, confirm Riley Black for speaker.

Logo. ACTION: Emily will send a concept design to board for approval.

### 3. TREASURE UPDATES & REVIEW 2022 DRAFT BUDGET

We have 3 honorariums, from the conference in 2020, they never processed. ACTION: Megan will ask previous treasurer if the checks were ever written. ACTION: Jerod will also reach out to Josh and inquire if he got a check.

Mitchel B. has not processed the scholarship check, did he get it? ACTION: Anna will reach out to him.

\$4,000 of outstanding sponsorships. ACTION: Megan highlighted some sponsorship in a spreadsheet and Aly and Jerod will follow up on this.

Megan:

We had a low action year; more money came in then went out. Our membership dues were not as high as expected. We did not have any raffle revenue. No grants are accounted in the budget, but we did receive a grant from travel and tourism. ACTION: Aly will double check about asking for a percentage upfront, the report submit date, and the check processing timeframe. Megan also pointed out that the scholarships need targeted fundraising. We have changed the amount and number of scholarships over time so we could reduce those. She also suggested, adding a note on the registration page, that would read something like this "if you are willing to contribute more to support TWS please do" to help bring in more money.

Emily:

Suggested that we would need some careful crafted language about scholarships in the note to encourage the older professionals to give for that reason. Megan clarified that we could do that, but we would not want the the money being earmarked for scholarships because it would be complicated.

Discussion about silent auction vs. raffle. ACTION: MeganandAnna meet to discuss silent auction vs. raffle, and which one would pull in more money.

ACTION: Megan will have a budget draft to review for meeting in Feb.

### 4. OTHER UPDATES

Outgoing board member gifts. Aly met with Riley Bernard, she has volunteered to chair the awards committee.

Tentative meeting the week of Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> ACTION: Aly, will send out doodle poll.

DRAFE