

Business Meeting Minutes

2022 WAFWA Winter Meeting – Saturday, January 8, 2022

1. Call to Order (Jennifer Psyllakis)

2. Roll Call (Zach Lowe): Voting Members Present (or their proxies): Ty Gray (AZ), Jennifer Psyllakis (BC), Dan Prenzlou (CO), Ed Schriever (ID), Brad Loveless (KS), Tim McCoy (NE), Tony Wasley (NV), Michael Slone (NM), Scott Peterson (in place of Jeb Williams) (ND), J.D. Strong (OK), Curt Melcher (OR), John Silvosky (in place of Carter Smith) (TX), Mike Canning (in place of J Shirley)(UT), Brian Nesvik (WY)

3. Welcome and WAFWA President's Opening Remarks

4. Announcements, Review of Agenda, Request for Additional Agenda Items

5. President's Report (Jennifer Psyllakis): Reported out on preparation and focus for the 100th WAFWA anniversary and her experience as she entered her presidency.

6. AFWA Report (Tony Wasley): Reported out during other sessions, summarized here: Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), ways of bringing WAFWA initiatives into national highlight, promoting DEI to engage, Bearwise update, Commission guidebook needs to be updated RFP underway

7: Commissioners Committee Report (Leigh Gaddis)

[State of the state](#) summary: reported recent successes, recent challenges, upcoming in near future, concerns beyond agency borders.

Asks for WAFWA to consider – Providing commissioner focused short courses on basic and advanced level, explore ways for commissioners to interact informally to share experiences, training topics: considerations for inflow of large pots of money (like RAWA), managing habitat in areas with multiple use, engaging with the public who are not active hunters/anglers

Ty Gray: open meeting law and public record concerns may be an issue for some states. Supported that a contact list should be shared.

8. Director's Forum Report (Zach Lowe)

The Directors' Forum purpose is to dig into in-depth topics. Started off with discussing the [State of the Association report](#) which included successes, challenges and continued operational goals of WAFWA. They discussed greater efficiencies and basics of governance (record keeping). They are currently considering onboarding process for recovering species, disease monitoring and mitigation, network position, and a rangeland management book. Partner collaborators reported out. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has opportunities for engagement with WAFWA. Mule Deer Foundation is hosting WAFWA's mule deer working group at their annual meeting. WMI will be launching a survey to determine wants and needs for data management. This is a national effort but starting with west to gain information. The discussed landscape conservation and governance effort (mentioned by Tony above). With this being WAFWA's 100th year, they are keeping eye forward to the next 100 years. A director requested discussion and collaboration with public hunting and fishing access. This discussion resulted in actionable items.

9. Executive committee Report (Jennifer Psyllakis): We are having an open meeting in the spirit of transparency. Ex Comm took a deeper dive on the operations of WAFWA. Reviewed state of the initiative reports (see below). They will be working on revising the bylaws and asking for approval in July. Looking ahead, they will focus on how to tell the story of WAFWA better; making connections to the long-term view; and incorporating or enhancing finance piece to initiative report outs. They are making an effort to simplify reporting from states and initiatives and making the appropriate information public.

10. What's on the Go Outdoors Horizons (Matt Mitchell, Brandt Information Services)

Brandt provided several examples of the services and technological innovation they are bringing forward as services to agencies. This includes driving more complete internet services to a single source within an agency's website.

11. Federal Agency Reports

11a. Updates from US Fish and Wildlife Service (Deb Rocque): Included updates on America the Beautiful (1st annual [progress report](#) just released), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ESA updates, Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, One Health Initiative, and WSFR.

11b. USDA Wildlife Services – APHIS (David Bergman): APHIS is continuing operational activities in light of COVID, but they are pulling back on in-person participation in face-to-face meetings. Gave program updates on the [American Rescue Plan](#) and [Data on SARS-CoV-2 in animals](#).

12. Initiative Updates: (State of the Initiative Reports): Each initiative was invited to report on their current progress and needs. Due to limits of time, Wild Sheep opted to cover that at their working group meeting later that day. All other initiatives presented out based on their state of the initiative reports, see attached.

13. What does durability mean for WAFWA? (Tony Wasley) Tony Wasley lead remarks about the need and value of having a strategies and needs identified in advance of opportunities and possible crisis. Progressing with document development. Document will be circulated to directors for further development and comment.

14. Future of Conservation Forum (Elsa Haubold) – This forum is pulling people together to build the vision of conservation. Kickoff forum is January 25 and 27, 2022. More information here: <https://www.futureofconservation.earth/>.

15. Committee and Working Group Reports:

15a. Mule Deer Working Group (Jim Heffelfinger): Presented the [Directors Report](#) and the [2021 Deer/Elk Workshop report](#). Requested approval for the [Trail Cameras Fact Sheet](#) and the [Habitat Seeding Document](#) (tracked edits for this document are [here](#)). All were adopted.

15b. Western Conservation Leadership Development Program (Brian Nesvik) Due to time constraints, Brian ask directors to review the [linked document](#) to advance future discussions.

15c. Human Dimensions (Mike Quartuch) did not report, but [provided this linked report](#). Zach Lowe identified the need and request for a director sponsor for this committee. No decision made at this meeting.

15d. Western Bird Conservation (San Stiver) – In the interest of time, Western Bird Conservation Committee opted to skip their report and followed up with a request for approval of a) [Sage-grouse population monitoring guidelines](#) and b) [grouse translocation protocols](#).

15e. Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative Council (Brad Loveless) - In a progress update, a) the building has been sold and money returned to the investment account, b) the Ranch is for sale, items related to permanent protection and the deed are being resolved, and there are some interested buyers, c) solicitations for an investment advisory committee has been done and they will be meeting in January 2022 with the WAFWA team to discuss best steps forward for LPC/CCAA investments. d) a more transparent monitoring process that links financial accounting of individual projects to environmental outcomes is being redesigned with a third-party accounting and systems specialist, e) Chanda Petite has hired into the position of our program manager.

15f. Nominations Committee (Jennifer Psyllakis / Zach Lowe) Curt Melcher, Brad Loveless, Kevin Robling were appointed to the nominations committee. They will report out in July.

18. Closing Comments and Adjourn (Jennifer Psyllakis)