

Board Meeting Minutes (Spring 2022)

Submitted by Courtney Larson (Secretary)

Since our last newsletter, the Board and members met virtually several times – Nov 11, Jan 13, Feb 9, and a quick meeting on Feb 22. The board also interacts through email communications. Board meetings are open to the membership, so participation is always welcome!

Below is a list of some of the topics discussed and decisions made at Board meetings and via online communications.

New board members

We welcomed Heather O'Brien to the board as our new board member-at-large. Members transitioning to new roles include Aly Courtemanch, who is now President; Tayler LaSharr who became Past President; and Anna Chalfoun who was is our new President-Elect.

Annual conference

We have been very busy preparing for our April conference in Jackson! Aly Courtemanch and Anna Chalfoun are leading the way in planning what is sure to be a great event where TWS members can re-connect after a long time without large in-person gatherings. Nonetheless, the pandemic is not over and the board has been thinking carefully about ways that we can be as safe as possible at the conference. Please see the conference website for details about workshops, panels, our keynote speaker, lodging, and more. We look forward to seeing you all there!

WY-TWS budget

The board approved a budget at our meeting on February 9. It was an unusual year for the chapter finances because we postponed the conference to April 2022 while doing most of our fundraising for the conference in 2021. Nonetheless our treasurer Megan is keeping us on track. She has reorganized the budget into two categories, conference and chapter function, and is consolidating our funds to one bank. The new organization should allow us to set revenue goals more clearly and plan expenditures.

Legislative session

Rhiannon Jakopak has done an incredible job tracking bills in the legislature that pertain to wildlife issues. She drafted and sent emails on behalf of WY-TWS board that expressed our opposition to the sage grouse farming bill, and also went to the legislature to testify on the bill.

Board goals and broader discussions

The board has been having ongoing discussions about the role of WY-TWS and individual board members in advocacy and legislative work, professional autonomy in the wildlife field, and how WY-TWS can work on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.