

THE ANGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO/WYOMING
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

SUMMER/FALL 2025 | VOLUME 48 | NUMBER 2
EDITED BY BEN FELT & KENDALL BAKICH

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THE VENT

Beth Bear

Welcome John Walrath as our incoming Chapter Secretary/Treasurer for this upcoming year. Thank you for stepping up to help lead the Chapter! Thank you to our outgoing Past President, Steve Gale, for your years of dedication to the Chapter.

A huge thank you to all involved in the planning and daily work that it took to host the 2025 WDAFS meeting in Westminster this last May. The meeting was a huge success with several great continuing education courses, engaging presentations, and great fellowship opportunities for members from bowling to the banquet. Despite a lot of unknowns in the months leading up to the meeting, it was well attended with over 290 attendees.

As we look towards the next year in the life of our Chapter, I encourage us all to look for ways to lift each other up. Many of us continue to face uncertainty, but our strength lies in the collective support and connection we share within this Chapter. Take a moment to check in with a colleague, volunteer to mentor students, recognize a colleague's achievements, offer to help on a project, or simply lend a listening ear to a coworker. By relying on one another, we can make the uncertain times easier to handle.



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2026 Meeting: Save the date and Call for Volunteers



2026 CO-WY CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 2-4, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center
Laramie, WY

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We need volunteers to help
with these committees:

-  Continuing Education
-  Audio-Visual
-  Arrangements
-  Program
-  Raffle

**PLEASE CONTACT BETH BEAR AT BETH.BEAR@WYO.GOV IF INTERESTED IN HELPING
WITH 2026 MEETING COMMITTEES**



2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Official Business of the
Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of AFS

Date: Tuesday May 13th, 2025

Location: Legacy Ballroom, The Westin

Time: 4:00AM-5:00PM (Mountain Time)

1. Welcome

- Stev Vigil, CO/WY Chapter President: Welcome everyone and hope you are enjoying the 2025 joint CO/WY and WDAFS meeting. Stev will provide updates from all committees quickly so we can get to the awards ceremony.

2. Student Subunits

- Colorado State University
 - 30 active members
 - Have been out ice fishing together and has had active community engagement
- Colorado Mesa University
 - Hosted many workshops and trips with CPW, USGS and helped with water quality
- University of Wyoming
 - Fishing trips, lots of yellow perch caught
 - Trying to increase the number of undergraduates
 - Held a welcome back to school BBQ
 - Went ice fishing and held trivia nights
 - Met with CSU and with other biologists
- Western State
 - 5 paying due members
 - Held a movie night
 - Members went to the Desert Fish Council meeting in Grand Junction
 - Held other events

3. Archives

- Lori has been busy taking items to South Dakota and digitizing everything
- Provided research and history of chapter in the latest addition of the Angler

4. Continuing Education

- 5 continuing education classes held at this meeting
- 100 registrants

5. Membership

- Strong and Steady
- Nationals has been tracking trends in membership
 - Other states and outside of the state
- Need an update on current chapter email list

6. Newsletter

- Next newsletter coming in August!

7. Aquaculture

- Held a continuing education course this week and hosted a hatchery modernization symposium

8. Audio/Visual

- No updates, but thank you, Alex!

9. Inclusion/diversity

- Looking for a new name
- We have a mother's room, please see ExComm or Liz Krone for the key

10. Endowment

- No update

11. Fundraising

- Thank you!!

12. Mentoring

- 3 mentees with mentors
- 44 total since 2014
- Applications open through May 15th

13. Paper/poster

- Over 30 posters here

14. Raffle

- Buy items!!

15. Student Liason

- Everyone is good!

16. Website

- No update

17. Past president update (Steve Gale)

- Travel awards (3)
 - Nick H – Casper Biologist
 - Matt F – Post doctorate
 - Walter J – Aquaculture

Past President Update (continued)

- Next Secretary/Treasurer
 - John Walrath
- 18. Vice President Report (Beth Bear)
 - The next CO/WY chapter meeting will be hosted by Wyoming in Laramie, March 2nd-4th, 2026.
- 19. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Tawni Firestone)
 - Student Subunits (Current Balance: \$8,618.34)
 - CMU: \$675.27
 - CSU \$6,609.24
 - UWY: \$725.54
 - Western: \$608.29
 - *Projected meeting income (\$136,134.60)*
 - *Includes registration, donations of \$34,900, and an estimated \$7,500 from the raffle*
 - Projected meeting expenses (\$105,985.93)
 - Remaining expenses: \$33,361.12
 - Chapter travel grants: \$6,000
 - Projected Net income (\$11,050.64)
 - WDAFS Investment Fund balance decreased
 - \$88,946.78
 - Current Checking
 - \$62,627.52
 - Total meeting profit after expenses
 - \$30,148.67
 - Adjusted meeting income
 - \$25,140.77
 - After chapter or division-related expenses (i.e., business meetings)
 - CO/WY owes WDAFS \$5,000
 - WDAFS owes CO/WY \$1,966.18
 - Projected chapter balance
 - \$23,766.40
- 20. Unfinished Business
 - Morben spelled wrong
- 21. Motion to adjourn
 - Motion: Liz Stewart-Krone
 - Second: Tyler Swarr

Colorado-Wyoming AFS Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget		
CHAPTER BALANCES (as of September 2025)	Actual	
Checking	\$43,015	
Savings (should be kept at \$0 for CO meetings)	\$0	
WD Investment Fund (value fluctuates)- As of 8/31/25	\$104,242	
	\$147,257	
INCOME	Estimated	
Annual Meeting Income (Based on 200 attendees)	\$34,794	
Raffle/Auction Income	\$6,000	
Donations	\$9,000	
Parent society refund	\$350	
	\$50,144	
ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES	Estimated	Itemized
Base Registration Cost	\$2,000	
Registration software fees		\$2,000
Continuing Education Committee	\$2,000	
Continuing Education Workshop		\$2,000
Food and Meeting Space Charges	\$28,500	
UW Conference Center Catering Charges (2024 actual plus 15%)		\$20,000
UW Conference Center Room Charges (per 2025 contract)		\$6,500
Student Social		\$2,000
AV	\$1,500	
Fees for screens, podiums, audio equipment		\$1,500
Raffle Committee	\$2,000	
Raffle (seed money)		\$2,000
Other	\$3,900	
Presenter and Chapter Awards		\$350
Mentoring Committee		\$50
Nametags, Program Printing, and Registration		\$500
Registrant souvenirs and committee member gifts		\$1,000
Complimentary Rooms		\$2,000
Speaker costs	\$1,000	
ANNUAL MEETING EXPENSES	\$40,900	
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXPENSES	Annual	Itemized
Archive Committee	\$100	
		\$100
Endowment Committee	\$50	
Mailings etc.		\$50
Website Committee	\$250	
Web Domain Registration		\$250
Mentoring Committee	\$2,000	
Reimbursement for travel, meeting registration, books		\$2,000
WD AFS Student Colloquium	\$500	
Annual Contribution		\$500
Other	\$1,150	
President/Excom Member Travel to WD Mid-year Meeting		\$1,000
Tax Preparation		\$0
Liability Insurance		\$150
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXPENSES	\$4,050	
BYLAW APPROVED EXPENSES	Estimated	Itemized
CMU Student Sub-unit	\$500	
Annual Contribution		\$500
CSU Student Sub-unit	\$500	
Annual Contribution		\$500
UW Student Sub-unit	\$500	
Annual Contribution		\$500
WCU Student Sub-unit	\$500	
Annual Contribution		\$500
Executive Committee	\$2,550	
EXCOM Meeting Meals		\$550
VP Travel to WD Meeting		\$2,000
BYLAW APPROVED EXPENSES	\$4,550	
CHAPTER-APPROVED EXPENSES	Estimated	Itemized
CO/WY AFS Member Travel Grants	\$8,000	
Travel expenses for CO-WY professional member travel to WD or Society Meeting		\$2,000
Travel expenses for CO-WY student member travel to WD or Society Meeting		\$2,000
Travel expenses for student to attend "Best of the West"		\$2,000
Travel expenses for CO-WY member(s) travel to WD or Society		\$2,000
CHAPTER-APPROVED EXPENSES	\$8,000	
	Estimated	Actual
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$57,500	
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$50,144	
NET LOSS	-\$7,356	
CHAPTER CHECKING BALANCE-CURRENT	\$43,015	
BALANCE AFTER ANNUAL MEETING-FY26 ENDING	\$35,659	
BALANCE WITH INVESTMENT	\$139,901	

UPDATED and APPROVED CO/WY AFS Chapter Procedures Manual

September 12, 2025

Chapter Archivist

Background and Purpose:

The Chapter Archivist Committee is a Standing Committee of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter, established by the Chapter Bylaws. The Archivist Committee maintains (updates, organizes, and stores) historical records of the Chapter, and makes them available to the EXCOM, membership of the Chapter, and interested individuals. The Chapter Archivist prepares summaries of the Chapter's history upon the EXCOM's request. The archives of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter are housed under formal agreement of long-term loan at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, South Dakota. The archives are available to all Chapter members for general informational purposes, use in answering questions, and the provision of sample documents.

Composition:

The Vice-President appoints the Chair of the Archivist Committee within 60 days of the Chapter's Annual Meeting. Unlike other Standing Committee positions, the Archivist Chair serves at the discretion of the EXCOM for an indefinite time period.

Duties:

1. Maintains (updates, organizes, and stores) the Chapter archives, a detailed set of historical and important Chapter documents and photographs/images.
2. Receives and actively collects Chapter documents and photographs/images from Chapter members and others as they become available (see Appendix A. Guidelines for Submitting Material to the Archives of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society). Reviews, documents, and adds the records to the archives.
3. Provides the EXCOM, Chapter membership, and other interested parties with information from the Chapter archives.
4. Continually seeks to acquire documents and photographs/images in order to make the Chapter historical record more complete.
5. Organizes the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Chapter in printed hard copy (black and white) and digital formats, and provides both to the four university libraries at Colorado Mesa University, Colorado State University, University of Wyoming, and Western Colorado University.
6. Donates duplicate Chapter Annual Meeting Proceedings from previous years and other documents to the university libraries, as available and necessary.
7. Completes Committee reports for the Annual Meeting of the Chapter, and as otherwise requested by the EXCOM.
8. Serves as the primary Chapter contact with the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives. Coordinates with the EXCOM and D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives to renew the loan agreement and transport Chapter records to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives facility for permanent storage in the Chapter archives.

UPDATED and APPROVED COM/Y AFS Chapter Procedures Manual (continued)**APPENDIX A: COMMITTEE GUIDELINES, JUDGING FORMS, AND LETTER TEMPLATES****Guidelines for Submitting Material to the Chapter Archivist of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

An organization's records are systematically preserved in its archives. A complete collection of an organization's records is valuable for a historical perspective on the philosophy and activities of that organization and in future decision-making and problem-solving. The archives of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society are housed under a formal agreement of long-term loan at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, South Dakota. The archives are available to all Chapter members for general informational purposes, use in answering questions, and the provision of sample documents.

Items to be Submitted to the Chapter Archives

At least two digital copies of all documentation generated as a result of Chapter activities are to be saved for inclusion in the archives. This includes, but is not limited to, documentation created by Chapter Officers, Standing Committees, Special Committees and Student Subunits; all correspondence to and/or from the aforementioned groups, as well as any publications issued by the Chapter or its committees. All items should be submitted to the Chapter Archivist via electronic mail and in Adobe (PDF) format for digital documents or Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) for digital photographs/images.

Some specific categories of documents and materials to be sent to the Chapter Archivist include the following:

- Chapter Annual and Midyear Reports
- Budget Requests; Budgets Approved
- Annual Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Reports
- EXCOM Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Reports
- Committee Reports
- Subunit Reports
- Publications including the Chapter Newsletter and Annual Meeting Proceedings
- Officer Correspondence
- Photographs/Images
- Chapter Award Plaques
- Unique Chapter Materials/Memorabilia from Significant Meetings/Events (50th Anniversary, etc.)

The Chapter Archivist will maintain two digital copies of each document and photograph/image within the Chapter records. One digital copy will be stored on a portable hard drive and the other copy will be stored as a back up on the Chapter EXCOM Google Drive, supported by the State of Wyoming. The Chapter Archivist will no longer store hard (paper copies) of Chapter records; materials that cannot be stored digitally, such as plaques or other memorabilia, will be transported/shipped to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives by the Chapter Archivist, as necessary.

Business records such as bills, receipts, banking statements, etc. should be kept digitally on the Chapter EXCOM Google Drive by the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer for 7 years and then discarded.

Congratulations!

2025 Award Winners

Award of Excellence: George Schisler

Outstanding Mentor Award: Annika Walters

Past President: Steve Gale

Best Student Paper: Taylor Stack (Extending riverscape genetics via surrogate species: A case study with native trout reintroduction)

Best Student Poster: Skyler LaRosa (Age and Growth dynamics of Utah Suckers in Jackson Lake, WY)

Looking for Winners!



As many of you are currently waist-deep in the waters of Colorado and Wyoming, you probably aren't thinking about the upcoming 2026 CO-WY AFS meeting. But please take a moment, between the fish and the bugs and the sunscreen, to look around and acknowledge your hard-working colleagues.

Then make a mental note of those who are deserving of recognition with one of the Chapter awards and remember to contact Travis Neebling, Awards Committee Chair, this fall to submit a nomination.



CO/WY AFS

2025-26 Executive Committee



President	Beth Bear	beth.bear@wyo.gov
Vice President	Tawni Firestone	tawni.firestone@state.co.us
Secretary - Treasurer	John Walrath	john.walrath@wyo.gov
Past President	Estevan Vigil	Estevan.vigilafs@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

Official Business of the
Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of AFS

September 12, 2025

Noon-4pm

Virtual Meeting

Call Meeting to Order

- Beth Bear (current COWY AFS VP) called the meeting to order.

Agenda Review

- Motion to approve agenda – Stev Vigil
- Seconded by – Tawni Firestone
 - Motion passed

Advancement of Officers

- President to Past President: Stev Vigil
- Vice President to President: Beth Bear
- Secretary/Treasurer to Vice President: Tawni Firestone
- Incoming Secretary/Treasurer: John Walrath
 - Motion to advance officers – John Walrath
 - Seconded by – Stev Vigil
 - Motion passed

2025 Business meeting minutes approval

- Motion to approve business meeting minutes from Western Division meeting – John Walrath
- Seconded by – Stev Vigil
 - Motion passed

Review and approval of FY26 budget

- Discussed plans of the review and approval the 2026 COWY AFS budget. Approved budget will be sent to Chapter members in next Angler Newsletter
- Beth went over expected expenses for 2026 meeting costs
- Conference Center room contract was already sent and came in slightly under budget, final budget will be updated with the contracted price
- Added the newly approved (last year) 'Best of the West' travel grant for \$2,000

FY26 Budget (continued)

- Went over slight price increases for registration and other small meeting expenses
 - Motion to approve budget – Tawni Firestone
 - Seconded – Stev Vigil
 - Motion passed

Review and approval of Archives procedural manual

- Lori provided an update on changes to the Archives procedures manual
 - Motion to approve procedure changes for Archives – Tawni Firestone
 - Seconded – Stev Vigil
 - Motion passed

Chapter emails

- Discussion had on how to clean up access to email accounts that are more complicated now with two-factor authentication
 - Current officers will need to get with previous officers to ensure changes are made to new officers.
 - Task to be completed at conclusion of this meeting.

Sec/Treas Report

- Tawni provided update
 - Current balance: 43,015.77
 - Student units: \$8,606.75
 - Colorado Mesa: \$415.27
 - Colorado State: \$6,462.67
 - UW: \$1,200.54
 - Western: \$528.27
- Charles Schwab Account \$104,242
 - Total \$155,863.52

2026 Meeting Updates

- March 2-4, 2026 at the Hilton in Laramie, WY
- The hotel is going to be going through a remodel but it will not occur until fall 2026 so we will not be impacted
- Registration platform
- Parent Society has a platform called XCD. Would be about \$500 for our size of meeting of 200-300 attendees. Current Whova expenses fluctuate between \$1,500 to \$2,000. This is a platform that Western Division is using. This program allows for meeting registration.
 - Beth will forward on a webinar email from Tim Copeland on use of XCD.

2026 Meeting Updates (continued)

- Decided to give this new platform a try for the 2026 COWY AFS Chapter meeting
- 2026 WD mid-year meeting

- Planning meeting scheduled for November 8-9, 2025 @ Portland, OR
- John Walrath will represent the COWY AFS Chapter at the WD planning meeting

Committee Chair Reports

- Archives
 - Lori Martin provided update and highlights of her trip to Spearfish, SD
- Continuing Education
 - Brian Hodge provided update. Mentioned it would be preferred to send out a request to active chapter members to poll their topics of interest for continuing education sessions.
- Environmental Policy
 - Beth Bear and Stev Vigil provided update.
- Membership
 - Christiania sent along an update and Beth read it. Christiania and Wes plan to clean up the membership list.
- Newsletter
 - Currently planning a late September issue of the Angler.
- Nominating
 - Stev Vigil provided update. Giving people time to wrap up field seasons before inquiring about EXCOM involvement.
- Program
 - No update to provide at this time.
- Aquaculture
 - No update to provide at this time.
- Audio-Visual
 - Alex Townsted provided update from the WD meeting and reported that borrowing CPW laptops for presentation rooms is an option again for the upcoming meeting. Would be looking for help to preload presentations for the meeting. Possibly put out a call for help in the Angler
- Inclusion/Diversity
 - Liz Stewart provided an update and discussed the possibility of renaming the committee. Will be reaching out to folks to see how many other groups have undergone a similar process.

Committee Chair Reports (continued)

- Endowment Funding
 - No update
- Fundraising
 - Paul Gerrity sent along an update saying that they will start sending out donation letters in December.
- Gifts
 - No update
- Mentoring
 - No update
- Paper/Poster Judging
 - Tyler Swarr provided update. Zach Underwood will move to chairing the committee.
- Raffle
 - Almost got in trouble from the department of revenue, need to make sure raffle money by use of Venmo and Square goes straight to the raffle account.
 - There was no fine this year, but verbal warning was given.
 - Raffle license in Colorado and it could be taken away if this issues occurs again.
- Registration
 - No update other than figuring out the new XCD platform
- Student Liason
 - Riley Dils provided update
- Awards
 - Travis Neebling provided an update and plans to move forward with normal solicitation nomination for awards.
- Website
 - Will be working on updates to the website like
- Student Subunit Reports
 - CSU
 - Moira Benish-Kingsbury provided update. Had first meeting last week, with 43 students in attendance. They are planning a kickball activity in the near future.
 - CMU
 - No update provided

Committee Chair Reports (continued)

- UW
 - No update provided
- WCU
 - No update provided

Unfinished Business

- Raffle funds use
 - Programs and services: Funding the charitable activities and operations outlined in the organization's charter or bylaws.
 - Operating expenses: Covering legitimate and reasonable administrative costs of the organization.
 - Raffle cost: Paying for expenses directly related to conducting the raffle, such as printing tickets or buying prizes. The prize itself is part of the cost and must be owned by the organization free of debt.
 - Discussed ways to spend out the raffle funds earned. Leading thought is to use the funds to start an endowment for Western student subunit

Next meeting

- Unscheduled at this time but will be towards the end of November.