

# **Board Meeting Minutes (Summer 2022)**

Submitted by Courtney Larson (Secretary)

As well as enjoying in-person time together at the annual conference, the WY-TWS board met online on March 29 and May 19. Below are some of the topics discussed and decisions made at board meetings and via online communications.

## **Annual conference**

It was wonderful to see so many of our members at the annual conference in Jackson! The board was pleased with how the event turned out and hope that attendees were able to learn, meet new people, reconnect with colleagues, and enjoy being together after a long hiatus. The board is interested in hearing feedback from attendees and has drafted a survey to collect feedback on the conference that we will be sending out shortly, but feel free to contact any board member with your thoughts at any time. On the financial side, the conference was a big success. Thanks to generous sponsors, good registration numbers, and great participation in the auction and raffle we were able to net approximately \$12,000 in revenue, which will help make up for some deficit budgets the last couple years when we were not able to have a conference.

## **Membership dues**

Our treasurer suggested that the board revisit the membership dues for WY-TWS. Dues are currently \$10 per year or \$25 for three years. Our dues are among the lowest in the nation. The board agreed that we would like to cover more of the chapter's operating expenses (such as graduate student scholarships, UW student chapter support, and dues and committee expenses) from membership dues rather than relying on revenue from the annual conference, which can be variable. As such, we are proposing raising the dues to \$20 per year or \$50 for three years. A ballot was sent to all members via email on June 1 to approve or reject the increase – please remember to vote by June 30!

## **Response to Colorado Parks and Wildlife incident**

The board had a lengthy discussion about the incident that occurred at a conference sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in April. Our discussion centered around what we as a board can and should do in response to this incident specifically, and also more broadly what we can do to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the wildlife profession in Wyoming. We sent an email to membership on May 31 with our response to the CPW incident. We are thinking carefully about specific action items we can take to ensure that our words are backed by meaningful action. We have committed to communicating our action steps to our members by September 1.