

**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – March 9, 2004
Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center, Oacoma, SD**

Chapter President Art Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. President Smith recognized a quorum was present and recognized Casey Kruse as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Bridgette Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the 2003 annual meeting. Mary Clawson moved for the minutes to be approved as presented; second by Colleen Kolbeck. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the Chapter's 2003 annual financial report. Laura Hubers moved to approve the report as presented; second by Sandra Uecker. Motion passed.

Old Business
Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections – Steve Griffin

Griffin presented the list of candidates for President-elect and Board Member. Candidates were:

President-elect: Will Morlock

Board Member: Laura Hubers, Matt Morlock, Jay Peterson, Chad Switzer

Griffin called for any additional nominations from the floor. With no further nominations, Dan Hubbard moved to cease nomination; second by Ron Schauer. Motion passed and the election was conducted. Election results were presented.

President-elect: Will Morlock

Board Member: Laura Hubers

Wayne Winter moved to accept the results; second by Tom Kirschenmann. Motion passed. Dan Hubbard motioned to destroy the ballots; second by Colleen Kolbeck. Motion passed.

Audit Committee – Paul Coughlin

Coughlin reported that the Chapter's 2003 financial books were in order. Carl Madsen motioned to approve the report; second by Mary Clawson. Motion passed.

Awards Committee – Emmett Keyser

Keyser reported that a total of 5 separate nominations were received for SDTWS Awards in 2004. Three nominations were received for the Professional Award and two nominations were submitted for the Citizen's Award. One Citizen's Award nomination sought to recognize three individuals jointly. Awards for 'Best Student Presentation' and 'Best Presentation' were again procured and will be presented in an effort to recognize outstanding presentations at the SDTWS meeting.

Membership Committee – Tom Tornow

Tornow reported that over 30 recruitment letters had been sent out prior to the meeting. Chad Switzer will be taking over as Chair of the Membership Committee in 2004.

Resolutions Committee – Dan Hubbard

Hubbard reported that one proposed resolution had been submitted for consideration by the membership, titled 'A Resolution to Support Wilderness Designation on the Current Inventoried Roadless Lands in South Dakota and to Support the Concept of Future Proposed Wilderness Designations in South Dakota'.

Arrangements Committee – Ron Schauer and Cliff Stone

The Co-Chairs commented that the hotel staff had been great to work with and that their efforts had ensured that the meeting went smoothly.

Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative Committee – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

Dowd-Stukel reported that the national effort to secure a stable, longterm funding source is continuing, although no longterm funding bill is expected to pass this session. Therefore, the current emphasis is on making the best use of State Wildlife Grants (SWG). The IAFWA is promoting "Dear Colleague" letters to urge support of SWG funding among congressional delegates.

Nongame and Endangered Species Committee – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

Dowd-Stukel thanked the chapter for their contributions to Bald Eagle Awareness Days and the Glacial Lakes and Prairies Birding Trail. Updates on federally listed species in South Dakota were as follows:

Black-footed ferret: The Rosebud Sioux Tribe became the 3rd reintroduction site in South Dakota.

Black-tailed prairie dog (federal candidate sp.): The state management plan will be finalized in July and include SD's aerial transect survey.

Topeka shiner: SD completed state management plan as an attempt to avoid inclusion in the USFWS's newest critical habitat designation.

Missouri River Spp.: SDGFP, USFWS, and USACE implemented 5-year Memorandum of Agreement for mgmt. of the least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, and bald eagle.

Fund-raising Committee – Tony Leif

Leif reported preliminary estimates of the funds raised during the 2004 auction and social.

Missouri River Issues Committee – Bruce Vander Lee

Vander Lee reported that the USFWS's new biological opinion had arrived Dec. '03 and that the USACE new management manual was currently receiving comments.

Newsletter Committee – Greg Pavelka

Pavelka reported that 65 members had signed up to receive their newsletter electronically, which would reduce printing costs for the chapter.

Public Land Management Committee – Dennis Mann
Mann provided comments on one land exchange.

Tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee – Diane Mann-Klager
Mann-Klager reported that 4 Reservations had received 6 Wildlife grants. Several tribal endeavors included developing new wildlife management plans and exploring the potential to re-introduce extirpated species.

Wetlands Committee – Kurt Forman
Forman reviewed the SWAANC Decision and its effect on protection of isolated wetlands; announced the formation of the SD Water Quality Council, which includes SDTWS as a member; and reported the events associated with HB 1194, a bill to preclude easements >30 years.

Wetlands and Waterbirds Recognition Honor Roll Committee – John Koerner, Ken Higgins
The committee met twice during the year and is progressing slowly.

Approval of New Members – Chad Switzer
Ron Schauer moved to accept the list of new members as presented, second by unknown. Motion passed.

President Smith called for other old business, and there being none, proceeded to new business.

New Business

CMPS Section Representative Report – Tom Ryder
Ryder encouraged membership in TWS and reviewed the Council's membership campaign, including the poster contest. He also called upon the membership to fill the Chapter History Committee, comparing it to the TWS effort to interview older members, called Celebrate Our Wildlife Conservation Heritage. He announced the next TWS Conference to be held in Calgary on Sept. 18-22, 2004. Clait Braun was serving as editor of the 6th edition of the Wildlife Techniques Manual, due out in the fall of 2004. The TWS website provided a registry of certified wildlife biologists. The first Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award had been approved. Jerry Kobriger was reviewing old TWS resolutions and making recommendations for resolutions needing to be updated. Two new resolutions were being considered: 1) the baiting of deer for hunter take and 2) provisions of critical habitat in the ESA. The Working Group for a Steady-State Economy was also proposing a contentious resolution. Due to the level of disagreement from within the Council, the Council agreed to table the proposed resolution until their next meeting and seek feedback from state chapters and sections. The priorities for Policy Director Tom Franklin were reviewed, with Arctic NWR, National Forest Planning, and Teaming With Wildlife as top priorities. The 4th International Conference in New Zealand drew a huge turn-out. The TWS journals would soon be going to an electronic version of the submittal and publishing process. Finally, Ryder reviewed the TWS Endowment Fund and the current effort to solicit contributions from chapters and members in order to attain the goal of using the Fund as an alternative funding source for TWS.

Past-Presidents Group – Casey Kruse
Kruse reported that the group would serve to 1) help recruit officers; 2) be a resource for incoming officers, providing a historical perspective; and 3) allow the group to be recognized annually during the banquet (an incentive to serve as president). The Executive Board will make a final decision during their meetings based on the positive comments made by the membership.

Phone/E-mail Tree – Kurt Forman
Forman proposed the formation of a method for contacting the membership that would be more expeditious than mail. The tree would allow SDTWS to inform the membership about potential legislation, but allow each chapter member to contact their representative as an individual, rather than as a member of SDTWS. The pros and cons of phone and e-mail trees were discussed. The Executive Board agreed to add the tree concept to their agenda to work out the details.

Resolution to Support Wilderness Designation – Dan Hubbard, Paul Coughlin
Coughlin reported that the FS was supportive of the designation and explained the details of the designation process and regulations within the designated area. Coughlin also provided background information about how the Governor had taken a negative stance on wilderness areas following a DOA letter that was written for the Governor. Therefore, part of the impetus to write the resolution was to try to sway the Governor's stance. Rich Madsen suggested adding a cover letter to make the additional points covered in the discussion clear. Ken Higgins moved to accept the resolution as written, second by Bruce Vander Lee. Motion passed.

2005 Annual Meeting
Two options were discussed: A meeting in western SD (Spearfish, SD) or a second centrally located meeting (Chamberlain, SD). The pros and cons of both options were considered. Ultimately, the membership agreed to let the Executive Board make the decision based on the comments made at the annual meeting.

TWS Endowment Fund
Dan Hubbard made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the TWS Endowment Fund, second by Mary Clawson. A discussion of alternative funding strategies ensued. Following the discussion, the motion was carried with none opposed.

Transfer of Gavel
Smith transferred the gavel to president-elect Griffin. Griffin presented Smith with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the chapter over the past year.

Jennifer Briggs moved to adjourn, second by Colleen Kolbeck. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, Secretary/Treasurer