

Summary

- Board meeting called to order Jan 16 at 7:00 PM by President Bralli Clifford; several members joined shortly after roll call. Absent were Zach McDermott and Cathy Keene.
- Board approved December minutes.
- Board approved December checks.
- Board approved December credit-card charges.
- Board authorized use of Capital One mileage points to reduce travel costs, to be applied case-by-case by the Treasurer with attention to monthly cash flow.
- Staff reported on FERC Seminole Pump Storage DEIS comments, timing of DEQ water-quality meetings, species-of-concern coalition work, legislative tracking, Sweetwater Rocks advocacy, Monteith grant reconciliation, tax preparation, Zephy rollout, and Reno/Sheep Show logistics.
- Raffles are active (desert sheep, moose, red stag); Zeffy has processed about 400 transactions; legal concerns were raised about offering midstream raffle discounts.
- Sheep Show and Reno preparations are on track: truck shipped booth, 14-ft wall tent, ~180 silent-auction items, and giveaways; Zeffy will be used for raffles and payments.
- Underwriting catalog work continues; goal is to have June banquet underwriting and catalog materials (games, guns, live-auction items, sponsorships) ready around April 15.
- Commissioner tags: two donated tags are confirmed for the June live auction; a third Monteith-managed tag will be raffled or sold after the raffle committee finalizes terms.
- Board reviewed survey responses, focusing on committee performance, clearer expectations, communication, structured fundraising roles, board involvement, and a donation incentive tied to completed forms and high-value items.
- Governance topics included planning a more robust 2026 board survey, clarifying committee expectations, preparing for possible elections with Yes Elections, and continuing staff evaluations and workload-sharing improvements.
- Partnerships and sponsorships discussed: GSCO partnership request will be explored via a small Zoom; MOUs with the National Bighorn Sheep Center and Wyoming Wildlife Federation will be updated; sponsorships for WWF CAMO at the Capitol and the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society were approved.
- Upcoming focus areas include 2026 winter meeting location, June convention logistics, chapter and affiliate engagement, updated MOUs, legislative engagement, and better communication and availability tools.

Motions & Decisions (Integrated)

- December minutes:

- After reviewing the prior meeting minutes, John Harris moved to approve the December minutes as presented; motion seconded by Jayden Bales; passed unanimously.
- December checks:
 - Following review of the check detail and brief explanations of key December payments, John Harris moved to approve the December checks as written; motion seconded by Jimmy Owens; passed.
- December credit card charges:
 - After discussion of December credit-card charges and explanations of several line items, John Harris moved to approve the December credit-card charges; motion seconded by multiple directors; passed.
- Capital One mileage points:
 - After discussion of how to apply Capital One mileage points to travel, including suggestions to align use with predictable staff travel and negative monthly cash-flow periods, the board moved to allow use of Capital One mileage points to offset travel costs, to be applied selectively by the Treasurer with attention to monthly cash flow; passed.
- Sponsorships:
 - After reviewing sponsorship requests from Wyoming Wildlife Federation and the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society and discussing attendance benefits and outreach value, John Harris moved to sponsor Wyoming Wildlife Federation CAMO at the Capitol and the Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society annual meeting; motion seconded by Greg Pope and Scott Butler; passed.
- Casper Chamber membership:
 - Following discussion of benefits for banquet publicity and ongoing Casper presence, Bruce moved to purchase a Casper Chamber of Commerce membership; motion seconded by John Harris; passed.
- June banquet donation incentive:
 - After extended discussion of declining net banquet revenue, donation goals, and fairness between small and large donations, the board adopted a June banquet donation incentive structure:
 - Each director who submits five completed June banquet donation forms earns one Moose raffle ticket.
 - Additional Moose raffle tickets will be awarded for directors who bring in at least \$5,000 in total donated value, with recognition of both number of donations and total dollar impact.

Action Items

- All board members:
 - Email Bralli suggested questions for the 2026 year-end board survey.



- Email Bralli three personal goals for 2026 as a director; indicate whether they may be shared with the full board.
 - Email Bralli top three to five priorities and goals for Katie and Dean for 2026 for use in staff goal setting.
 - Keep track of both the number and estimated value of all June banquet donations secured, to support the new Moose-ticket incentive and future recognition of high-dollar results.
 - Notify the group when unavailable for extended periods; consider using shared calendar/out-of-office tools more consistently.
- All board members working on the Sheep Show:
 - Download and sign into Zeffy on their phones; test the app ahead of Reno to assist attendees with raffle and payment processing.
- Committee chairs:
 - Hold at least one committee meeting in Q1 2026, define 2026 plans and deliverables, and report back at the next board meeting.
- Dean and Katie:
 - Secure Ford Center contract and event layout details in time to meet Rampage ad and insert deadlines (target Feb 15).
- Dean:
 - Continue vendor W-9 collection and 1099 compliance.
 - Coordinate with Yes Elections (Feb 2 call) so an election can proceed quickly if needed.
 - Begin building a simple “donation form count and value” tracker or visual summary so the board can monitor progress monthly.
- Officers:
 - Hold a follow-up officers’ meeting by Feb 3.
- Raffle Committee (Bruce, Dean, others):
 - Meet in early February to finalize the plan and timing for the third commissioner tag raffle or sale and ensure legal compliance and effective post-draw marketing.
- Matt, John, and Bralli:
 - Compile venue options and rates for Newcastle (including Flying V Lodge and Newcastle Lodge & Convention Center), Wheatland, and Rawlins for the 2026 winter meeting and circulate summaries to the board before the end of January.
- Katie and Dean:
 - Draft proposed MOUs with the National Bighorn Sheep Center and Wyoming Wildlife Federation, including possible standing CAMO at the Capitol support, and bring them back to the board for review.
- Bralli, Katie, and Dean:
 - Schedule a Zoom with the GSCO conservation director and a small Wyoming delegation to clarify proposed partnership terms, logo use, and any Wyoming conservation commitments; return with a recommendation to the full board.

- John Harris and Katie:
 - Work with chapters and affiliates (Midwest, Iowa, Utah, Idaho, etc.) on banquet ticket trades beginning this cycle or next, coordinating in part during Sheep Show.
- Dean and underwriting leads:
 - Assemble the underwriting catalog (games, guns, live-auction items, sponsorships) with an internal target of April 15 to support early solicitation by board members and local volunteers.
- Bralli:
 - Submit the Casper Chamber membership application and coordinate use of benefits for June convention publicity.
- Matt:
 - Circulating Sweetwater Rocks Initiative (SRI) grant storyline and schedule a separate Zoom for interested board members to review messaging and next steps.
- Katie:
 - Coordinate with Jess and WWF at a meeting with the new Game and Fish assistant director.
 - Confirm with the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition how future governor's license allocations and any GSCO involvement will be handled procedurally.

Events: Reno, Sheep Show & Banquets

- Reno / Sheep Show:
 - Truck departed Cody with booth materials, 14-ft wall tent, approximately 180 silent-auction items, and giveaways.
 - Silent-auction area is mapped; setup will occur Monday through Wednesday; board assistance is requested, with emphasis on Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - Zeffy will handle raffle sales and card taps via phones; multiple board members will assist attendees with using the system.
- Expo improvements:
 - Ideas include seminars (backcountry packing, optics and gear demos, "how to pack for sheep country"), door prizes, and an interactive sheep-age guessing display with horns or mounts people can handle.
 - Possibility of featuring a recognizable guest (e.g., well-known hunters or conservation voices) is being explored.
- Underwriting & June banquet:
 - Games and firearms list must be finalized by the Games Committee so Kurt can procure guns in time.
 - Once room and meal costs are locked at the Ford Center, sponsorship and underwriting levels will be set and incorporated into the catalog.

- Target is to have a usable underwriting catalog by mid-April so board members and volunteers can solicit underwriting, full-curl tables, sponsorships, and in-kind donations.
- Chapter & affiliate banquets:
 - Board and staff will represent Wyoming at selected chapter and affiliate events (Eastern, Midwest, Iowa, Utah, Idaho, Nebraska/Big Game Society, Washington, Montana), aiming for reciprocal attendance, shared learning, and potential ticket trades.

Staff Updates & Governance

- Katie:
 - Submitted FERC Seminole Pump Storage DEIS comments, coordinated with partners, and publicized comments via newsletter and social media.
 - Will monitor DEQ water-quality actions during Sheep Show and support partners at related meetings.
 - Coordinating a coalition on species of conservation concern and drafting a letter requesting a Forest Service meeting on its species list.
 - Attended commission meetings; noted the proposal to move to a three-year season-setting cycle, which may help outfitters, biological assessment, and staff time for other work.
 - Continuing regular work with Hunt Fish partners on legislative strategy, including transferable and capped landowner tag bills, and ongoing Sweetwater Rocks/Semino advocacy.
 - Working with the National Bighorn Sheep Center on youth experiences and will revisit the MOU with them.
- Dean:
 - Sent two checks to the Monteith shop to clear outstanding grants and the prior commissioner day, reconciling liabilities.
 - Managed tax-season tasks (W-2s, vendor 1099s) and obtained updated W-9s from all current vendors, improving compliance.
 - Led Reno shipping and silent-auction layout; continues Zeffy implementation and newsletter production.
 - Emphasized that improved contracts, tax forms, and correct non-taxed purchasing are a keyway to save money.
- Staff evaluations:
 - Board reviewed detailed self-evaluations from Katie and Dean, both outlined strengths and areas for growth.
 - Shared board goal is better workload distribution, earlier use of board help, and more transparent availability so staff are not overloaded.
- Board survey:

- Nine of eleven directors responded.
- Themes included: improving committee consistency, clearer expectations, better communication (especially from officers), more structured fundraising roles, and regular reporting on assigned tasks between meetings.
- Staff support was generally rated 4–5/5; officer support 3–5/5.
- A more in-depth board survey is planned for late 2026 to measure progress.
- Elections & communication:
 - Dean scheduled time with Yes Elections to prepare in case a contested election occurs; publicity for potential candidates may be expanded if vacancies arise.
 - Directors are asked to use simple email or shared-calendar tools to flag when they are out of pocket.

Partnerships & Open Items

- GSCO:
 - Board members expressed serious concerns about GSCO's litigation history, branding and logo use (including unapproved display of the chapter logo), limited visible Wyoming conservation spending, and recent Nevada translocation publicity that minimized partner recognition.
 - Consensus: hear GSCO out via a small Zoom meeting, clarify what “partnership” means, understand any expectations around tags or branding, then return with a recommendation to the full board.
- MOUs:
 - National Bighorn Sheep Center and Wyoming Wildlife Federation MOUs will be updated, including recurring CAMO at the Capitol support and clearer expectations around youth programming.
- Commissioner tags:
 - Two commissioner tags will be featured in June's live auction.
 - A third Monteith tag will be raffled or sold after the raffle committee sets terms, with emphasis on strategic timing relative to drawing results and maximizing net returns.
- 2026 winter meeting:
 - Options under review include Wheatland, Rawlins, and Newcastle, each with nearby sheep herds and potential tours; venue capacity, travel reliability in winter, and alignment with active issues (e.g., Seminole Pumped Storage, Sweetwater Rocks) will guide the final choice.
- Pedro / Sweetwater Rocks:
 - Bralli and Greg met with Game and Fish staff (including Teal and Lee); next steps include building a landowner contact list and coordinating outreach with Wool Growers to better understand domestic sheep and goat presence, improving risk assessment for future wild sheep actions.



- New political action committee:
 - Directors were informed of the new “Protect Wyoming’s PAC,” formed around federal land-sale concerns; no endorsement or engagement was requested or offered.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Conservation roundtable with Game and Fish: Jan 29 in Cheyenne.
 - CAMO at the Capitol: Feb 12, including an evening event many legislators attend.
 - Next board meeting: Feb 11.
 - Officers’ meeting: Feb 3.
 - Chapter & affiliate summit: mid-May in Grand Junction.
 - Summer convention: June 5–6 at Burgess Junction.