

SDTWS meeting
May 19, 2011

Rocco Murano called the meeting to order at 11:00AM

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections to typos were made (Silka's name, Randy Meidinger, Greg Wolbrink, Erica Mize, and Paul Lepisto).

Switzer motioned and Norton seconded to approve minutes.

No Treasurer's report; no report was approved.

Runia questioned what was earned from the meeting if any. Board was uncertain with the Treasurer absent, but Switzer estimated possibly \$1500.

There is a new tax reporting process for our chapter due to an increase in the amount of money in our checking account. Rupp will be working with a tax professional to learn this new process.

Old business

How did meeting go? We did a brief recap of the meeting comments for Murano.

A payment needs to be made for Conservation Days. Board needs to determine if the payment goes directly to Heidi Williamson or someone else. Runia will follow-up with Heidi and ensure that payment is made.

New business

Our chapter donated \$307.40 for the mount of two Greater Prairie-chickens that went to Secretary of the Interior Salazar during his visit to South Dakota to learn more about the Dakota Grassland Project.

Board reviewed an approved a \$500 request for the rangeland birding tour held by the SD Grassland Coalition. Kempema abstained from the voting. Switzer requested the SDTWS chapter gets recognized during the tour. Switzer motioned and Murano seconded the motion to approve this request for funding.

The Board reviewed a request for our chapter to host a booth at the Watertown Conservation Connection, an event sponsored by the Terry Redlin Art Center/Watertown Zoo. This request was not approved as the Board judged that the audience targeted by this event was not appropriate.

Rocco is currently representing SD TWS on the USDA Technical Committee, a group of natural resource conservation and agricultural production groups that are interested in USDA programs provided by the NRCS and FSA. This group meets every three months. These meetings are organized by the NRCS. Next meeting is in August.

An estimated 125,000 acres of CRP will be lost in the fall of 2011; this will be offset by approximately 70,000 acres of CRP gained from the general CRP sign-up and 40,000 acres of CREP in 2011. Request for 200,000 acres of CRP over the next two years has been sent this month.

Third party wetland determination-The NRCS has 3,200 requests for wetland drainage in primarily the eastern 1/3 of SD. NRCS is proposing to allow a third party to make its wetland delineations. There is concern that these delineations will not be done appropriately and significant wetland acres will be lost. The Board agreed that a letter voicing our concern regarding the quality of wetland delineations by third parties will be sent to NRCS State Conservationist. This letter will be cc'd to Ducks Unlimited and SD Wildlife Federation. Murano will draft the letter for the board to review.

Request for the National Wildlife Refuge activity guide was reviewed again; Rocco will follow-up on this request.

Meeting theme for 2012 was brought up. Switzer will provide the meeting themes from the last 10 years. Runia is open to suggestions.

Briefly discussed results of the SDTWS membership survey. Kempema provided the results via email to the Board members before the meeting. Kempema will summarize data and provide a written report to the Board and to membership. Survey should also be shared with National Chapter.

Chapter goals. No specific goals were brought up. Kempema suggested that the survey may identify goals that we could follow-up on.

Our next meeting will be held in August at Huron during the State Fair or via conference call.

Murano made a motion and Norton seconded the motion to adjourn.

Submitted
Silka Kempema for Susan Rupp