



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Winter 2024, Vol. 68, No. 3

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Shelly Deisch

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TWS Council Representative:

Andrea Orabona

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Daly Edmunds

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Elli Teige

Newsletter Editor:

Aleshia Rummel

CMPS President's Message

Hello CMPS of TWS Member,

Spring is a buzz with annual State Chapter of TWS meetings and planning for field seasons. As we gather at annual meetings and strategize about how to accomplish field work, it becomes very evident that every person matters. For us to be successful with wildlife conservation, we need each human being to do their part, each member of CMPS of TWS to be fully engaged.

When we all are fully engaged, it makes the world of difference. The 68th Annual Meeting of CMPS was combined with the South Dakota Chapter of TWS in Rapid City, SD. The meeting included an amiable assembly of wildlifers. This close-knit group created a relaxed atmosphere and allowed for more meaningful conversations.

We were all very humbled that several key TWS leaders dedicated time to be at the meeting, such as TWS President Bob Lanka and CMPS Representative to TWS Council Andrea Orabona. TWS CEO Ed Arnett joined virtually and gave an inside perspective of TWS' Strategic Plan. There were lots of laughs shared by all during the Quiz Bowl Trivia that Andrea instigated. High quality waterfowl paintings, silencers, along with many other items were auctioned, and wildlifers enthusiastically invested in them.

The keynote speaker, Larkin Powell, shared about changing lands in the Midwest and the effects on wildlife. A very charismatic presenter, Dr. Powell deftly connected flocculation, grasshoppers, and Adolf Hitler to wildlife habitat. Highly recommend being on the lookout for his upcoming book on this topic. To understand our current conservation situation, we must know what has happened in the past across spatial scales.

The award winners were phenomenal. The level of conservation work they have been doing for decades is encouraging and inspiring. Improvements to wildlife techniques, establishment of shooting complexes and hunter education programs for youth, partnerships between agencies and organizations, and so much more has been accomplished and continues to grow.

The South Dakota Chapter of TWS Board was very welcoming and gracious. SD TWS had big decisions to make leading up to the meeting about timing and location. They chose to seek out their member's opinions, truly listen and acted accordingly. They are a group of folks that go out of their way to help others, from picking up visitors at the airport to loaning a spare laptop to purchasing last minute award frames, their actions demonstrated how TWS is a genuine family of wildlife professionals.

We are connected by being members of The Wildlife Society and its subunits. Our commitment to uphold with The Wildlife Society's Code of Ethics brings us together. We have these unforgettable experiences at annual meetings with fellow wildlife professionals. These gatherings help re-energize us for the work ahead. We discover shared passion for conservation and how we all can learn from each other. We truly can do more together!

Stephanie Ferrero, President, Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Section Business	2
Chapter Updates	8
Job listings	12
TWS Business	17
TWS Council Update	18
Upcoming Events	20
Meeting Minutes	21
CMPS Directory	26



CMPS website:

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



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 2

Section Business

Final Call for Nominations to the CMPS Executive Board

Greetings! You can make a difference for your fellow wildlife professionals and conservation. This is the final opportunity to submit nominations for Vice-President and two Board Member-At-Large positions for the Central Mountain and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) Board. Joining the CMPS team provides the opportunity and reward to pay it forward, grow your reach, and have fun serving your professional society in essential ways. Please visit our website to check us out! <https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

We are looking forward to energetic natural resource specialists to assist us on position statements of issues that matter within our region (SD, ND, WY, UT, NE, KS, CO), network with other specialists, provide student travel grants to the TWS Annual Conference, recognize our colleagues in our awards program, and more. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know, please email elections@cmps-tws.org with the following:

A short bio-sketch with your photo. No previous TWS experience needed!

Why you should be selected? What skills would you contribute?

What you would like to learn from the CMPS Board?

How would you keep CMPS relevant?

Deadline for nominations due by midnight central time on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

Directions for voting will be announced at later date. Below are the position descriptions and requirements for nomination.

Board Nomination Requirements:

All elected board members must be a member of TWS parent society. If they are not a regular state chapter member of one of our 7 states (CO, WY, UT, SD, ND, NE, KS), they must be a regular CMPS member for \$1 (state chapter members are automatically enrolled as members of CMPS).

Position Descriptions

ALL POSITIONS: Time commitments include a monthly 1-hour virtual board meeting. Serving on special committees and helping with CMPS Annual Business Meeting (held in conjunction with one of the 7 state's annual conference) will take more commitment. Travel to one of the 7 states' conferences is elective but encouraged. Elected board members will start their term August 31, 2024 and will hold their position for 2 years following.

VICE-PRESIDENT. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President during any absence or upon any inability of the President to serve and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. This office shall preside over the Awards Committee. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the Executive Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Members-At-large assist in general administration of Section business affairs as delegated by the President and serve on committees such as awards, membership/communications, and elections.

If you have any questions, please email elections@cmps-tws.org for more information.

Section Business

CMPS TWS and SD TWS Combined Annual Meeting Summary

CMPS and South Dakota TWS held a combined meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Quiz Bowl was led by the CMPS Representative on the TWS Council, Andrea Orabona, and was very popular with over 200 questions were answered. The auction was a successful fundraiser, and included great prizes like a fishing rod and reel, a Sitka gear gift certificate, and several pieces of artwork. Photos are from Dennie Mann (SD TWS President) and Stephanie Ferrero (CMPS TWS President).



Bob Lanka, President of The Wildlife Society, with colleagues at the banquet.



Stephanie presents an Outstanding Research Contributions to Wildlife Science and Land Management award for Dr. Daniel W. Uresk.



CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero and TWS Council Representative Andrea Orabona.

Section Business



Stephanie Ferrero presents the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award to Brian Dahl with Denne Mann, SD TWS President-Elect.



Mel Nenneman won the auction for the ice crampon (CMPS fundraiser).



Rick Warhurst, CMPS Board Member-At-Large.

Award winners for 2023 CMPS Awards included Brian Dail and Gabby Zaldumbide for Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for Executive Group Achievement Award, Shelly Deisch for Wildlife Professional Award, and Dr. Daniel W. Uresk for the Special Recognition Award.



Quiz Bowl participants in action.

Section Business



Quiz Bowl winning team and coordinator Andrea Orabona (on left).
Winners received bird clocks and Wyoming's Red Dangit band CDs.



Live auction artwork winner with donor Rick Warhurst (on left).



Women of Wildlife panel discussion.

Section Business



CMPS Board Member-At-Large Rick Warhurst, CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero, TWS Council Representative Andrea Orabona, and CMPS Secretary/ Treasurer Mel Nennemen.



Live auction artwork winners with donor Rick Warhurst.



Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

Kayla Wenzler

We arrived at Louisville at night November 4th and were staying at a hotel not far from The Galt. The next day we spent our time exploring. I took this opportunity to have lunch with some PhD students from the Koprowski Conservation Research Laboratory. I have been working for the lab for about a year now, assisting on tasks with their research projects.

The day when lecture sessions started, I first went to the Communicating in an Era of Science Mistrust. After I attended the Aldo Leopold Address I went to a specific talk about how uninteresting bird get studied less than their fancy counterparts.

On Tuesday me and the secretary went to the student chapter leaders breakfast and had a wonderful discussion with the Texas student chapter. After that I went to talks mostly about international conservations before I went to the pharmacy. In the late afternoon I went to a talk about human dimensions and the conflicts with wildlife.

Wednesday I help set up and attended the Wyoming reception that evening. I had a wonderful time talking to Rich Guenzel and John Koprowski. Me and John had set up a silent auction table with prizes I had collected prior to the conference. We had a great turnout, where we sold shirts and had received donations from many alumni. It was a great night to network and form new friendships and I was excited since this was my second alumni and friends event.

The final day I spent the whole time attending talks. With the majority being from the endangered species panel along with the conservation and invasive species panel.

Roche' Espadron

A wide range of scientists, conservationists, and practitioners from around the U.S. gathered at the 2023 TWS Wildlife Conference to discuss the most recent developments in wildlife management, research, and conservation. The conference offered a forum for idea sharing and encouraged teamwork and creativity in tackling the urgent problems that threaten the biodiversity of our world.

I attended the Agent-based modeling for wildlife management Symposium and one presentation that stood out was the presentation of estimating the potential drivers of dispersal outcomes for juvenile gopher frogs. The presenter explained that individuals may be able to behaviorally regulate their body temperatures and rates of water loss by moving between microsites. This can have significant effects on growth, fecundity, survival, and activity periods. Microclimate variability and availability can be altered by ground-layer vegetation. When thinking about climate, most people including myself would think on a macroscale and not microscale.

The 2023 TWS Wildlife Conference stands as a testament to the dedication of the scientific community in advancing the field of wildlife science and conservation. Through encouraging teamwork, exchanging expertise, and investigating creative solutions, attendees departed the conference with a revitalized mission and resolve to protect the planet's biodiversity. The knowledge from this meeting will be useful as we navigate the difficulties of the Anthropocene and work toward a sustainable and peaceful cohabitation with wildlife.

Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

Peyton Carson

This year I, along with eight other undergraduates from Colorado State University, had the honor of attending the 2023 National Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Louisville, Kentucky. This was made possible by a variety of different financial assistance sources, including the Wayne Sanford Travel Grant. Previously, the CSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society had been restricted to attending state chapter meetings due to budget restrictions. We were all incredibly grateful to receive funding as the student chapter had not been able to attend a national meeting in over three years.

The event, itself, took place over the course of 5 days and was packed full of incredible opportunities. Hundreds of biologists, studying all forms of taxa, could be found presenting their work at any given time. This gave us a plethora of talks to attend which allowed each of us to delve into specific genres we wanted to explore such as mammal conversation, habitat ecology, disease ecology, urban wildlife management, invasive species, and more.

The conference also provided us with incredible networking opportunities you couldn't find anywhere else. As an indigenous, queer woman in the field, witnessing networking events tailored to the underrepresented communities I am a part of was deeply appreciated. There were dozens of other networking events, however, much like the research presentations, I wasn't able to attend them all due to the sheer number of sessions happening at any given time. In fact, the group I was in attendance with all managed to find their own individual niches, proving that there is an inclusive networking event for all backgrounds. Through these events, I was allowed to connect with many professionals and fellow students with whom I share similar backgrounds.

All in all, I will say my time at the 2023 National Meeting of The Wildlife Society was an unforgettable experience. I had an incredible time attending hands-on workshops, networking events, and a wide variety of symposiums, informational booths, and job fairs that cover every corner of the wildlife field. The wealth of connections, knowledge, and memories I gained from this gathering was priceless and, without a doubt, worth every moment. I eagerly anticipate attending future conferences in the years ahead.



CSU Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the 30th annual TWS conference in Louisville, KY

Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

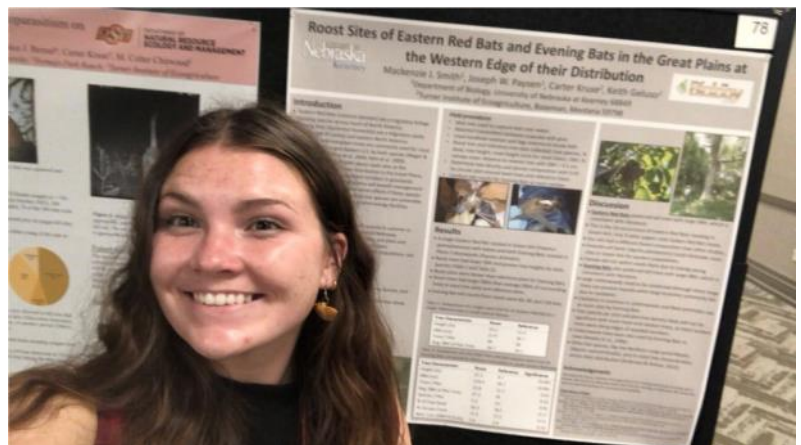
Mackenzie Smith

My name is Mackenzie Smith, and I am a recent graduate with a B.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. I had the opportunity to attend the 2023 TWS Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, which was extremely memorable and beneficial to me as a young professional! The conference was an amazing opportunity to network with professionals and students, visit the numerous booths, and listen to great talks from both the plenary speakers and research presentations.

The conference began with plenary talks, which highlighted the importance of science communication in a period of misinformation. I found these talks especially relevant in our digital age. Technology can truly be a tool, or a big problem, when trying to communicate sound science to the public, and it is our responsibility as scientists to combat spreading misinformation. I also attended several research presentations about birds, reptiles, amphibians, and wildlife diseases, among many others. I found it intriguing and inspiring to hear about other research currently in progress in the wildlife community. The diversity of talks available was numerous, and really made it hard to hear everything that I wanted to, but the amount of research was amazing!

Personally, this conference was very meaningful to me. I had the opportunity to reconnect with a past professor and catch up on life events. He was also gracious enough to help me make more connections with professionals in his realm! I met with a great cohort of graduate students, and they shared valuable advice about finding a graduate program, applying for positions, and being successful in the research field. The highlight of the conference for me was when I got to present my poster “Roost sites of eastern red bats and evening bats in the Great Plains at the western edge of their distributions”. It was great to be able to discuss my findings with interested peers and professionals and hear input from other bat researchers. I am so grateful for all the connections and wise words I received from all the people I encountered!

One of the key takeaways I discovered from attending this conference was the importance of broadening your horizons. During this conference, I saw how crucial making connections and taking advantage of the great opportunity this conference presented was. It was an amazing chance to learn more about different areas in the wildlife field and the different paths one can take. This was especially demonstrated during the Student-Professional Networking Event which I attended. I talked to workers in federal agencies like the USDA, private organizations such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and several state level agencies. While I explored the exhibition booths, I learned about different schools offering programs of interest, and even applied for some jobs! These takeaways will continue to impact my professional career in terms of future research, work paths, and understanding of the wildlife field and all that it encompasses.



Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

In summary, the 2023 TWS Annual Conference was an amazing experience for a young professional such as myself, and far exceeded my expectations of a large conference. The networking was unparalleled, but also the spread of knowledge and sheer diversity showcased at the conference was refreshing and stimulating as well. It is truly invigorating to hear about all the current events and research progress happening in the wildlife field. This conference impacted me through meaningful connections with peers and professionals, and further sealed my interest to continue my professional development down the wildlife research path.

Natalie Unruh

The national TWS conference was an invaluable experience for me this year. I attended many talks and learned a lot. I enjoyed the mammal talks the most because that is where my interests are. I also attended the genomics seminar. I did not know that field of research even existed to that extent before the conference. It was very interesting to hear all of the applications of genomics research. Being able to determine dispersal movements without genomics would take years of tracking individuals. New technological advancements like genomics are going to propel the wildlife field forward in my opinion.

Another thing that will propel the field forward is the up-and-coming students. I really enjoyed how open and welcoming professionals were to students like me. I am graduating from my undergraduate program soon and was able to look at the bulletin boards for open MS positions. Once I found one I liked, I was able to contact the advisor and talk in person and make a personal connection. All the advisors I met with were very open and friendly to me and seemed to want me to succeed. There are not a lot of places where you can meet lots of professionals in one spot and have a good experience with all of them. I have realized how truly small the wildlife profession is, so being able to make those personal connections is very important.

The Student Chapter leaders' breakfast was also a very good experience. It allowed my chapter to learn what other, more successful, chapters are doing. We were having trouble with member retention and were able to bounce ideas and ask other students what they were doing. We came back to Wyoming with new ideas on how to improve our members' experience in our chapter. The breakfast also allowed us to connect with other students and make those personal connections.

I am very thankful to have been able to attend the National TWS conference in Louisville this year. I was able to learn about the country's wildlife in many ways through talks and posters. I was also able to make connections that will help me in my future career. I hope I am able to attend TWS conferences as a professional some day and provide the support for future students like many people have done for me.

Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

Jessica Duttonhefner

In November, I had the incredible opportunity to close out my graduate career by representing North Dakota State University at the 30th annual Wildlife Society conference in Louisville, KY. After presenting at TWS 2022 in Spokane, WA, I was excited to once again return to the national conference for another week of conference fun.

Thanks to support from the TWS Drone Working Group, I started the conference out on a remarkable note, attending the “Taking to the Skies: Drone Applications” Workshop. These past three years, my Master’s research has explored the use of drones in the human-wildlife conflict realm, specifically the conflict that exists between North Dakota sunflower producers and the large aggregations of mixed-species blackbird flocks that damage the crop. Through this research, I have developed a passion for piloting drones, and I was excited to learn about the vast applications drones have in the field of wildlife biology. With projects encompassing the globe – Sunda Pangolins in Vietnam to Mule deer in Montana – I had the opportunity to hear about the exciting research and innovative tools being used to learn more about the world’s wildlife. From the demonstrations of Wildlife Drone’s cutting-edge drone-based telemetry system to Canebrake’s thermal camera, the workshop went above and beyond, exceeding my expectations.

On the third day of the conference, I had the opportunity to share my contribution to the drone research world during the Contributed and Research in Progress Poster session. I presented a poster, titled “Know Thy Enemy: Using Drones to Evaluate Composition and Size of Blackbird Flocks Foraging in Commercial Sunflower.” This project aimed to achieve three objectives: compare biologist flock size estimates to automated methods, 2) develop a machine-learning algorithm to detect and count blackbirds and 3) understand the seasonal phenology of composition of mixed-species blackbird flocks. During the poster session, I had the opportunity to discuss my research with a wide variety of people, from curious under-

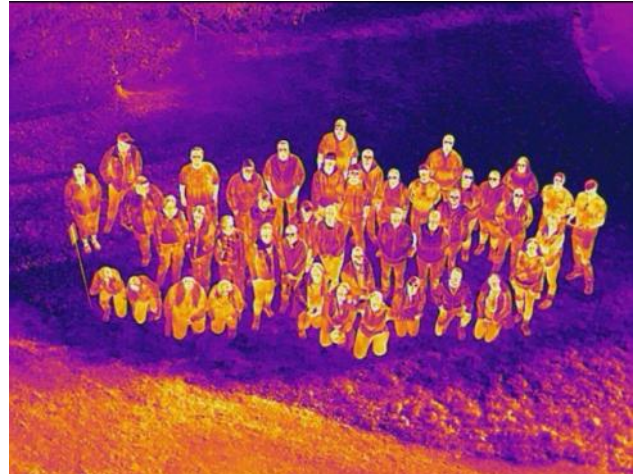


Figure 1: Group photo of the drone workshop participants, taken using a drone with FLIR imaging. Photo credit: Wildlife Drones

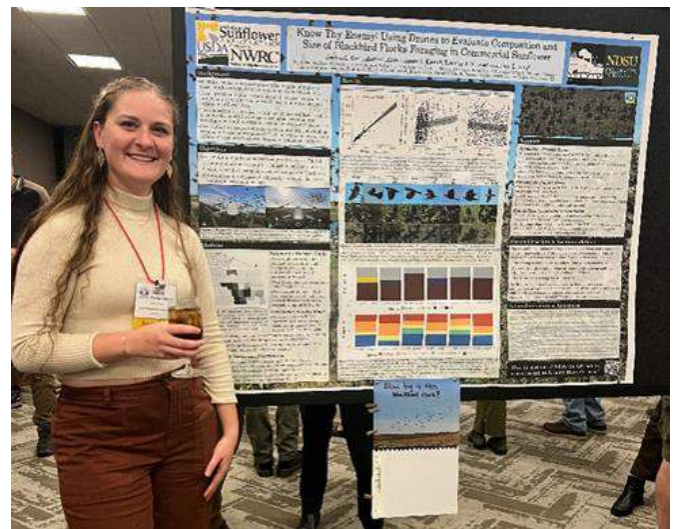


Figure 2: Jessica Duttonhefner standing in front of her poster during the Contributed and Research in Progress Poster session.

Section Business

Student Summaries from Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant Recipients

graduates to Wildlife Services and drone pilot professionals to fellow graduate students. We discussed the difficulties in developing A.I.-based detection models and making field-based flock size and composition estimates, and those who stopped by even had a chance to try their hand at making photo-based flock estimates. I had a fantastic time discussing the ever-expanding role of drones in the wildlife world and envisioning the potential implications of integrating A.I. into wildlife monitoring.

The remaining days were filled with student and professional talks. Provided with a wide variety of symposium topics, I had the opportunity to listen to a diverse selection of research topics – from the talks on songbirds, wading birds, and waterfowl in the Conservation and Ecology of Birds to the applications of drones and machine learning in the New Technology and Applications symposium. The inspiring and impressive research presented in the Women at Work symposium and the thought-provoking and informative presentations in the Public Engagement, Education, and Communication symposium, had me thinking about my future as a woman in the wildlife profession, and how I can use what I learned to best engage the public and communicate effectively with those within and outside of my field in my future career. I attended the Drone Working group meeting, which served as a comfortable, relaxed setting for researchers and professionals to discuss challenges they have faced in drone research and to brainstorm potential solutions. One of my future goals is to land a career that allows me to combine my passion for wildlife conservation and drone piloting, so to be a part of a collaborative, diverse group of students, professionals and retirees from universities, state, federal, and private agencies is very worthwhile.

My experience at TWS 2023 was overwhelmingly positive, and I would like to use this opportunity to thank the TWS Central Mountain Plains section, TWS Drone Working group, and NDSU Environmental and Conservation Science program for supporting my attendance. Being a part of such a large, international conference has been very rewarding, and the experiences I have had these past two years will not soon be forgotten.



Figure 3: Jessica Duttenhefner standing along the Ohio River, near the Galt House in Louisville, KY.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 8

Chapter Updates

North Dakota

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its Annual Meeting February 6-9, 2024, in Mandan, ND. The theme for this year's Annual meeting was "Heroes, Villains, and Victims; The Human Dimension of Wildlife Management". The meeting was well attended with well over 250 people in attendance. The meeting began on Tuesday afternoon with a Grass Planning Workshop. The purpose of the Workshop was to identify and discuss challenges and barriers facing land managers when restoring grasslands. The Workshop focused on planning and objectives of restorations as well as future management of restored grasslands. On Wednesday evening February 7, the Chapter held its annual fund-raising dinner and event. Raffles, Games, a Live Auction, and a Silent Auction were conducted and resulted in \$10,519.24 income for the Chapter.

Presentations sessions were conducted on Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. A Student Presentations session was held on Thursday afternoon. A session to view Posters and meet with Poster authors also occurred on Thursday afternoon. Two panels; one on Wetlands and one on Early Career Outlooks were conducted on Friday morning. Also on Friday morning Jill Shaffer of Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center presented information from her trip last fall to Kazakhstan entitled, "International Diplomacy Through Scientific Exchange of Wind-Energy Effects and Mitigation - Embassy Science Fellowship with the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan". On Thursday morning the Chapter conducted its Annual Business Meeting that included the election of a President-Elect and two new Executive Board members and approval of the 2024 Chapter Budget. Phil Mastrangelo transitioned from President-Elect to President and Dr. Bob Newman is now Past President of the Chapter. Curt Francis, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, was elected as the president-Elect and Dr. Torre Hovick, North Dakota State University, and Levi Jacobson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department were elected as new Executive Board members.

During the Thursday evening Awards Banquet the Chapter presented the following Awards:

Two 2024 Undergraduate Scholarships

Two 2024 Graduate Student Scholarships

Bill Bicknell Scholarship Award

Charles Pulver Case of the Year Award

North Dakota Wildlife Habitat Award

North Dakota Award (Professional Award)

Outgoing President's Award

The NDCTWS Executive Board approved a donation of \$400 to CMPS which will be matched by a private

Chapter Updates

North Dakota (continued)

donation. The Executive Board requested that CMPS identify creative ways to advance the mission of CMPS and improve its fund-raising effort. Grasslands and grouse were identified as shared resources in all seven CMPS states. CMPS was encouraged to increase its funding in the future.

Discussion of the Chapter's Working Groups and how they can be improved to engage more activity by members occurred. The Chapter has been seeking to employ a Lobbyist during the ND Legislative sessions and that was discussed once more.

The NDCTWS is supportive of the CMPS By-Laws change that is being proposed.

Rick Warhurst





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 17

TWS Business

CMPS and State Chapter Representation Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2024

PURPOSE: Discuss a proposal to have a voting Representative from each of the 7 TWS State Chapters on the CMPS of TWS Board.

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Elli Teige, Embere Hall, Mel Nenneman, Anna Ortega, Heidi Plank, Rick Warhurst, Riley Bernard, Robin Russell, Erin Considine, Kent Fricke, Matt Gruntorad, Brady Neiles, Dennie Mann, Phil Mastrangelo, Jason Keitchuck, Sarah Nevison, Makeda Hanson (Trujillo?)

At this meeting, CMPS President Stephanie Ferrero presented (Proposed CMPS Board Restructure.pptx - Google Slides) a proposal to change the CMPS Board structure to include one elected board member from each state in the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS. The purpose of this proposed change is to provide consistent voting representation for each State Chapter within the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society.

The following notes include suggestions, comments, and questions (answers when provided) from the conversation following the presentation.

For the Proposed board structure slide, it should be made clearer what the positions are and how many voting members will be on the board.

Proposed structure (n=11): President-elect, President, Past President, Treasurer, State Reps - one each from ND, SD, NE, KS, WY, CO, and UT. Representative to TWS Council (non-voting?)

President-elect serves one year in that office, then proceeds to President for 1 year, then to Past President for 1 year (3-year term)

All other officers (Treasurer, CMPS Representative to TWS Council (?), and State reps) serve 2-year terms.

President-elect will serve on the Nomination/Elections committee.

President will head the committee for Mission and Strategic Plan.

Past President will head the Awards committee.

CMPS Representative to TWS Council serves as the liaison between CMPS and TWS Council.

Treasurer is responsible for tracking and reporting CMPS income and expenditures to the CMPS Board, and developing an annual budget

State Chapter Representatives to the CMPS Board will be tasked with filling the following roles/committee chairs for CMPS: Secretary, Annual Meeting Planning, Membership, Resolutions and Statements/CAN Representative, Publicity, Student and Early Career Professional, and Audit.

Election cycle - In even years, elect State representatives from South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado

TWS Business

CMPS and State Chapter Representation Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2024

In odd years, elect State representatives from Kansas, Utah, and North Dakota, and Treasurer

Note that this is a change from the presentations, as attendees from KS and UT indicated that electing their State reps would work better in odd years as it matches their election cycle, and the office of treasurer was added in odd years so that there would be 4 elected positions in even and odd years (5 elected positions every year as a new President-elect is selected every year)

State Representatives to the CMPS board should be elected in the 1st or 2nd quarter of the year to assume office on the CMPS board on 01 July.

Feedback and comments:

- would be nice if all the elections and award nomination time frames were similar or the same
 - Q - does the proposed board structure replace the current liaisons, or did the liaisons not work out? A- The proposed board structure makes the liaisons more formal and hopefully more sustainable.
 - Suggestion that state chapters be allowed to add the responsibility of State Rep to CMPS to an existing board position so that the states don't have to change existing bylaws to add the position of State Rep to CMPS. Another chimed in that they liked the idea of having an existing board member serve on the CMPS board. The proposed change to the CMPS board structure provides this as an option to State Chapters (State chapters can decide if they would like to add Chapter Representative to CMPS to an existing board position, or if they would like to create a stand-alone elected position).
 - Have observed a disconnect between State Chapters and CMPS, very supportive of this change so that each state has representation (and hopefully better connection with) on the CMPS board.
 - Is this potentially limiting for someone that wants to serve on the Section board versus serving at the State Chapter level; might remove an opportunity to serve as the proposed positions have the potential to make serving on the CMPS board a dual function state/section position.
 - What is the time commitment for CMPS board positions? What can we tell membership about how much time to expect to put into a CMPS board position if they run for these offices?
- A- currently the board meets for 1 hour each month as a board, but this can be adjusted based on schedules of elected board members. Could streamline by planning meetings to focus on deadlines and tasks that need to be accomplished.

TWS Council Update

TWS Council Update—Andrea Orabona, CMPS Representative to TWS Council

Spring is such an uplifting time of year, as our migratory birds return to their breeding grounds in our CMPS states, bringing joyous sights and sounds. March also brought the Spring TWS Council meeting, right before the North American, in Grand Rapids, MI. It is always great to meet with the Council in person, and it was wonderful seeing old friends and colleagues at the North American. See highlights below.

TWS Staff

TWS has hired 2 new staff members.

Lauren Ruotolo was hired as the Development Manager.

Mike Stoll was hired as the Director of Finance and Human Resources.

Both gave updates to TWS Council at our Spring Meeting

TWS Strategic Plan Update

The updated TWS Strategic Plan was finalized at our Spring Council Meeting.

Many thanks to TWS members for submitting comments!

There are 3 main themes in the Plan – Building Community, Supporting Professionals, and Exercising External Influence.

The updated Strategic Plan will guide TWS for the next 4-5 years.

TWS Elections

In response to member comments, TWS provided the opportunity for members to nominate someone, including themselves, for the position of TWS Vice President.

All nominations were vetted by TWS' Nominating Committee.

TWS members will be able to choose between 2 qualified candidates – Adam Ahlers (Central Mountains and Plains Section) and Evie Merrill (Canadian Section).

TWS Awards

TWS has 21 Awards – 10 are available in the Professional Achievement category, 4 in the Education category, and 7 in the Service category.

This year, all awards nominations are due May 1st, except the Publications Awards nominations, which were due March 1st to allow Committee members enough time to review all publications.

Visit our awards link for more information <https://wildlife.org/awards/>.

TWS Position Statements

There are 4 Position Statements up for review this year:

- North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
- Responsible Human Use of Wildlife
- Hunting
- Animal Rights Philosophy & Wildlife Conservation

Position Statements Committee members will reach out to the appropriate TWS Working Groups and experts for input and assistance.

TWS Council Update

TWS Council Update—Andrea Orabona, CMPS Representative to TWS Council

TWS Working Groups

TWS now has 2 new Working Groups that were approved at the Spring Council Meeting:

- o Latin American and Caribbean Working Group
- o Disabilities, Neurodivergence, and Allyship Working Group

If either of these (or any of the others Working Groups) interest you, visit this link for more information

<https://wildlife.org/working-groups/>.

Upcoming TWS Actions and Activities

TWS Council will pass our FY25 budget in May or early June.

At our Spring Meeting, Council approved a new Editor in Chief for the Journal of Wildlife Management, Jacqueline Frair, who will start on July 1st for a 3-year term.

We will have a Committee to focus on TWS Certification.

Annual Conferences

The 2023 Annual Conference in Louisville, KY was a great success!

2024 conference is the 31st annual on October 19-23 in Baltimore, MD.

Get your passports soon for the 32nd annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta on October 5-9, 2025.

Check the website often as planning is underway: <https://twconference.org/>.

Remember, I am your voting district representative on Council for CMPS, so please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns acorabona@gmail.com.

Many thanks for the important work you do for TWS and our natural resources! – Andrea



Upcoming Events

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Western Black Bear Workshop

Jackson, Wyoming

May 13 — 17, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wafwa.org/workshops/western-black-bear-workshop/>

VENUE: Snow King Resort, Jackson, Wyoming

American Society of Mammalogists 2024 Annual Meeting

Boulder, Colorado

June 7 — 11, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: <https://mammalmeetings.org/>

VENUE: University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 30th Pronghorn Workshop

Redmond, Oregon

June 24 — 27, 2024

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

VENUE: Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond, Oregon

Ecological Society of America 2024 Annual Meeting

Long Beach, California

August 4 — 9, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.esa.org/longbeach2024/>

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 34th Biennial Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop

Wenatchee, Washington

August 5 — 8, 2024

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

VENUE: Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, Washington

American Ornithological Society 2024 Annual Meeting

Estes Park, Colorado

October 1 — 5, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: <https://meeting.americanornithology.org/>

The Wildlife Society's 31st Annual Conference

Baltimore, Maryland

October 19 — 23, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: <https://twconference.org/>



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS Board Meeting 12 December 2023, 9:00-10:00 am CT (8:00-9:00 am MT)

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Ferrero at 9:07 am CT/8:07 am MT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Embere Hall, Elli Teige, Rick Warhurst, Mel Nenneman, Dennie Mann, Andrea Orabona, Anna Ortega

With a couple of new folks attending the meeting this month, we took a few minutes to allow everyone to introduce themselves.

State Chapter Liaisons and Representative Updates:

No updates were made at this board meeting. Dennie Mann (SD) said that they are working on getting some speakers lined up for the CMPS/SD annual meeting in March. He has reached out to the Y-to-Y folks but hasn't heard back from them yet. They have gotten about \$2500 in grants for the meeting and hopes to double this amount. Expects meeting will cost ~\$15,000, so would like to have grants and donations to cover about 1/3rd of the cost. Hotel costs are a very reasonable \$72/night.

Old Business:

Meeting minutes from the 14 November 2023 board meeting were shared with the board via Google drive, and the board voted to approve the minutes via email.

Treasurer's report: Mel reported that since the Nov board meeting, CMPS has received membership dues from all the states in our section, and that we are starting to distribute the funds allocated for the Wayne Sandfort student travel grants. Only one student has submitted a report to complete the requirements for receiving the grant. The current CMPS balance is \$8,182.48; the balance available after we fulfill all the Wayne Sandfort student travel grants plus maintaining the \$2500 minimum account balance is \$3,952.48. There were a few board members that could not attend the meeting, so a motion to approve the Treasurer's report will be conducted via email.

New Business:

Anna Ortega has been nominated to serve as the CMPS Vice President. Pending Anna's acceptance of this nomination and approval of the board, Anna will fill the role of CMPS VP!

Corporation Service Company (CSC) is now serving as the Registered Agent for CMPS. Registered Agents ensure that we maintain our status as an incorporated non-profit organization. CSC replaces Colorado Registered Agents as our registered agent. TWS is paying CSC for the first year of service; CMPS will need to budget \$150-200/year starting in 2024 to maintain this service. **Action:** Mel will add this expenditure to the 2024 budget. In addition, check into the address CMPS uses for a permanent address. CMPS address at Novo bank is Dani Neumann's work address.

Strategic Plan items:

PayPal account – Elli set up a CMPS account that we can use to accept payments for workshops, auction items, etc.

Action: Mel set up access to PayPal as treasurer, and link PayPal to Novo account for payments.

CMPS Awards: Formal announcement seeking nominations for CMPS Awards will be sent out in January. Award nominations close 45 days before the annual meeting, so still have some time to accept nominations. If CMPS has nominees for TWS Group Achievement, Distinguished Service, or TWS Fellow, please let Andrea Orabona know. **Action:** Embere will send out announcement seeking nominees in January.

The TWS Leadership Institute will be seeking TWS members for the next leadership class soon. If this announcement coincides with the timing of the awards nominations, this announcement can go out with the call for awards nominations. **Action:** Embere – check timing of Leadership Institute application window to see if these announce-



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

MEETING MINUTES

ments to CMPS membership can be combined.

Bylaws and restructuring the CMPS board – had a couple of meetings with CMPS board regarding restructuring the CMPS board the week of Dec 4th. Lots of good input from board members. We will need to meet again in January to continue working on Bylaws review to have ready by the Annual meeting. **Action:** Stephanie and board- continue to work on bylaws review

Elections committee: Still need some volunteers to assist Heidi with CMPS elections. Any CMPS member can serve on this committee. Committee find candidates to run for CMPS board positions and run the election (have candidates provide bios, post on website/newsletter, Survey Monkey for voting). **Action:** All board members – seek additional committee members, ask someone you know to volunteer!

Newsletter: Aleshia and others are in the process of putting together the newsletter and hope to have it ready to release on Dec 22nd.

DEI committee- **Action:** Stephanie will continue reaching out to Bob Newman for any updates on activity.

Annual Meeting- Stephanie asked if CMPS could provide a workshop(s) at the annual meeting. At recent annual meetings, CMPS has gotten Dave Haukos (who sits on the TWS Certification Review Board) to provide a well-attended Certification Workshop. **Action:** Elli will ask Dave if he can provide this workshop at the Annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Fundraising- Rick has been talking to the NDTWS chapter about ways to improve fundraising for CMPS. One possibility is to hold a gun raffle, another is to ask each state chapter to send/designate/donate an auction item for CMPS. **Action:** Chapter liaisons ask chapter boards for an auction item to donate to CMPS. CMPS board members encouraged to ask businesses that sell outdoor gear to donate to CMPS. An outreach document ([Wildlife Stewardship Opportunity Letter Template.docx](#)) has been shared in CMPS Google documents to help with reaching out to potential corporate donors. **Action:** All – seek at least one auction item from each state in the section for the auction at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Quiz Bowl- Check with SD/CMPS planning committee to see if a quiz bowl fits into the schedule somewhere. Andrea indicated that she could help with questions that are tailored to SD as the host chapter, and that this quiz bowl is more laid back than the TWS quiz bowl.

Now that CMPS is incorporated, it might be a good idea to investigate having a formal audit of CMPS finances completed by an outside entity. This outside audit would occur once each year, about a month before the Annual meeting the results would be available to present to members. Stephanie has reached out to several state chapters and Cameron Kovash (TWS) for suggestions on contacting an independent auditor. Concern expressed about the potential cost of hiring an auditor. Suggested that might be able to find a local CPA that could provide this service at a low cost or possibly even waive the fee as a donation. **Action:** continue to research possible auditors and cost. Rick will ask what organization does the audit for ND.

The January board meeting will focus on budget. **Action:** Mel will work on having a draft proposed budget for the next meeting.

Other items for next meeting – continue independent audit discussion, annual meeting planning, permanent address for CMPS, monthly meeting time for CMPS board meetings in 2024 (what works for most members).

Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting, Elli 2nd; motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am CT/9:01 am MT



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS Board Meeting 09 January 2024, 9:00-10:00 am CT (8:00-9:00 am MT)

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Ferrero at 9:02 am CT/8:02 am MT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Anna Ortega, Elli Teige, Daly Edmunds, Heidi Plank, Rick Warhurst, Mel Nenneman, Mindy Rice, Brady Neiles, Aleshia Rummel

State Chapter Liaisons and Representative Updates:

Colorado - Mindy Rice: Colorado chapter meeting is February 7-9 in pueblo Colorado with the theme of "pathways to success: conserving at risk wildlife in the American west". Big focus on T&E species and ESA at 50 as the theme.

Kansas – No report

Nebraska – No report

North Dakota – No report

South Dakota – Planning going well, but a bit behind schedule, for the SDTWS annual meeting March 20-22. Web-site updates should be coming soon, had trouble as google drive/email (SDTWS email address host) is firewalled on sdstate computers. Seem to be getting funding interest.

Not sure on attendance interest, we do seem to be competing with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference being held in Sioux Falls at the end of January (mostly because of individual travel costs/time away from work).

Utah – No report

Wyoming – No report

Old Business:

Meeting minutes from the 12 December 2023 board meeting were shared with the board via Google Drive. Rick moved to approve the meeting minutes, second by Daly. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's report: Mel reported the CMPS current balance is \$7,932.48. Only 1 of the Wayne Sandfort Student travel grants has been paid so far, with three remaining. If the remaining Sandfort grants are paid at the full amount awarded, CMPS will have \$6,452.48. Rick moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Daly and the motion carried by voice vote.

New Business:

Most of the remained of the meeting focused on the 2024 CMPS budget. Nenneman shared a budget template for discussion. CMPS has a few costs every year (Google domain, registered agent).

Discussion: Rick said that the NDTWS chapter has committed to contributing \$400 if other state chapters are willing to do in kind. He is hoping to increase CMPS auction income by 3-4 times the current \$300 amount. [Action item](#)- how to get auction items to the CMPS/SDTWS meeting in Rapid City? Brady said that items could be shipped to his address. [Action](#) (Stephanie?) Ask State Liaisons/presidents to make the request to state chapters to bring or send 1 auction item to the meeting in support of CMPS. Rick will pursue ideas for a raffle item for CMPS in 2025.

Does CMPS have a standard policy for splitting auction proceeds with the host chapter? Apparently, this varies on a chapter-by-chapter basis. [Action](#): Suggest writing a policy into the operations manual that spells out how CMPS and the host chapter will handle revenue sharing from the annual meeting. It was also suggested that CMPS create a standard "Thank You" to send to donors for auction items and sponsorships.

Since CMPS covers a large geographic area, finding local businesses willing to donate items might be a bit challenging unless the business reaches an audience covering several of the states within the Section.

Some host chapters have done a separate meeting for their state annual meeting and the CMPS annual meeting. Sale items for an annual meeting can be a good fundraiser – t-shirts sold out at the CO meeting. UT has a student



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 22

MEETING MINUTES

art competition for the t-shirt design (maybe a good way to engage the state & student chapters?).

Suggested that CMPS may be able to use Google forms or some other format for elections rather than paying to use Survey Monkey; this would save CMPS about \$100 every year.

Elli has been in touch with Dave Haukos about providing a certification workshop at the annual meeting. Dave said he can provide this service but might have to do the workshop virtually due to other commitments.

Andrea is going to donate a quiz bowl buzzer to CMPS!

During this discussion, we did formulate a proposed budget for 2024. Heidi moved to approve the tentative 2024 budget, second by Elli and passed by voice vote (might need to vote again as we may not have had a quorum since some board members had to drop off the call).

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am CT/9:09 MT



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 23

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS Board Meeting Minutes 02 Feb 2024, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon CT (10:00 am to 11:00 am MT)

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Ferrero at 11:02 am CT, 10:02 MT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Anna Ortega, Rick Warhurst, Elli Teige, Daly Edmunds, Mel Nenneman, Mindy Rice, Adam Ahlers, Brady Neiles, Dennie Mann, Andrea Orabona

State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: Annual meeting next week

South Dakota – Brady Neiles: Planning is going pretty well for the combined SD/CMPS annual meeting in March (20-22, Rapid City, SD). Reported that they are not getting much buy in from Federal Agencies that they thought would be interested in attending with meeting in western SD (USFS, BLM), and the number of research papers submitted is a bit thin. The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting held in Sioux Falls SD may also impact attendance at the TWS meeting as SD state personnel are limited to 1 meeting per year. Sponsorships are going well; auction items are a bit tough to get.

Nebraska – Erin Considine: no report

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: Kansas Chapter of TWS annual meeting next week (Feb 8-9, Manhattan KS). Working with Student Chapters to put up flying squirrel boxes at Marias de Cygnes NWR.

Colorado – Mindy Rice: Colorado Chapter also getting ready for annual meeting next week (Feb 7-9, Pueblo CO). Everything about holding a meeting is more expensive now (food, conference space, etc), but the meeting should still make money for the Chapter. Topic is Pathways to Success: Conserving at-risk wildlife in the American west.

Utah – Heidi Plank: no report

Wyoming – Embere Hall: no report

Old Business

Secretary's report: The minutes from the January board meeting were posted to the CMPS shared drive (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1453IBi5o3grVsLbDTGr5SR0GX8W4hOkG/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=118035028624180287863&rtpof=true&sd=true). Elli moved to approve the meeting minutes, second by Rick; the motion was approved.

Treasurer's report: As of the board meeting time, the CMPS balance was \$7,360.41, which included \$427.93 income from the Leadership Webinar. CMPS will pay Exemplify LLC/Carl Bowen \$200.00 for providing the Leadership webinar, and CMPS received a total of \$227.93 from the leadership webinar (half of webinar registrations proceeds + new memberships – PayPal fees). There is one outstanding check to a Sandfort travel grant award winner. After accounting for these pending payments, the CMPS account balance will be \$6,785.47. Rick moved to approve this treasurer's report, Daly seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

The board reviewed the 2024 proposed budget discussed at the January meeting (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_WZj9iqZa5lapA9E1OXEL1b_ygqI5rkh/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=118035028624180287863&rtpof=true&sd=true). After some discussion, the board decided to pursue using Google forms for CMPS voting, and struck the cost (\$99) for SurveyMonkey from the proposed budget. Following this discussion, Daly moved to approve the proposed budget, Elli seconded and the 2024 pro-



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

posed budget was approved. [Action: Elli is willing to set up the Google form\(s\) for the election.](#)

Leadership Development webinar – 20 people registered for the leadership webinar held January 12, 2024, and there were 6 new memberships included in the registrations. CMPS is working to make a recording of this webinar available to CMPS members at a reduced rate.

New Business

The board discussed the new CMPS board structure proposed in the bylaws. The proposed changes would elect a President-elect each year, with this individual serving a three-year term in the sequence of President-elect, President, and Past president. A Treasurer would be elected to a 2-year term. CMPS also elects a CMPS Representative to TWS Council. Each state in the section would elect a representative to the board to serve a 2-year term, with each state representative taking on the duties of positions mandated in CMPS bylaws (Secretary, Annual Meeting Planning, Membership, Resolutions and Statements/CAN Representative), Publicity, and Audit). State representatives would be elected on a staggered even year/odd year cycle. In even years, representatives would be elected to the board from South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas and Utah, while in odd years representatives would be elected in Colorado, Nebraska, and North Dakota, and the office of Treasurer. CMPS board members assume duties on July 1. Proposed structure allows states to decide if they would like to elect their CMPS board representative as a stand-alone position or have this be one of the duties assumed by a current elected board position. States can also opt to have CMPS run the election for this position. Daly moved to approve the proposed restructuring of the CMPS board, Elli seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote. [Action: Stephanie & board - State chapters responding by 16 Feb to the proposed changes with their comments and concerns. Collate these responses and continue working on bylaws.](#)

Certification workshop at the joint SD/CMPS annual meeting in Rapid City. Need to ensure that this presentation can be done in a hybrid format (video presentation) so Dave Haukos can present this workshop to members. [Action: Stephanie/Brady/Dennie – check with venue to see if all the media connections and screens are available for this presentation.](#)

Awards: Anna Ortega said that there are nominees for the Citizen Award and Wildlife Professional, but no Group Achievement nominees. Anna asked about the location of past nominations for consideration.

Fundraising: Rick has been in touch with Scheel's regarding a donation for the CMPS annual meeting and believes that they will donate. The North Dakota chapter is willing to sponsor the upcoming SD/CMPS annual meeting at the \$400 level if other chapters are willing to contribute as well. [Action: Stephanie will send out an email to all the state chapters to see if they are willing to meet ND sponsorship challenge.](#)

Bylaws revisions: The next step is to get a solid draft of the bylaws together so that they can be sent to TWS Council for review. [Action: Stephanie and board – review most recent bylaws draft and provide any feedback.](#)

Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting and Elli seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:59 am CST.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS Board Meeting Minutes 01 Mar 2024, 11:00 am to 12:00 noon CT (10:00 am to 11:00 am MT)

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Ferrero at 11:0 am CT, 10:0 MT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Anna Ortega, Rick Warhurst, Elli Teige, Daly Edmunds, Mel Nenneman, Mindy Rice, Adam Ahlers, Brady Neiles, Dennie Mann, Andrea Orabona

State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society held its Annual Meeting February 6-9, 2024, in Mandan, ND, with a theme of “Heroes, Villains, and Victims; The Human Dimension of Wildlife Management”. There were over 250 people in attendance. The meeting began Tuesday afternoon with a Grass Planning Workshop to identify and discuss challenges and barriers facing land managers when restoring grasslands. The Workshop focused on planning and objectives of restorations as well as future management of restored grasslands. On Wednesday evening, the Chapter held its annual fund-raising dinner and event. Raffles, Games, a Live Auction, and a Silent Auction were conducted and resulted in \$10,519.24 income for the Chapter.

Presentations sessions were conducted on Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. A Student Presentations session was held on Thursday afternoon. A session to view Posters and meet with Poster authors also occurred on Thursday afternoon. Two panels; one on Wetlands and one on Early Career Outlooks were conducted on Friday morning. Also on Friday morning Jill Shaffer of Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center presented “International Diplomacy Through Scientific Exchange of Wind-Energy Effects and Mitigation - Embassy Science Fellowship with the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan”. On Thursday morning the Chapter conducted its Annual Business Meeting that included the election of a President-Elect and two new Executive Board members and approval of the 2024 Chapter Budget. Phil Mastrangelo transitioned from President-Elect to President and Dr. Bob Newman is now Past President of the Chapter. Curt Francis, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, was elected as the president-Elect and Dr. Torre Hovick, North Dakota State University, and Levi Jacobson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department were elected as new Executive Board members.

During the Thursday evening Awards Banquet the Chapter presented the following Awards: Two 2024 Undergraduate Scholarships, Two 2024 Graduate Student Scholarships, Bill Bicknell Scholarship Award, Charles Pulver Case of the Year Award, North Dakota Wildlife Habitat Award, North Dakota Award (Professional Award), Outgoing President's Award

The NDCTWS Executive Board approved a donation of \$400 to CMPS which will be matched by a private donation. The Executive Board requested that CMPS identify creative ways to advance the mission of CMPS and improve its fund-raising effort. Grasslands and grouse were identified as shared resources in all seven CMPS states. CMPS was encouraged to increase its funding in the future.

Discussion of the Chapter's Working Groups and how they can be improved to engage more activity by members occurred. The Chapter has been seeking to employ a Lobbyist during the ND Legislative sessions and that was discussed once more. The NDCTWS is supportive of the CMPS By-Laws change that is being proposed.

South Dakota – Brady Neiles: Annual meeting planning ongoing; had a few speakers back out and asking some Rapid City wildlife professionals to fill in. Has about 30 registrations so far, but expects that should pick up. Wondered if Andrea Orabona would be able to do the Quiz bowl and WOW panel. Some discussion of if or how much of the meeting should be virtual. Less virtual content would encourage more people to attend in person. Suggestion to make some parts virtual to improve participation/attendance (e.g. CMPS annual member meeting, getting more



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

panelists on board).

Nebraska – Erin Considine: Erin has moved to OR, so need to determine who will serve as liaison (ask president Sarah Nevison or Andy Little. The Nebraska Chapter hosted its annual meeting in Kearney Feb 27-29. The chapter is still seeking a candidate for President-elect. Greg Wright was recognized as the Wildlife Professional of the Year, and Greg Schenbeck as Career Professional.

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: no report

Colorado – Mindy Rice: no report

Utah – Heidi Plank: no report

Wyoming – Embere Hall: Annual meeting April 9-11

in Cody. Holding a lunch session on field safety, which I'm eager to attend and learn more about potential safety-related barriers to entry in the profession.

Old Business

Secretary's report: The minutes from the February board meeting were posted to the CMPS shared drive (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pIKc2L-2ATQJp0CR2r9L7qxXT14psWEB/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=118035028624180287863&rtpof=true&sd=>). Rick moved to approve the meeting minutes, second by Daly; the motion was approved.

Treasurer's report: Nenneman reported a current balance of \$8,035.41 after a deposit of membership funds from the TWS portal. There is still one check outstanding from the 2023 Sandfort student travel grants; once that check is cashed, the balance will be \$7,660.47. Embere moved to approve this report, Rick seconded, and the motion was approved.

New Business

Awards: Anna reported that the winner of the Citizen Conservation award may be present at the Annual Meeting in Rapid City. If award winners not able to attend the annual meeting, suggested that award sent to nominator to present to the winner at an appropriate state venue, or perhaps have a CMPS representative present the award with a good photo opportunity for the CMPS newsletter.

Question raised about giving out a special award. CMPS has done this in the past (gave outstanding newsletter editor award). Rick moved to give Dan Uresk a special recognition award at the Annual meeting, Anna second, and the motion passed. Shelly Diesch will make a donation to CMPS to cover the cost of this award.

Action: Anna will send list of award winners to Andrea for CMPS record keeping.

Fundraising: Action item- figure out a more formal way for CMPS to work with the host state chapter to share in both the cost of the annual meeting and the revenue sharing. This would get more buy-in and excitement among the state chapters and help CMPS do more. Can CMPS partner with state chapters to put on more workshops/trainings through the year (e.g., Exemplify Leadership Workshop).

Annual meeting: Board members were asked if they would be able to attend the CMPS annual business meeting on Thurs, Mar 21st at noon. This meeting will be hybrid so that CMPS members who couldn't travel to Rapid City can participate. Planning for the WOW event and Awards ceremony to be hybrid as well.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

Reported that the food costs for the joint annual meeting in Rapid City is \$12,000, and the SD planning committee have raised \$4,700 so far. CMPS board discussed supporting/sponsoring the lunch during the CMPS annual meeting. Rick moved that CMPS would give SDTWS \$700 to go towards the business meeting lunch. Funding would be \$400 from NDCTWS donation to CMPS, and \$300 from the CMPS budget allocated for workshop/conference sponsorships. Suggestion to add \$75 from portal funds and leadership webinar income. Decided not to proceed with this idea. Rick's motion received a second from Daly, and the motion for CMPS to send \$700 to SDTWS passed.

Bylaws revisions: Nothing to report this meeting

Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting and Daly seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm CST.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS 2024 Annual Business Meeting - 21 Mar 2024, 12:00-1:00 pm MDT, Rapid City, SD

Virtual Presentation – Ed Arnett, CEO of the Wildlife Society

Mr. Arnett gave a presentation on the development of TWS Strategic Plan 2024-2029. As he started, he mentioned the availability of the 2023 TWS Annual Report, and the 2024 TWS Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

A core group of TWS representatives and staff are using the vision and mission of TWS to build the strategic plan. The vision of TWS is as follows: The Wildlife Society is a strong and effective voice in representing wildlife conservation and management and ensuring sustainable wildlife populations in healthy ecosystems. The mission of TWS is “to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

Mission priorities are to build a community of meaningful connections between wildlife professionals across a diverse network, support professionals by effectively disseminating credible, science-based resources, and exercise external influence through increasing public engagement and interest in wildlife.

Implementation of the strategic plan will begin in FY2025 (which begins July 1).

Stephanie Ferrero kicks off CMPS annual business meeting by thanking SDTWS and program committee for putting the conference together and issues a shout-out to the NDTWS for donating \$400 to CMPS, a donation that received a \$400 private match.

Reported that CMPS Sandfort Student Travel grants supported 6 students from 4 of the 7 Section states to travel to the TWS Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY. CMPS allocated \$1700 to assist students with costs associated with attending the meeting.

CMPS worked with state chapters to appoint a liaison from each state to attend CMPS board meetings. This greatly improved communication between CMPS and state chapters.

CMPS was an active participant in the Conservation Affairs Network and wrote a letter supporting NDTWS opposition of a bill that would have limited ND Game and Fish ability to effectively manage wildlife.

CMPS established a PayPal account to allow for easier payment for sponsored events and donations.

CMPS wrote a letter to TWS regarding certification and scholarship, providing ideas to increase relevance of certification to members and to encourage more members to pursue certification.

Results of last CMPS board elections

Embere Hall was elected to the office of President-elect, and Heidi Plank & Rick Warhurst were selected to fill at-large board positions. Anna Ortega was appointed to fill the vacant Vice President position.

Ferrero asked for a motion to destroy the ballots from the election. Mandy Pearson moved to destroy the ballots from the 2023 CMPS board elections, second by Phil. Motion carried by voice vote.

Minutes from a very abbreviated 2023 CMPS Annual Membership Meeting were shared with members. Highlights were 13 Sandfort Student Travel grants to assist students attending the TWS meeting in Spokane and establishment of a liaison position for each state in the Section to the CMPS board. The CMPS current financial statement was



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

provided to membership, as well as an approved budget. Rick Warhurst moved to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes, second by Mandy Pearson and the motion passed by voice vote. Andrea Orabona made a motion to approve the 2024 CMPS budget presented, second by Brady Neiles; this motion also passed.

Heidi Plank, Mark Lindvall, and Marianne Mann are working to complete a budget audit but were not finished at the time of the annual meeting. Audit was later completed, and no problems or inconsistencies were found with the CMPS account. Mark shared an audit form that will likely be of use for conducting the audit, helping to improve consistency and provide documentation of the audit.

A quick update of the Mission and Strategic plan was presented, with a focus on pending bylaws revisions including restructuring the CMPS board. Under the proposed changes, each state would elect a member to the CMPS board, and these members would fill the role of committee chair for CMPS standing committees and Secretary. Treasurer would become a stand-alone, elected position and CMPS president would become a three-year position, serving one year each as President-elect, President, and Past president, with the office of Vice President eliminated. Each board position (with the exception of President-elect, President, past president) would serve a 2-year term. State chapters have the option of filling the state representative to CMPS either with an added candidate during their elections or having an existing board position fill this job as a role; only caveat is that the representative needs to be elected.

The Annual meeting moved past allotted time, so a motion to bring the meeting to a close was called for. Andrea Orabona moved to adjourn the 2024 CMPS annual meeting, seconded by Silka Kempema. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 MDT.



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

CMPS Board Meeting 05 April 2024, 11:00-noon CDT, 10:00-11:00 am MDT

Attendees: Stephanie Ferrero, Daly Edmunds, Rick Warhurst, Embere Hall, Brady Neiles, Aleshia Rummel, Melvin Nenneman

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am CDT, 10:02 am MDT

State Chapter liaisons and representative's updates

North Dakota – Rick Warhurst: Not much to report; board meeting coming up & Rick is planning to attend.

South Dakota – Brady Neiles: Combined annual meeting of SDTWS & CMPS went well. Brady will continue as SD liaison to CMPS. SDTWS is still seeking a candidate for president-elect. Brady said that a lot of the older wildlife professionals in SD have served as president in the past (and don't want to run again) and younger professionals have not expressed much interest in TWS. Also seems to be some reluctance to serve by federal employees – not sure what the situation is here but may be able to have Heidi (USFS) talk with some SD federal folks. Reported attendance of 57-65 people, lower than usual likely in part because of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in January. Financially came out well at the conference with registrations and fundraising efforts. The quiz bowl was very well attended, with nearly all registrants for the meeting participating.

Nebraska – Sarah Nevison: no report

Kansas – Adam Ahlers: no report

Colorado – Mindy Rice: no report

Utah – Heidi Plank: no report

Wyoming – Embere Hall: Annual meeting next week with a planned 3-day conference (2 days of talks, 1 day of workshops & working groups). <https://www.wildlifewyoming.org/2024annualconference>

Old Business

Secretary's report: The minutes from the March 1, 2024 board meeting were posted to the CMPS shared drive (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YY-v_6WFqVZCQQbs6PswWHKKzDCXeqVJ/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=118035028624180287863&rtpof=true&sd=true). There were not enough board members at the meeting for a quorum, so the meeting minutes will be circulated and voted on via email.

Treasurer's report: Nenneman reported a current balance of \$8,735.41 after depositing a \$400.00 donation from NDTWS and a private match donation of \$400.00 (thanks R. Warhurst!). There is still one check outstanding from the 2023 Sandfort student travel grants for \$374.94, and CMPS will send SDTWS \$700.00 to help offset the costs of the lunch during the CMPS annual business meeting. CMPS will receive income of \$1,470.00 from items sold on live and silent auctions at the SDTWS/CMPS annual meeting. After these bills are paid and the auction income is deposited, the CMPS account will be at \$9,130.47. The treasurer's report will be emailed with the March meeting minutes for board consideration.

There was some discussion regarding the time frames for students to submit their reports and receipts from attending the TWS annual meeting so that CMPS can get all of the Sandfort grants paid in the same calendar year as the



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

grant was awarded. **Action:** Mel and Elli will work on the language for the Wayne Sandfort grant application to give students a fair amount of time after the TWS conference to submit their reports & receipts while allowing CMPS to get grants paid prior to Dec 31. Students will need to provide an address where they will receive the check.

New Business

CMPS received a nomination for the TWS Distinguished Service Award. This nomination will be considered by Anna and the Awards Committee.

SDTWS/CMPS Combined Annual Meeting 20-22 Mar 2024. The meeting went quite well, and CMPS was represented by Stephanie Ferrero, Rick Warhurst, Andrea Orabona, and Mel Nenneman. The Quiz bowl evening was very successful, with nearly everyone at the meeting participating in a fun, social evening of wildlife trivia and professional networking. Andrea Orabona did a lot of work preparing questions for the quiz bowl, getting people signed up on teams, generating a bracket for the evening and serving as the host. Andrea has donated the buzzer system to CMPS so it is available for future meetings. Rick Warhurst, Denny Mann, Stephanie Ferrero, Anna Ortega, and Embere Hall (and probably some I missed) did a fantastic job coming up with donated items for the auction, making this one of the most successful fundraisers that CMPS has had. Dave Haukos provided a certification workshop for ~10 people at the SDTWS/CMPS annual meeting. He provided a similar workshop at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Jan. Mandy Pearson (SDTWS treasurer) sent CMPS details of the costs for the lunch during the business meeting, and a detailed report of CMPS auction income. **Action:** Stephanie will forward this email to the CMPS board. The WOW event at the SDTWS annual meeting was a 1st for the chapter.

Now would be a good time to initiate conversations with the Nebraska Chapter about the next CMPS annual meeting as Nebraska will be hosting in 2025. Conversations about how CMPS can help facilitate the meeting planning, funding the event, and revenue sharing should all be discussed. Ask NETWS to consider adding a small amount to the conference registration to help CMPS finances. **Action:** Mel will reach out to the Nebraska chapter board to find out when their next meeting will be and see if the board can invite Stephanie and Embere to join their meeting.

The 2023 audit has been completed, and the audit committee has made some suggestions for modifying the audit form the Nebraska uses for their audit. Do we want to use this form to sign off on the 2023 audit? **Action:** Mel and Heidi will collaborate on finalizing a CMPS audit form. Once this is complete, see if the audit committee can use the form to finalize the 2023 Audit.

Newsletter deadline was 01 April, but Aleshia indicated she could still include items if she receives them soon. Remind CMPS members that the board has approved money to provide a partial scholarship to support certification application costs.

Bylaws revisions – Revisions are 90% complete. **Action:** Stephanie planning on working on remaining 10% of items and make sure all the references are complete. Would like to give the board 2 weeks to review bylaws before sending them to TWS Council for their review. Will try to have bylaws out to CMPS board by mid-May so that they can go to Council by Jun. If bylaws have made it through appropriate review by CMPS elections, combine a vote on bylaws with CMPS elections mid-Jun to mid-Jul. **Action:** CMPS board make time to review bylaws by end of May.

Elli and Heidi have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the election committee, but both have busy field seasons. Heidi has put together a draft call for nominations that can go out in the newsletter. If the nomination deadline can be moved up by 2 weeks, it will make things easier for the election committee to get everything completed for the election (candidate bios, Google forms for voting, etc). Elections this year will be for the office of Vice President and



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 24

MEETING MINUTES

2 board members at-large.

Miscellaneous

If changes to bylaws are adopted by CMPS, TWS Council, and CMPS membership, decisions will have to be made about how to implement changes to the CMPS board. Board members elected in 2024 may only serve 1 year to accommodate the new board structure in 2025. There will have to be more discussion on how to transition from the existing board to the new board structure. May ask current president and vice president to stay in their positions to allow the new board to completely fill.

Ask Andrea O. for an update/summary of TWS Strategic Plan (recently approved) to share with CMPS membership.

Daly has continued to send CAN updates to CMPS members.

Embere asked about the availability of CMPS materials to share at the WYTWS meeting. She indicated that there was not much time build into the meeting for CMPS, and she wanted to have a table at the meeting to increase CMPS visibility. Stephanie has a couple of items that she can share with Embere.

Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting, and Rick seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon CDT, 11:00 am MDT.

Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 26

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

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President-Elect vacant

KANSAS

President Adam Ahlers
President-Elect Andrew Ricketts

NEBRASKA

President Erin Considine
President-Elect Sarah Nevinson

NORTH DAKOTA

President Bob Newman
President-Elect Phil Mastrangelo

SOUTH DAKOTA

President Daniel Kim
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WYOMING

President Riley Bernard
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CSU-PUEBLO

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