

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society | 2026 Business Meeting Notes
Kansas Natural Resources Conference | Manhattan, Kansas | February 5, 2026

President's Call to Order (6:48 pm)

Introduction of Officers

- Drew Ricketts, President
- Adam Ahlers Past President
- Dan Sullins, President Elect
- Elli Teige, Secretary/Treasurer
- Eric Wiens, Member at Large
- Andrew Rutter, Member at Large

Minutes and Treasurer Report from 2024 Business Meeting (Elli)

- Treasurer Report provided to membership in newsletter, no questions
- Read report from 2024 meeting, no questions
- Motion, Drew Ricketts / Second, Adam Ahlers/ Motion Passed

Committee Reports

- Student Awards and Travel Grant Committee (Elli Teige)
 - 2025 Registration Grants for KNRC (KCTWS Annual Conference)
 - Awarded 5 - \$80 student registration grants in 2025
 - Lydia Robbins, Amanda Bishop, Randy Wilson, Mary Ware, Kat Travis
 - 2025 KNRC Best Student Paper and Poster
 - Paper: Elli Teige
 - Poster: Heather Poyner
 - 2025 Robert J. Robel Memorial Award for Undergraduates
 - Not Awarded in 2025
 - Call to keep applying for the Robel Award
- Snipe Award (Adam Ahlers)
 - Awarded to Matt Peek
 - Call to keep nominating folks for this award; nominees do not need to be long in the tooth, they can be at any career stage
- Resolutions and Public Statements (Drew Ricketts)
 - Kansas Legislature
 - Recent Position Statement Actions
 - Position statement written to oppose K.A.R. 115-45-1, where the Commission can directly draft rules and regulations without agency input, and public comment was stated by D. Ricketts during the January 8, 2026 commission meeting in Council Grove, KS
 - Position statement written to oppose HB 2547 where the formation of an upland game bird hunting stamp would help fund the purchase and release of pen-reared birds in Kansas

- Upcoming bill to fund natural resources in Kansas
 - 37 member organizations, Kansans for Conservation
 - Introduced HB 2541: Conservation funding bill for three separate conservation funds
 - Overall many folks for the fund
 - Action item: a possible position statement from KCTWS in support
- Programs and Meetings
 - KNRC
 - Will be in Wichita next year - 2027
- Education and Information (Elli Teige)
 - Newsletter, webpage
 - Webpage a work in progress – we will have to host our own website
 - Looking into options and would love if someone could be on call for updating the website
 - Paying for the KCTWS Membership will not change on the wildlife.org website and folks can still do that if they desire
 - Would like to get the web page updated soon – Elli Note: by end of summer
 - TWS Certification
 - Certification Workshops/Opportunities – looks like more jobs are asking for the certification (Andrew Rutter)
 - Would love to do a field skills/workshop day for students and would love to have multi university support on this.
 - Folks mentioned that KNRC organizers are always looking for workshops, may be good to have it around that time.
 - Drew - will connect with others to discuss and plan
- Elections
 - Next year looking for Secretary/Treasurer (probably), Two At-Large Board Members, and President-elect

Report from CMPS TWS (Justin Hamilton)

- Highlighted some board changes on the CMPS
- The Kansas representative on the CMPS board, in the next year will be up for election
- CMPS Meeting will be in North Dakota in Early Sept. but after Labor Day
- Funded several students to attend the TWS Annual Conference in Edmonton, AB with the Wayne Sanford Student Travel Grant

Student Chapter Updates

- Kansas State University
 - None Present
- Pittsburg State University
 - President Owen L.
 - Park volunteer days, seed collection, cedar tree burning
 - Plan to do Sea Turtle Trip with Emporia State TWS

- Emporia State University
 - President: Jacob H.
 - VP: Nicki K.
 - Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve - Seed collection, bird count outings, monarch tagging
 - Volunteered with Prophet Aquatic Research/Outreach
 - Community Fishing event
 - Planning and Earth Day event
 - South Padre sea turtle project with Pit State folks
 - wildlife related topics to increase club engagement – craft night, trivia games, escape room (club attendance has improved)

Other Business (Adam Ahlers)

- Reminder to talk to Elli about membership dues and getting on the email list if needed

Membership Questions/Comments

- None provided

Adjourn (7:38 pm)