

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Meeting Minutes

Date: December 6, 2025

Location: Saratoga

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4PM by President Clifford with a reminder for attendees to sign in and to identify themselves when speaking for accurate AI transcription.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 7 meeting were reviewed.

- Motion to approve minutes made by Jimmy Owens.
- Seconded by Zach McDermott.
- Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Scott Butler, Treasurer, presented the financial report including:

- Gross assets, grants funded, asset trends from 2022–2025.
- Total cash and investments net of corpus: \$802,050.26.
- Current liabilities and restricted commitments including grants approved (\$345,230.24) and endowment fund balance (\$19,100).
- Projected 12-month operating expenses: \$99,516, leaving \$211,306.52 available for new grant-in-aid (GIA) funding.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Mike Porter.

- Second, by Jimmy Owens.
- Motion passed unanimously.

4. Investment Report

Investment advisors Mike Porter and Ashton Thomas reported:

- Year-to-date return of 10.8% across all accounts.
- Annualized return since inception (2022 start) of approximately 10.1%.
- Account allocations remain within approved ranges.
- Money market yield at 3.75%; anticipating future rate cuts and evaluating best cash placement strategies.

5. Endowment Fund Update

President Zach and Trustees (the Cliffords, Dean DiJenno, Peter Burchfield) reported:

- Fund balance is just under \$20,000; distributions will begin once minimum threshold is reached.
- Acceptable contributions include cash, appreciated stock, IRA beneficiary designations, life insurance, and real estate.
- Fund corpus is preserved; spending limited to proceeds.
- Trustees available to discuss fund use and member questions.

6. 2025 Winter Grant-In-Aid (GIA) Funding Approval

Katie Cheesebrough presented four proposals totaling \$62,000 with recommendations:

1. **Laramie Peak & Thorne-Williams Cheatgrass Control**



- Request: \$20,000 from WWSF for retreatment of 1,500 acres bighorn winter range.
- Recommended full funding.

2. National Bighorn Sheep Center – Education and Improvements

- Request: \$14,000 for education programs, museum lighting, and documentary work.
- Recommended funding: \$12,000 (excluding \$2,000 travel requested).

3. Sweetwater Rocks Initiative – Split Rock Ranch Water Development

- Fully funded through Eastern Chapter; funds now held in general funds.
- Membership acknowledgment requested.

4. Wild Sheep Initiative – Test-and-Remove Program Evaluation

- WWSF pledges \$5,000 toward a \$245,000 collaborative project.
- Motion to approve \$62,000 total GIA funding made by Mike Porter.
- Second, by Jimmy Owens.
- Motion passed unanimously.

7. Communications Update

Kendra Young reported:

- Monthly newsletter launched in October with ~2,000 initial recipients; delivery issues reduced second issue to ~1,500–1,800 recipients.
- Encouraged members to verify email addresses and forward content including hunting stories and recipes.
- Dean managing email list and can add missing contacts.

- Social media posts provide newsletter links and self-service sign-up options.

8. Upcoming Events

- Reno Sheep Show and WAFA Meetings: January 19–24.
- Camelot the Capitol (Cheyenne): February 12.
- 2026 Summer Convention in Casper: June 5–6.
- Burgess Junction Big Horn Sheep Summit: June 24–25, 2026.
- Rocky Mountain Chapter and Affiliate Meeting in Grand Junction: May 14–16, 2026.

9. Legislative & Working Group Update

- Discussion of ongoing work to develop federal language assuring ranchers that bighorn reintroduction will not affect grazing leases.
- December 12 meeting to finalize legislative objectives and example language.
- Members will be asked for support once language is ready, with communication via newsletter and social media.
- Sensitivity noted regarding early public disclosure.

10. Other Business

- Emphasis on member outreach to legislators and commissioners for wildlife/hunting education.
- Impact document distribution continues to demonstrate financial commitments locally.

No further business was raised. Meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.

