



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Fall/Winter 2024 Volume 86

## CMPS Officers

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**President-Elect:**

VACANT

**Vice President:**

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**Secretary/Treasurer:**

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Heidi Plank

Mark Lindvall

**Newsletter Editor:**

Aleshia Rummel

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CMPS website:

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

## CMPS President's Message

Autumn is a season of change. Whether we're welcoming students to our classrooms, clipping up bottom fence wires to ease big game migrations, or preparing for upcoming legislative sessions, change is afoot. The same is true for CMPS. Here are few of the happenings.

**Board transition.** At the end of August, we welcomed two new Board members: Dr. Rachel Shively (Colorado) and Mark Lindvall (South Dakota). A tremendous thank you to Elli Teige and Daly Edmunds for their truly remarkable service to CMPS, as they rotate off the Board. Their contributions to the Section cannot be overstated.

**Annual CMPS meeting.** We are delighted to host the 2025 CMPS annual meeting in partnership with the NE-TWS conference (Feb. 25 – 27) in Kearney. The planning committee is hard at work to provide you with an outstanding meeting, including four plenary speakers on wetland advocacy, a trivia night, a full day of contributed talks and posters, field trips, workshops and an evening banquet. Join us!

**CMPS operations manual.** Thanks to Daly Edmunds, Stephanie Ferrero and others, CMPS has a complete operations manual. While this may not seem as exciting as, perhaps, spring sandhill crane migrations, the manual is a much-needed guiding document that provides clarity on mission, Board roles, committee responsibilities and more. In short, it helps us better serve you.

**TWS conference in Baltimore.** I had the honor of representing CMPS at the annual TWS meeting, alongside others. Highlights included celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of CMPS members, including Mark Lindvall's Distinguished Service award, TWS Fellow recognitions for Dr. Alan Franklin and Michael Gutzmer, a Wildlife Publication Award for Dr. Kurt Smith et al. for their recent monograph on sage-grouse, and honoring Bob Lanka's work as TWS President over the past year.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do on behalf of wildlife and our profession. Enjoy the newsletter.

Embere Hall

President, Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Section Business



# SAVE THE DATE!



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEBRASKA CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING WITH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS & PLAINS SECTION



**FEBRUARY 25 - 27, 2025**

**Holiday Inn & Convention Center**  
(110 2nd Ave., Kearney, NE 68847)

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Wetland Advocacy Plenary
- Trivia
- Student Poster Contest
- Student/Professional Lunch

**Conference Theme**  
**“Advocacy”**

### ABSTRACTS



Due December 7, 2024

Email To:  
[mgruntorad2@unl.edu](mailto:mgruntorad2@unl.edu)

### AWARDS



Due February 1, 2025

Professional of the Year & Career  
Professional of the Year  
Email To: [alittle139@gmail.com](mailto:alittle139@gmail.com)

**AGENDA COMING SOON!**

## Section Business

### **The Wildlife Society Fellows from CMPS**

Ten wildlife professionals have been awarded fellowships with The Wildlife Society for 2024. The TWS Fellows awards are given each year to individuals who have “distinguished themselves through exceptional service” to the profession and have been members of the Society for at least 10 years. CMPS was pleased to have two fellows that were awarded at the Baltimore annual meeting in 2024, including Alan Franklin and Michael Gutzmer.

#### **Alan Franklin**

Alan Franklin has acted as a research biologist at the USDA-APHIS WS National Wildlife Research Center for 18 years, while concurrently working as a professor at Colorado State University and the University of Minnesota. His professional career in academia and wildlife research began in the mid-1980’s at Humboldt State University. In 2021, Franklin was named the Research Grade Scientist of the Year at the National Wildlife Research Center. As a member of TWS since 1989, he has served in various roles within the organization. Franklin has been a part of the Biometrics Working Group, the Wildlife Diseases Working Group, the Chairman of the Committee of Electronic Publishing, associate editor of *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, and a consulting editor of *Wildlife Monographs*.



Alan Franklin

#### **Michael Gutzmer**

Acting as principal for New Century Environmental LLC, Michael Gutzmer has 17 years of experience researching, monitoring and performing inventory work with invasive, threatened, and endangered species for power companies, agri-business, railroads, transportation departments and Native American Indian reservations in the Great Plains. Gutzmer has been an active scientist and liaison in TWS, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and the American Fisheries Society. In 2020, Gutzmer was a concept founder of the Tribal Science Areas (TSA) program, piloted for Standing Rock Indian Reservation and other Great Plains Tribes. Gutzmer is a lifetime member of the Nebraska and South Dakota TWS chapters, and currently serves on TWS’ Invasive Species, Biological Diversity, Renewable Energy, Native Peoples’ Wildlife Management and Climate Change and Wildlife working groups.



Michael Gutzmer

## Section Business

### Welcome to the University of Utah Student Chapter

The University of Utah Student Chapter has joined TWS, and is in the CMPS geographic area. Their new President is Gabriella Karakcheyeva, and their Vice-President is Kaylee Meyers. Here is a quick summary of what the new chapter has been up to, and what they plan for spring:

Fall semester so far:

- Started bi-weekly regular meetings and then bi-weekly field trips. Field trips have included birding at Bear River Bird Refuge, and wildlife viewing at Antelope Island State Park.
- Just had a big restructure and got a couple new folks in leadership, and are meeting this week to make a rough draft of our spring semester plans.
- Karakcheyeva and Meyers attended the national TWS conference and talked to many other student chapters for inspiration.
- Working on communications for the chapter, including posting to social media more often.
- Applying to grant for a research project.

Spring plans:

- Bi-weekly events and bi-weekly regular meetings/updates.
- Photo fundraiser.
- Outreach including more tabling and talking to classes, and focusing on recruiting younger students (possibly including outreach to high schools).
- Working to start up a club research project managing a transect of camera traps (applying for a grant to cover the cost of the camera traps).
- Working to figure out a way to propose adding a zoology emphasis for our biology degree because the University of Utah does not have a wildlife related program at all currently.
- Hoping to attend the Utah TWS conference



## Section Business

### University of Utah Student Chapter— Activities this Fall





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society


## Section Business

### CMPS Welcomes Donations

If you have not made any plans for Giving Tuesday (December 3, 2024) this year, consider donating to CMPS! The annual budget for CMPS supports:

- ⇒ the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant for students traveling to the TWS conference (learn more at [CMPS: Student Travel Grant - The Wildlife Society](#)),
- ⇒ A new grant for TWS Associated Wildlife Biologist or Certified Wildlife Biologist certification fees (learn more at [CMPS of TWS Certification Grant - The Wildlife Society](#)),
- ⇒ Activities at the CMPS annual meetings, hosted with a different member state chapter each year,

If you choose to donate, you can visit the CMPS TWS home page and scroll down to find the link to donate via PayPal ([Donate](#)). Please note that the red button in the top right of the page is a donation to TWS, rather than specifically to CMPS.

  
Donate to  
**WILDLIFE SOCIETY INC-CENTRAL  
MOUNTAINS & PLAINS SECTION**

To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals of CMPS  
in science-based conservation of populations and habitats.

One-Time Monthly Yearly

**\$0**  
USD

Add \$0.00 USD to help cover the fees.

[Donate with PayPal](#)

[Donate with Debit or Credit Card](#)

## TWS Business

### **New Science —Dogs May Be Key In Detecting CWD Infection**

By Megan Radke August 23, 2024, reprinted from wildlife.org

The trick to detecting chronic wasting disease in cervids might be right under our noses—or more accurately, dogs’ noses.

Chronic wasting disease—CWD in its short form—has become an increasingly troubling issue for those managing both wild and captive cervid populations, but trained dogs may be the key to noninvasive detection of the disease.

As of July 2024, 32 states in the U.S. and five Canadian provinces have reported cases of chronic wasting disease in ungulates. CWD, which is caused by an abnormally folded protein called a prion, is highly transmissible. The disease, which is becoming more prevalent, is fatal to white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), and moose (*Alces alces*), among other cervids.

One challenge to managing CWD is that scientists either have to test for it in cervids after they have died, or they have to sedate them to gather tissue samples, which is quite invasive.

But in a recent [study](#) published in *PLOS ONE*, researchers found that using dogs may be a way to get around some of these challenges. The scent-savvy pooches can use their noses to discriminate between CWD-infected deer and ones without the disease.

While the term “working dogs” may conjure images of Belgian Malinois and Labrador retrievers, the six dogs trained in this study were various breeds rescued from shelters, including a coonhound named Moose that had destroyed his previous owner’s living room.

“You have to look for a dog that will do the same thing over and over again without getting bored, and they all need a high drive to work,” said Glen Golden, a study author and research scientist and behaviorist at Colorado State University. “They were all really good dogs.”

Golden and his team first had to familiarize the dogs with the scent of a CWD infection. They exposed the dogs to fecal samples—the metabolic result of the disease—rather than the actual pathogen. The samples were from both wild and captive white-tailed deer.

“Five test boxes were arranged on elevated surfaces, one of which contained a CWD-positive fecal sam-



Custer alerts his handler as he detects a CWD positive sample. Photo courtesy of Glen Golden

## TWS Business

### **Dogs May Be Key In Detecting CWD Infection (continued)**

ple,” Golden said. “Once the dog detected the positive sample’s odor, it would sit, alerting the handler to the positive box. The handler would then push a clicker and give the dog a treat or toy, depending upon what it was most motivated by.”

Golden said that after the dogs learned to find the CWD-positive samples, the researchers began adding negative samples around the positive one. The dogs were able to detect the positive result approximately 90% of the time.

“From there, we kept changing the position of the positive sample,” he said.

The researchers rotated the samples often so that dogs did not become too familiar with an individual deer’s smell.

“We’re asking them to generalize everything they’ve learned previously and forcing them to focus on infection status as opposed to any other smells,” he said.

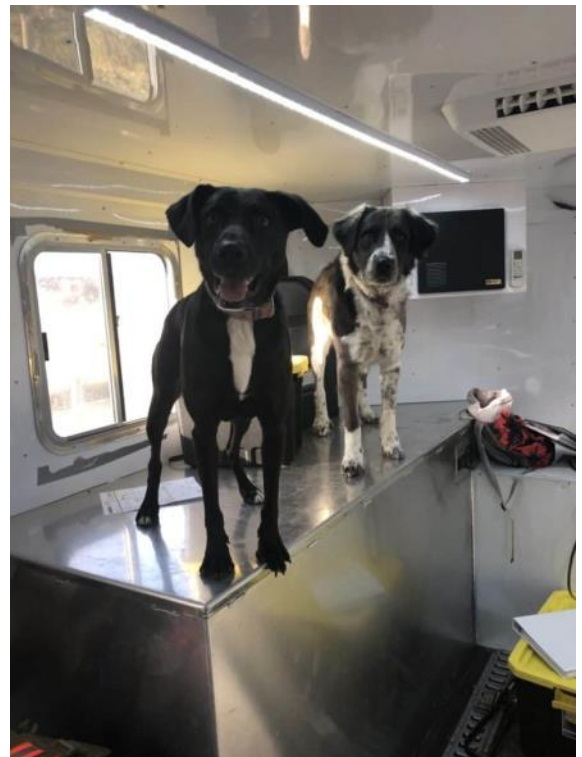
After the dogs were able to confidently identify an infection through fecal samples, researchers began testing the dogs’ detection ability with gastrointestinal tract tissue samples from previously unseen—or, unsniffed—positive deer, in comparison to unseen negative samples.

Because the overall body smell of a CWD-infected deer should be similar to the fecal sample smell, dogs were still able to differentiate between an infected individual and a noninfected individual 81% of the time, even when presented with sections of the GI tract that don’t contain any fecal material.

A dog’s ability to detect an infection in this manner, especially with fecal samples, could prove to be a powerful and money-



Glen Golden, study author, trains Odin. Photo courtesy of Glen Golden.



Dogs Custer and Squirrel were rescued from shelters and trained to detect a CWD infection. Photo courtesy of Glen Golden.



## TWS Business

### **Dogs May Be Key In Detecting CWD Infection (continued)**

saving tool for those managing captive herds, Golden said. But, he added, the study has raised more questions about how the dogs could be best utilized to detect CWD in free-ranging herds.

He said that perhaps the best place to employ working dogs is at CWD hunter check stations, similar to the way the Transportation Safety Administration uses dogs at airports. But he would be interested in finding out if dogs could detect a CWD infection in areas where deer historically congregate, like around deer corn feeders, for example. This could give natural resources managers and wildlife agencies a valuable head start in disease surveillance and containment.





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## TWS Council Report

Greetings and happy autumn, everyone! It was a pleasure to visit with many CMPS members at The Wildlife Society's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland! Here are some highlights and happenings from the conference and the Fall TWS Council meeting.

### ***Annual Conferences***

There were 1,770 attendees at our 2024 Annual Conference. Almost 50% of attendees were students. 2024 Annual Conference Sponsors included 3 Platinum, 7 Gold, 18 Silver, and 28 Bronze. Thank you to all our generous Sponsors!

We had 450 attendees at the wonderful off-site Patagonia venue at for the Women of Wildlife and Out in The Field social event.

Our 2025 Annual Conference will be in Edmonton, Canada. Remember to get or update your passport. The plenary theme will focus on two-eyed seeing and braiding knowledge systems. We will engage local schools to visit us during the conference.

In 2026, we'll gather in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sacramento, California is the site for our 2027 Annual Conference.

### ***Strategic Plan***

TWS will incorporate our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion vision in all aspects of our Strategic Plan and what we do as an organization.

We have both short-term and long-term actions for the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee to address through actions suggested by TWS members.

TWS Working Groups will be brought in to tackle top priorities first.

Click here to review the Strategic Plan, which was approved by Council on March 25, 2024 and became effective on July 1, 2024: [TWS-Final-Strategic-Plan-July-2024.pdf](#).

### ***TWS Staff***

We are so excited to have several new TWS staff members and an important reorganization of some job descriptions to best serve out members.

Here is the link to learn more about these incredible individuals who work so hard for us: [COUNCIL AND STAFF - The Wildlife Society](#).

### ***Membership***

All application requirements were met, so Council voted to approve a new TWS Chapter in Mexico. Welcome to our international family of wildlife professionals!

Our membership is staying strong at just over 11,000 members. However, some memberships have lapsed over the past several years.

TWS Council has a charge to contact those whose membership has recently lapsed to try and reengage them back into our organization.



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## TWS Council Report—Continued

### ***Finances***

TWS continues to be financially sound and fiscally responsible.

### ***The 1,000***

The 1,000 was launched in 2014 with the goal of generating at least \$200,000 annually for TWS operations. In 2024, we reached our goal of for the first time ever!

Kickstarting and revamping the 1,000 has resulted in more members, but there is still some confusion about this important investment in wildlife and wildlife professionals.

Check out this link (soon to be updated) to learn more: [The 1000 - The Wildlife Society](#).

### ***TWS Certification***

Council had a productive conversation on information provided by the Certification Liaison Committee in their Fall Report.

We will continue to work on certification requirements, coursework, professional references, renewal applications, and certification modifications to best serve all members, including the needs of the next generation of those wanting to be certified.

### ***Position Statements***

The Position Statements Committee is working on updating the Responsible Human use of Wildlife Position Statement, and will be reaching out to the appropriate Working Groups for assistance.

The Position Statements Committee is reviewing the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Council passed a motion to establish a committee to explore steps moving forward to develop an approach to address a comprehensive Future North American Wildlife Conservation Framework. This will be accomplished with input from Council, TWS members, Working Groups, and other experts (e.g., groups such as the Wildlife Management Institute, who are also tracking the Model).

### ***Working Groups***

TWS Council approved the formation of the Coastal and Marine Wildlife Working Group in interim status at the Special Council Meeting on June 12, 2024.

At the Fall Council Meeting, TWS Council approved the dissolution of the Wildlife Toxicology Working Group for failure to meet compliance requirements.

Council passed a motion to continue looking into the differences between Working Groups and Communities. We will review how their terms of commitments are similar or different, what the current requirements and sustainability are, and how to best serve Working Groups and Communities with existing staff time and funding availability.

### ***Awards***

I will continue to be Chair of TWS' Awards Committee for the next year.

The Committee will review all 21 awards that TWS offers for any needed updates.

Some Awards are not receiving new nominations. We all know deserving individuals, so please review TWS



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## TWS Council Report—Continued

Awards at this link: [TWS AWARDS - The Wildlife Society](#).

Please check back on the link for updates that may occur before nominations are due, as this may change.

We certainly don't want to leave any potential nominations on the table!

### ***Leadership Institute***

Three LI teams gave their presentations to Council on the unifying theme of Building Community from our new Strategic Plan. These presentations were well developed and proved excellent information for moving forward on their chosen topics.

Group 1 presented on Membership Involvement.

Group 2 presented on the Mentorship Program.

Group 3 presented on Certification.

### ***Celebrating Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage (COWCH)***

The Forest History Society has agreed to house and archive our COWCH interviews. They can accept any format in which interviews are recorded, so please continue to interview Section members.

This is still an important part of TWS to ensure our voices and institutional knowledge continue to be captured and shared throughout time.

I look forward to seeing many of you at some of our 2025 State Chapter Annual Meetings! I plan to travel to the joint Central Mountains and Plains Section and Nebraska Chapter meeting, the joint Colorado Chapter and Wyoming Chapter meeting, and the Utah Chapter meeting. Meanwhile, enjoy the upcoming holidays and keep up the great work!

Thanks for all you do for our natural resources – Andrea

Andrea Orabona

The Wildlife Society Council

Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative



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## Upcoming Events

### **WAFWA Bighorn Sheep Test and Remove Workshop 3.0**

Reno, Nevada and Virtual

January 15, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/misc-events/bighorn-sheep-test-and-remove-workshop-3-0/>

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### **North Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting**

Mandan, North Dakota

February 5 — 7, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: <https://ndctws.org/information>

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### **Nebraska Chapter and Central Mountains and Plains Section Joint Annual Meeting**

Kearney, NE

February 25 — 27, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: TBA

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### **South Dakota Chapter Annual Meeting**

Brookings, South Dakota

February 26 — 28, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: TBA

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### **Colorado Chapter and Wyoming Chapter Joint Annual Meeting**

Fort Collins, Colorado

March 4 — 7, 2025

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

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### **Utah Chapter Annual Meeting**

Price, Utah

March 12 — 14, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: TBA

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### **WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 17—20, 2025

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

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## Upcoming Events

### **American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Meeting**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

July 9 — 13, 2025

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.asih.org/meetings>

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### **WAFWA Desert Bighorn Council Workshop**

Gold Canyon, Arizona

April 22—25, 2025

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

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### **WAFWA Deer and Elk Workshop**

Nanaimo, British Columbia

June 16 — 19, 2025

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





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## Meeting Minutes

### CMPS Board Meeting 12 July 2024, 11:00-noon CDT, 10:00-11:00 am MDT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Embere Hall, Rick Warhurst, Daly Edmunds, Adam Ahlers, Andrea Orabona, Melvin Nenneman, Dennie Mann, Mindy Rice, Heidi Plank

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am CDT, 10:03 am MDT

#### **State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates**

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: 2025 NDTWS scheduled for Feb 12-14 in Bismarck. ND legislature will be in session.

South Dakota – Dennie Mann: SDTWS held a board meeting last week. Next annual meeting will be in Brookings, SD on the SDSU campus. Chapter is thinking of testing Brookings as a venue for a few years to see if they can boost attendance and student involvement.

Nebraska – Sarah Nevison: no report

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: KSTWS executive board meeting is next week, preparing for elections. Next annual meeting will be at the end of Jan/early Feb in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference. Getting close to breaking 100 members in the KSTWS chapter!

Colorado – Mindy Rice: COTWS annual meeting will be Mar 4-7, 2025, held as a joint meeting with WYTWS in Fort Collins, CO. The theme is Fire and Ice – Climate change. Mindy is planning to put together a workshop on Indigenous Climate Justice.

Utah – Heidi Plank: Next annual meeting will be 12-14 Mar in Price UT, at USU Eastern

Wyoming – Embere Hall: Similar to Mindy's update for CO. Wyoming has a number of active working groups.

#### **Old Business**

Nenneman made a brief summary of the June CMPS board meeting minutes. Rick moved to approve the meeting minutes, Embere provided a second, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The June treasurer's report included three transactions: the check from SDTWS for the CMPS auction income was received and deposited, which provided a healthy boost to the account: \$1,470.00. CMPS automatically paid the \$12.00 charge to maintain our Google domain, and the final Sandfort Student Travel grant for 2023 was cashed in the amount of \$374.94. After accounting for these, the CMPS bank balance at the end of June was \$9,623.47.

Daly moved to approve the treasurer's report, Rick seconds and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Action:** Mel will check the CMPS PayPal account to see if any donations have been made.

#### **New Business**

-Safari Club International (SCI) and CMPS of TWS potential partnership

The idea of partnering with or asking SCI for a donation or sponsorship was suggested to help CMPS offset some costs of the Annual Meeting. SCI has active programs to promote youth hunting and helps fund research at Universities and State Game and Fish agencies. Some misgivings were voiced about a potential partnership with another NGO that might have differing policies or politics than CMPS, and how just the optics of such a partnership could reflect on CMPS. It was recommended that before considering a partnership or sponsorship, CMPS should do a deep



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## Meeting Minutes

dive into any organization offering a partnership or sponsorship to make sure that the sponsoring organization's mission does not conflict with the interests or mission of CMPS. If interested in pursuing this, using sponsorship instead of partnership may help to maintain clear lines between the two organizations.

-Preparing for Board Restructure

Planning and rolling out of the new board structure (assuming membership approves the bylaws) would start on 01 June 2025. Make sure that the CMPS of TWS board is involved in helping state chapters as much as possible with the transition to ensure that it occurs as smoothly as possible.

### **Ongoing Business**

-CMPS Elections

135 CMPS members had voted as of meeting time, with 3 days left to vote. It appears the bylaws revisions were on their way to approval by membership. One comment mentioned that there was no link to the current bylaws to allow for comparison. **Action:** Stephanie will send out a link to the current bylaws so that members can compare the two as they vote.

-Operations manual

Shelly and Daly have been putting together a questionnaire to be filled out by current office holders and committee chairs to have them take the lead on writing the duties of each position. The questionnaire should come out in the next 2-3 weeks. **Action:** Board and committee chairs should plan to spend some time to fully describe the duties of their positions within CMPS. This document will help future CMPS leaders be successful in these positions.

-TWS Council Report

Kristy Confortin was hired as the TWS Operations Coordinator. The FY 2025 operating budget was approved. Several TWS position statements are currently being updated and should be ready to be posted by fall. The TWS Strategic Plan is set for release in mid-July.

Andrea also provided a local example of making a difference. A suicide prevention group based in Lander planned a balloon release to commemorate loved ones. Andrea and a small group of concerned folks convinced the suicide prevention group to come up with a different, more ecologically friendly way rather than releasing balloons.

Next CMPS board meeting is scheduled for Friday, 02 August 2024 at 10:00 am mountain, 11:00 am central. Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting, Rick provided a second, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm central, 11:02 am mountain.





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## Meeting Minutes

### CMPS Board Meeting 02 August 2024, 11:00-noon CDT, 10:00-11:00 am MDT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Embere Hall, Anna Ortega, Rick Warhurst, Daly Edmunds, Elli Teige, Melvin Nenneman, Dennie Mann, Aleshia Rummel, Adam Ahlers

Meeting called to order at 11:01 am CDT, 10:01 am MDT

#### **State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates**

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: 2025 NDTWS meeting will be in Mandan rather than Bismarck.

South Dakota – Dennie Mann: SDTWS will hold another board meeting in August, at which time the date for the 2025 annual meeting in Brookings will be selected. It looks like there will be a couple of options for food vendors will be available, and it should be a good venue. The location in Brookings should be good as it is close to the population centers in SD.

Nebraska – Sarah Nevison: no report

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: no report

Colorado – Mindy Rice: COTWS board meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays of the month.

Utah – Heidi Plank: no report

Wyoming – Embere Hall: nothing new to report

#### **Old Business**

Nenneman made a summary of the July CMPS board meeting minutes. Regarding the discussion of outside entities providing sponsorship of CMPS activities, it was suggested that CMPS could add a footnote next to sponsor names that notes the sponsor has no affiliation with CMPS. Rick moved to approve the meeting minutes, Embere provided a second, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The July treasurer's report included a single deposit from the TWS membership portal for \$325. The beginning balance was \$9623.47, and the balance at the end of July was \$9948.47.

Elli moved to approve the treasurer's report, Rick seconds and the motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

**Action:** Mel check the CMPS PayPal account to see if any donations have been made.

#### **New Business**

-Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Allocation: An email announcement to begin accepting applications for the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant will go out in mid-Aug, with a deadline to apply of 13 Sept 2024. This gives students one month to apply for the travel grant. CMPS board will need to vote to approve travel grant award winners, which may mean that the board will need to meet outside of a scheduled meeting to finalize travel grant awards. In the operations manual, make the parameters of the award clear; students and groups can request amounts up to \$500.00, but the award amount is not guaranteed. Additional discussion pointed out that it costs students approximately \$2,500 to attend the TWS Conference. Since the Sandfort Travel Grant does not cover the full amount, it was suggested that perhaps the grant should be offered to cover the cost for award winners to attend one of the workshops at the Conference, with the payment going directly to TWS. This would simplify the Sandfort Travel Grant as CMPS would be covering the full cost for the student to attend a workshop, rather than covering a portion of travel expenses. However, it was pointed out that applicants often do not ask for the full \$500 offered by CMPS, so maybe the current travel grants are enough. CMPS is financially in a better position this year (thanks to a great auction at the annual meeting, and a couple of generous donations), and the board may want to consider providing full \$500



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## Meeting Minutes

amounts to applicants, and increasing the amount allocated to the Sandfort Travel Grant. The approved budget for 2024 included \$1800 for Sandfort Travel Grants. If the CMPS budget improves, the board could consider providing 1 or 2 students the full amount required to travel to the TWS annual conference. It was also suggested that in addition to providing a written summary of their experience at the TWS Conference, Sandfort Travel Grant award winners should virtually attend one board meeting to share their experience.

-Certification Program Grant: A suggestion to make this grant available to any CMPS member who became certified (CWB or AWB) in the last year. The approved budget includes \$200 for assisting with certification application costs.

-Reimbursement for TWS Spokane 2022: CMPS board had discussed providing Stephanie Ferrero reimbursement for her travel costs to the TWS conference in Spokane in 2022. Said reimbursement was not provided at the time and CMPS finances were not as robust at that time. Given that she did not have financial support from her employer, the request was made to CMPS to reimburse travel expenses for \$1000.00. Rick moved that CMPS reimburse Stephanie Ferrero \$1000.00 to cover airfare and registration to attend the TWS Annual Conference in Spokane as the CMPS representative. Daly seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote. **Action** – write a check to Stephanie Ferrero for \$1000.00.

### **Ongoing Business**

-CMPS Elections: Elections concluded, with Anna Ortega elected as Vice President, and Mark Lindvall (SD) and Rachel Shively (UT) elected to at-large board positions. The bylaws revisions were also approved by membership. Google forms worked quite well for voting. Question – could someone vote twice with google forms? Answer – it may be possible but seems unlikely that someone would go through the trouble of trying to do so. There were 147 votes cast (roughly 10% of members), which is similar to past elections. CMPS should seek ways to improve voter turnout.

-Operations manual: The operations manual will be a work in progress for the first year. **Action:** Board and committee chairs should plan to spend some time to fully describe the duties of their positions within CMPS. This document will help future CMPS leaders be successful in these positions.

-In brief: The August board meeting was the last scheduled zoom call for board meetings. Next board meeting will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in Sept; discuss frequency and timing of board meetings with the new board at that meeting. Acknowledge contributions of Daly Edmunds and Elli Teige to the board during their tenure as at-large board members. At the next meeting, Stephanie Ferrero will be serving as Past President, Embere Hall as President, Anna Ortega as Vice President, Mel Nenneman Secretary/Treasurer, and board members at-large will be Heidi Plank, Rick Warhurst, Mark Lindvall and Rachel Shively.

Consider establishing an ad hoc committee to help guide the board restructure approved in the revised bylaws.

Deadline for the next CMPS newsletter is Nov 1.

The Nebraska Chapter of TWS is holding a board meeting on Aug 26 at noon central – several CMPS members plan to attend to begin discussing plans for a joint meeting between NE and CMPS.

Next CMPS board meeting is scheduled for Friday, 06 September 2024 at 10:00 am mountain, 11:00 am central.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am mountain, 12:08 pm central. Stephanie made a motion. Elli seconded.



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## Meeting Minutes

### CMPS Board Meeting 06 September 2024, 11:00-noon CDT, 10:00-11:00 am MDT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Embere Hall, Rick Warhurst, Mark Lindvall, Rachel Shively, Daly Edmunds, Melvin Nenneman

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am CDT, 10:03 am MDT

**State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates** - skipped this meeting in the interest of time

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: no report

South Dakota – Dennie Mann: no report

Nebraska – Sarah Nevison: no report

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: no report

Colorado – Mindy Rice: no report

Utah – Heidi Plank: no report

Wyoming – Embere Hall: no report

### **Old Business**

Treasurer's report: CMPS had a balance of \$9,948.47 at the beginning of August. There was no income for the month, and there was one expenditure of \$1,000 to reimburse Stephanie Ferrero for her registration and travel costs to attend the TWS Conference in Spokane, WA. The balance at the end of August was \$8,948.47. The board approved reimbursing Anna Ortega \$218.55 for CMPS awards and mailing costs. **Action:** Mel will get a check out to Anna for these costs. A look at the approved budget led to a brief discussion of the \$500 line item for proceeds from the annual meeting. CMPS had hoped to achieve income from meeting registrations. This year, SDTWS donated silencers that were raffled and auctioned at the meeting, so this income was realized in the auction income. It was reported that the registered agents cost should be \$150, rather than the \$200 planned in the budget.

**Action:** Mel check the CMPS PayPal account to see if any donations have been made. **Action:** In the next newsletter, let membership know they can donate to CMPS using PayPal on the CMPS website.

Rick moved to approve the August meeting minutes and the treasurers report, Mark seconded the motion, and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Ongoing Business**

Operations Manual update: A draft of the General Operations Procedures Manual will be circulated to the board as a Word document on Google Drive. Board members and committee chairs are asked to review the document and make comments, corrections, additions, etc directly to the document or by sending edits to Daly Edmunds. The Operations Manual was developed based off of the TWS Western Section and several state Operations Manuals. The final PDF of the manual will have hyperlinks in the table of contents allowing viewers to jump to sections within the document. **Action:** Embere/Daly will share the Draft Operations manual in CMPS Google Documents by 09 Sept 2024. **Action:** Board members and committee chairs are asked to review and offer edits to revise the document by 30 Sept 2024. The plan is to have a working draft of the Operations Manual available by mid-Oct. This will be a working document to allow change to occur and additions to be made as needed.

Welcome new board members & introductions: Some time was allocated for all the board members to introduce themselves. Stephanie Ferrero is currently serving as Past-President. She lives in eastern Kansas on the Marias des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and works at Johnson Community College. She enjoys hiking and gardening. Mark Lindvall is an At-large Board member. He studied western grebes in Utah for his master's degree, then went on to



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## Meeting Minutes

work some seasonal positions with the USFWS and as a ski bum for a couple of years before going to Nepal as a Peace Corp volunteer. After the Peace Corp, he worked for the USFWS on several National Wildlife Refuges, retiring in 2014. He has been active in TWS, especially in NETWS. He enjoys dog training, travel, and volunteering. Rick Warhurst is an At-large Board member. He is a graduate of Kansas State University and worked for DU for 31 years throughout the Central Flyway. He currently works for the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, doing wetland projects across ND. He has lived in the Bismarck area since 1995 and enjoys hunting with his black lab and fishing. Rachel Shively is an At-large Board member. She has been involved with TWS since she was an undergraduate and has degrees from Univ. of Alaska and a PhD from Kansas State. She is well-traveled, currently working in her 10<sup>th</sup> state. She currently is with the BLM in southern Utah and enjoys hiking. Embere Hall is the current CMPS President. She has been involved in TWS since she was an undergraduate. In her career, she has worked in academia and for state wildlife agencies and is currently supervisor of the Science Unit of Wyoming Game and Fish. Mel Nenneman is the Secretary/Treasurer. He got involved with the student chapter of TWS as an undergrad and has been involved with TWS on the state level for many years. He is a wildlife biologist for the USFWS at Valentine NWR in Nebraska. He enjoys training and bird hunting with his dogs and gardening.

Report outs on strategic plan action items: tabled.

Preparing for board restructure: tabled.

### **New Business**

-Updates on the Annual CMPS meeting (Feb 25-27 in Kearney, NE): Theme for the meeting to be determined, but possibly involving Advocacy. CMPS may be able to help NETWS with finding a keynote speaker. NETWS has a pretty good planning committee, and Rick can work with NETWS on fundraising. NETWS currently has extra funds, so may not need much in the way of financial help from CMPS. It would be good to start seeking donations to CMPS (business donations, etc.) for the auction. Rick will stay in touch with Matt Gruntorad (NETWS president-elect) and Audubon about the possibility of raffling off a trip to the Sandhill Crane blind operated by Audubon. Embere said she might have a lead on getting some optics donated. This annual meeting is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CMPS, so be thinking of ideas to celebrate this anniversary.

-Committee needs and assignments: **Action:** Embere will send out an email highlighting committee needs.

Board meetings: The board has been meeting once a month for an hour. With a couple of new board members, it would be good to think about when and how often the board should meet. **Action:** Embere will send out a poll regarding the time and frequency of CMPS board meetings.

### **Wrap Up**

#### Calendar Items

TWS Annual Meeting in Baltimore: Oct 19-23

Wayne Sandfort Student Travel grant applications and Certification Program grant applications due:  
Sept 13.

Board review of operations manual due: Sept 30.

Next CMPS board meeting scheduled for 12 Oct 2024 at 10:00 am MT, 11:00 am CT

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Rachel and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am mountain, 12:07 pm central.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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