



COLORADO WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes: Colorado Wildlife Council - Hunter & Angler Subcommittee - August 20, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ~ Virtual

Members Present:

Ehrhart-Gemmill, Gwinn, Kitching, Weyand

Members Absent:

Brown

Also in Attendance:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)/State: Megan Schulz-Collins, Rebecca Ferrell

Public: Paige Byron

Call to Order / Introductions – Ehrhart-Gemmill

- Called the meeting to order.

Key Decisions and Actions:

Sponsorship Proposal Review

Wild Night for Wildlife:

- Evaluated the "Wild Night for Wildlife" request. The subcommittee expressed concern over high costs (\$500–\$10,000) for a limited return at a single-night event outside core target demographics.
- Declined sponsorship due to high costs relative to exposure.

Colorado West Land Trust:

- Paige Byron presented on the organization's work across 6 Western Slope counties (over 150,000 acres under easement) and overviewed four signature annual events (e.g., Annual Picnic, Fall Open House, Cranes & Cocoa, special landowner/sponsor celebrations) alongside their monthly Field Series events (averaging ~20–30 attendees).
- **Recommendation:** Approved a recommendation to fund at the \$1,000 (Silver) level, incorporating CWC swag and rack card distribution.

Durango Autumn Arts Festival:

- Reviewed a \$2,500 proposal for an art festival attracting 8,000 visitors. The subcommittee felt the target audience lacked sufficient alignment with the council's mission.
- Declined \$2,500 sponsorship due to lack of alignment with core target demographics.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society:

- Reviewed a \$15,000 headlining offer versus past spending. Discussed incorporating a short CWC video into banquet events with AV capabilities.
- **Recommendation:** Approved a recommendation to sponsor at the \$5,000 level (includes 4 print ad placements in The Bighorn magazine).
 - Agreed to explore creating a 90-second CWC overview video (leveraging existing B-roll/scripts) for playback at RMBS and future banquets.

Upcoming Events/ Sponsorships

- All of the upcoming CWC-sponsored events are as follows:

- Meeker Classic - 9/9-9/13
- Flyathlon: Lake Fork - 9/18-9/20
- Tarantula Festival - 9/25-9/26
- Engagement Specialist Events:
 - The specialist has secured two booths at Avalanche & Broncos games to promote the CWC to attendees.
 - Polaroid Promo: Previewed new Polaroid paper featuring a QR code on the back with "Supporting Science in the Wild" branding.
- RMEF Award Presentation Planning:
 - Discussed options for presenting the Conservationist of the Year award to RMEF after missing a Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting.
 - Explored hosting a CWC-sponsored happy hour during the first night of the Denver-area Commission meeting in March (CSU Spur area being considered) to maximize media/partner exposure.

Conservationist of the Year Award Pricing:

- Discussed options for purchasing custom/artist-designed bronze awards instead of off-the-shelf options.
- Reviewed proposals from Ted Schneck (\$1,500 sitting rams), Josh Toby (\$5,500), and Bennett Awards (custom designs/cast metal).
- Decided to move forward with purchasing the completed bedded ram bronze sculpture from artist Ted Schneck (\$1,500) and explore commissioning 1–2 additional pieces, provided billing is processed via state-compliant US agent Denver Bronze Works.

Event Recaps:

- Discussion moved into the full council meeting agenda.

Additional Approval and Discussion Items

- Additional Meeting Date:
 - Identified the need to hold a dedicated strategy meeting to realign on the target audience and goals.
 - Agreed to send out a Doodle poll for dates during the weeks of September 8th and September 21st.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Adjourned

Ehrhart-Gemmill moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.