



Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Annual Member Meeting Notes

February 27, 2024

NETWS Board:

President-elect: Sarah Nevison

President: Erin Considine

Past-president: Andy Little

Secretary: Chelsea Forehead

Treasurer: Matt Gruntorad

At-Large Board Members: Larkin Powell, Jon Soper, Jessi Tapp, Shelley Steffi

Sarah Nevison called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm

Introductions by the board: Sarah Nevison, Larkin Powell, Andy Little, Matt Gruntorad, Jessi Tapp, Jon Soper, and Chelsea Forehead

Shaun Dunn moved to approve meeting minutes, Ritch Nelson seconded- motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Gruntorad

- No change to the "end-of-year"
- We spend money every year on dues to CMPS, this was being done incorrectly but has since been straightened out
- Jess Jurzenski moved to approve the 2023 budget, Jon Soper seconded- motion passed
- 2024 Budget:
 - o Changes to the budget after 2/26 Board Meeting:
 - Changed "Student Poster Award Expense" to just "Student Award Expense"
 - Removed Lobbying Expense line item
 - Member discussion:
 - o This money would have been spent on joint lobbying with other groups, but cost exceeded available funds for hiring a lobbyist
 - o Having a lobbyist rather than having members go was thought to be a more effective route
 - Added Workshop Expense line item
 - Need guidance on Student Travel Award Expense
 - Member discussion:

- Debate on whether we should be giving money to CMPS rather than keeping it for NE students
- Currently no students are benefitting from the money, though
- Guidelines would help Student Engagement Task Force to communicate the availability of these funds to students
- Jess Jurzenski moves to approve the 2024 budget, Andy Little seconds- motion passed

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Andy Little

- Openings include President-Elect, Treasurer, two At-Large Board Members
 - We have nominees for all except President-Elect
 - There are 9 past presidents in attendance, feel free to reach out to them about their experience

Membership Committee: Shaun Dunn

- Numbers are holding steady right now but we will not know for certain until everyone is registered
- Anyone can post on the Google Group! You don't have to contact one of the administrators. It is a tool for communication within the chapter.

Programs Committee: Sarah Nevison

- Thank you everyone- we're here!
- Next year's conference will be here again
 - Looking at Feb 25-27 2025
- Would it be possible to have everything in the big room here next year? It might be nice to have everything in one room...

Conservation Review Committee: Jenny Prenosil

- Sometimes you inherit these things
- In previous legislative sessions we have been more active in writing letters and giving testimonies
 - This session LB 1335 was opposed in a letter from the chapter

Information and Education Committee: Shaun Dunn

- We do not have a chair for this committee. Looking for someone to head this up- potentially someone with experience in social media posting? Website needs updated too!

Awards Committee: Andy Little

- Will present all but Joe Gabig at the banquet
- Thanks to Laurel Badura, Shaun Dunn, and Mark Vrtiska
- Encourage everyone to nominate colleagues

Certification Committee: Jessi Tapp

- Certification shows that you are serious about being a wildlife professional
- Paperwork involved can take some time, but it helps you to lead by example in the field of wildlife conservation
- This year the board would like to cover 100% of cost of certification up to \$1,000 for members
 - o Reimbursement would be the route for this. Provision of proof of certification would result in reimbursement from the chapter. First come first serve.
- Ritch moves to approve the reimbursement for cost of certification at first evidence of certification for members at 100% of the cost until the \$1025 is spent
 - o Steve Riley seconds the motion, two vote nay, motion passes
 - o *This technically did not need to be put to a vote*

Student Chapter Reports:

University of Nebraska Lincoln- Andy Little

- Nine Mile Prairie Trip, Fall Stream Clean-up, NGPC Chili Feed, Radio Telemetry Training, Gator Night, End of Semester Hangout
- 2024 Plans:
 - o Trivia Night
 - o Morrill Hall Collections Tour
 - o Deer Aging
 - o Scientific Illustration Night
 - o Officer Elections
 - o Wildlife Olympics
- Wildlife Club Banquet included all related clubs this year

University of Nebraska Kearney- Dawson Kosmicki, Current President

- School Year Kick-off, Bat Netting, Bird Netting, Owl Pellet Dissection, Summer Tech Prep, UNK FWS Job Fair, Bioblitz, Deer Check, Fall Birding, Radio Telemetry (cancelled due to weather)
- Future Plans:
 - o Club T-Shirt Fundraiser
 - o March Mammal Madness
 - o Bird Museum Skin Prep Workshop

Wayne State- Anna DeGroot

- Fishing Trips, MO River Expo (butterfly tagging, touch tanks) volunteering, Turtle Naming, Cockroach Naming for Valentine's Day, Wildlife Viewing (Sandhill Cranes, Sharptail Grouse, Camping Trips)
- Future Plans:
 - o PPRI Restoration

Chadron State College- Trevor Asnenbrawn, President

- Deer Check, Swift Fox Surveys, Track ID Event, worked with Range Club events
- Future Plans:
 - o Wildlife Trivia Night

- Swift Fox Surveys
- Club Day Trips

TWS Report with Ed Arnett, CEO The Wildlife Society:

- TWS has central staff, headquarters, annual conference, peer-reviewed journals, newsletter
 - They go to Washington DC to discuss Conservation Affairs
- This year's policy priorities:
 - Funding, private lands, and renewable energy
- Strategic Planning:
 - Sought assistance of professional help in development this time
 - 12 person committee (retirees, students, early career, etc.)
 - All-member survey
 - Open until 2/29
 - All of the above culminated in an analysis that showed how best to build community, support professionals, and leverage our voice
 - For the first time in 10 years we are sending out an annual report
 - This report will break down where your donations go, where your membership goes
 - Why join TWS?
 - Unity and Community
 - Be a part of something bigger than yourself
 - We need to unite now more than ever
 - No more time to quibble over academia vs. management, game vs. non-game, etc.

CMPS Update with Mel Nenneman, Secretary/Treasurer of CMPS TWS:

- The section has increased membership
 - Section consists of 7 states
- CMPS joins a state chapter every year on a rotating basis- this year it is South Dakota
 - 2025 CMPS will be with Nebraska chapter
- We have a student travel fun
 - We did have one student from Nebraska get the Sanford Travel Grant last year
 - \$250-500 depending on if you're presenting (this isn't meant to cover all costs, just to help them get there)
- If you have issues in your state where it can be helpful to have a more regional voice you can contact CMPS
 - CMPS wrote a letter opposing a baiting bill in North Dakota
 - CMPS wrote a letter to TWS CRB with ideas to grow participation
 - Hosting gatherings across section
- Currently working on bylaws revision
- Chapter members can also nominate people for awards at the section level
- Proposed board changes:
 - Anyone that wants to run in section can
 - 2 years ago we started a state liaison position

- You can have someone from your state sit in on board meetings and take information back to your chapter
- There is a proposal to have a more formal liaison position, an elected person sit in on the CMPS board
 - One from each state chapter, 2 year term, even year/odd year cycle, Nebraska would be an even year state
 - This proposal would also make the treasurer an elected position
- Modeled after Nebraska chapter
- These changes will have to be voted on by the membership

Old Business:

New Business:

- Need president-elect!
- Need committee chairs!- Communications, Certification, Education and Information
- Looking for ideas for next year's theme

Discussion:

- Would like the board to consider adopting the strategic plan for CMPS

Sarah Mobes moves to close the meeting, Shaun Dunn seconds, motion passes at 2:01 pm