

**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – March 8, 2005
Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center, Oacoma, SD**

Chapter President Steve Griffin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. President Griffin recognized a quorum was present and recognized Casey Kruse as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Bridgette Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting. George Vandel moved the minutes be approved as presented; second by Art Smith. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the Chapter's 2004 annual financial report. Denny Mann moved to approve the report as presented; second by John Kanta. Motion passed.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections – Will Morlock

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

President-elect: Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, Diane Mann-Klager, Chad Switzer

Secretary/Treasurer: Art Smith, Steve Spawn

Board Member: Kent C. (KC) Jensen, Greg Wolbrink

Morlock called for nominations from the floor. With no further nominations, Rich Madson moved to cease nominations; second by Laura Hubers. Motion passed & the election was conducted. A tie between Secretary/Treasurer candidates was broke using the votes of the board members. George Vandel moved to accept the candidates & destroy the ballots, second by Eddie Childers. Election results were presented at the completion of Old Business.

President-elect: Bridgette Flanders-Wanner

Secretary/Treasurer: Art Smith

Board Member: Kent C. (KC) Jensen

Audit Committee – Art Smith

Smith reported that the Chapter's 2004 financial books were in order. Diane Mann-Klager motioned to approve the report; second by Tom Kirschenmann. Motion passed.

Awards Committee – Steve Griffin for Mike Lees

Two nominations were received for the Professional Award and 1 nomination for the Citizen's Award. 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. Three student awards will be presented: 1 2005 PhD Award, 1 2005 MS Award, and 1 2004 MS Award.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

Coughlin described the formation of the South Dakota Conservation Alliance in response to a 2004 effort in the state legislation to limit conservation easements. The intention of the SDCA is to proactively address introduced legislation that may negatively impact the future of conservation in SD. SDCA members include SDTWS, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, the Wildlife Federation, the Isaac Walton League of America, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Northern Prairie Land Trust, Wild Turkey Federation, & SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation. Charter members provided \$7500 in start-up funds, including a \$1000 donation from SDTWS. In the past year, SDCA mailed informational packets on easements to all legislators prior to legislation & helped sponsor "Outdoor Enthusiast Day" at the state capitol. Coughlin reported a new effort in the Black Hills to purchase conservation easements along the Hwy. 79 corridor from Rapid City south to protect the viewshed.

Membership Committee – Chad Switzer

Switzer reported that 39 invitational letters were sent out to organizations and individuals prior to the meeting.

Program Committee – Will Morlock

Morlock thanked Chad Switzer, Matt Morlock, Carl Madsen, & others for their assistance with program content. The program theme, Wildlife, Politics, & the Media, was chosen due to the challenges wildlife professionals face when dealing with politics and the media. Speakers were chosen from outside agencies whenever possible. Morlock thanked professors, students, & professional for presenting.

Resolutions Committee – Dan Hubbard

No resolutions received. Resolutions need sponsorship from 2 members to be submitted for consideration by the chapter.

Arrangements Committee – Steve Griffin & Cliff Stone

Griffin reported that Cedar Shore was chosen due to its central location & ease of organizing a meeting in a familiar setting. Cliff Stone acquired the services of Maynard Jensen as auctioneer for the SDTWS annual auction & fundraiser.

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

Lindbloom reported that a suggestion had been made for SDTWS to draft a resolution regarding commercialization of wildlife, spurred by the NDTWS draft position statement on the topic. Topics covered in the ND draft included law enforcement, commercialization, wildlife & nature-based tourism, fee hunting & fishing (including guides & outfitters), hunting & fishing contests, allocation of lottery licenses, game farms & shooting preserves. Carl Madsen commented that SDTWS already had a position statement related to the topic. Steve Griffin suggested it would be best to submit a draft early so that it could be printed in 2 newsletters.

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

Senator Tim Johnson has been a national leader on Teaming with Wildlife, the legislative campaign to secure a longterm, national funding source for underfunded species. Current emphasis is placed on State & Tribal Wildlife Grants. Federal funding for 2005 was \$62 million for State Wildlife Grants & \$6 million for Tribal Wildlife Grants. Finding a nonfederal match for the grants is a challenge for many states. A draft of South Dakota's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Plan will be available for comment spring 2005

Nongame and Endangered Species Committee – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

1,000 people attended the 13th Annual Bald Eagle Awareness Days in Rapid City. The Birding Guide for Southeastern South Dakota (the 2nd of four planned guides) is currently being printed and will be available through SD Office of Tourism or Southeast SD Tourism Association. Dowd-Stukel thanked the chapter for their monetary support of both of these endeavors. SDTWS was a non-monetary sponsor of the symposium, "Managing prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets in the Conata Basin, SD", held Feb. 26-27 in Rapid City. *Black-footed ferret*. SD provides habitat for 60% of wild ferrets. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe had 40-50 ferrets in the fall of 2004 and 210 were counted this winter in Conata Basin. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe released 67 animals in 2004.

Black-tailed prairie dog (federal candidate sp.): In Aug 2004, the USFWS ruled not warranted for listing under ESA, but continues to monitor the species. SD legislature approved the SD Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation & Management Plan & sent it to the Governor for approval. The legislature passed & sent a bill to the Governor that would define when prairie dogs are considered pests. *Topeka shiner*: The USFWS ES Office in Pierre facilitated the exclusion of SD from the USFWS's Aug 2004 critical habitat designation. SDGFP is currently using a State Wildlife Grant to monitor the species. Kansas ES Office will be conducting a 5-year status review. *Greater Sage-Grouse (federal candidate sp.)*: The USFWS ruled the species was not warranted for listing under the ESA in Jan. 2005. *Missouri River Spp.*: SDGFP, USFWS, and USACE implemented a 5-year Memorandum of Agreement for management of the least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, & bald eagle. The USFWS 2003 Biological Opinion is being implemented by the USACE.

Fund-raising Committee – Tom Kirschenmann

Kirschenmann thanked DU, PF, Cabela's, UAP Timberland, RMEF, & members who donated items. He also thanked George Vandell, Carl Madsen, & other participants in the raffle & auction. The live auction & muzzleloader raffle brought \$2900 & \$455, respectively.

Grassland Issues – Boyd Schulz

Schulz reported that comments were provided in support of a land exchange on Indian Creek for comparable land that would consolidate a larger grassland block. The 2007 Farm Bill may provide an opportunity to address the issue of sod-busting by adding an amendment that denies commodity payments to farmers who bust sod. In the past 3 years, rough data from the FSA estimates 60,000 acres are converted per year. DU, SDGFP, & USFWS are developing a risk assessment model for the Prairie Coteau of ND & SD. Preliminary data shows a 12% loss of native grass in the Prairie Coteau in the past 20 years. Schulz also thanked the efforts of SDGFP & PF in enrolling 44,000 acres of CRP in 2004. In 2007, approximately 800,000 acres of CRP in SD will expire.

Newsletter Committee – Steve Griffin for Greg Pavelka

SDTWS experienced cost savings after changing to Harold's Printing of Brookings, facilitated by our previous printer, Reynold's Printing. At the February printing of the newsletter, 83 of our 201 members were signed up to receive the e-mail version of the newsletter. Griffin assured that the e-mail list serve in development will only be a one-way list-serve & not conversational.

Public Land Management Committee – Dennis Mann

Mann provided comments on one land exchange on the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands. School & Public Lands purchased 5,035 acres bordering the Cheyenne River. All 820,000 acres owned by School & Public Lands was digitized in 2004 & is available via SDGFP.

Tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee – Diane Mann-Klager

Mann-Klager reported that 4 SD Tribes received Wildlife Grants in 2004. Those 4 tribes competed against 563 Tribes for \$6 million in Tribal Wildlife Grants, which accounts for 10% of the DOI budget for wildlife grants. Tribes also utilize the Landowner Incentive Program, of which 10% is set aside for tribes. Mann-Klager clarified the Tribes use of civil jurisdiction – those caught breaking a hunting or fishing law on tribal land are civilly liable for the crime and can be held accountable for failure to pay in tribal court under the Lacey Act. To ensure this does not impede collaboration with the tribes, the USFWS sent letters to all their law enforcement officers informing them about civil jurisdiction. Mann-Klager reported on a controversial amendment in the ND legislation, supported by NDTWS, which would require tribes to follow ND bag limits & regulations. Mann-Klager indicated that the amendment failed to recognize tribal hunting laws and was a breach of tribal sovereignty. Mann-Klager also reported that there was a movement to reenact the Native American Fish & Wildlife Act, which would first mandate integrated wildlife management plans.

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

SDSU Student Chapter Report – Brian Baskerville

Baskerville reported that the club split into the Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation Club and the Fisheries Conservation Club, which consists of mostly fisheries graduate students. The student chapter collaborates with the USFWS, maintaining the wood duck boxes and exchanging ideas on how to remove dead & down fuels at Conservation Park. The chapter administered FFA testing for SD and southwest MN. The chapter was invited to attend a wildlife conclave at the University of Minnesota and will be participating in the wildlife quiz bowl there. The chapter has a Raccoon committee and will also be implementing a Save Our Streams committee.

President Griffin called for other old business. A comment from the floor suggested that committee chairs might provide more reports if the board and newsletter editor kept the committee chairs informed on newsletter deadlines. A suggestion was made to put the old resolution on fee-hunting in the upcoming newsletter to draw discussion. Griffin commented that drilling in Arctic NWR continues to be an issue and assured that the board will keep an eye on the issue and does send out letters to legislators regarding the issue.

New Business

CMPS Section Representative Report – Art Smith for Tom Ryder

Smith estimated that 10% of SDTWS members were CMPS members by show of hands. Smith reported that Steve Riley, President of CMPS, wanted to address the need for more members, which was exacerbated by CMPS's inability to recognize a quorum. Thus, CMPS developed a new proposal whereby CMPS dues would be reduced from \$5 to \$1. The \$1 would be added to state chapter dues, allowing all state members to become an automatic member of CMPS. The reduced membership fees would be made up in additional members & cost savings of an electronic newsletter. Suggestions from the floor called for better representation of CMPS to state chapters, use of other methods besides the CMPS annual meeting & newsletter to gain visibility, & grants for elected officers to travel to CMPS meetings. Ken Higgins suggested tying a workshop to the meeting to provide justification for paid travel to CMPS meetings. Smith reviewed issues that are applicable to all states in the CMPS region, including prairie dogs, sage grouse, & chronic wasting disease. George Vandel suggested that SDTWS pay the \$1 member fee for all state members. Smith asked for a show of hands in support of the CMPS proposal & offered to report to CMPS that the majority of SDTWS members supported it.

Wind Power in South Dakota – Alyssa Kiesow with Jill Shaffer

Kiesow provided a status report on wind power in SD and its potential impacts on wildlife: 27 turbines are currently located on 2700 acres south of Highmore, SD. There are 18 proposed sites of 8-22 turbines, of which 1 proposed site in Hyde & Jerauld Counties would be the largest in the world. The turbine sites exacerbate the 70% decline in mixed grass prairie in SD through habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation. Kiesow reported declines in grassland birds as indicated by BBS, avoidance of tall structures by prairie chickens in Kansas, & fatality rates of bats, raptors, & other birds due to wind turbines. USGS is currently conducting a pre- and post-turbine study to determine which species will be most affected. Siting guidelines for wind power projects in SD are available through SDGFP. A bill (SB17) that would require siting permits for wind farms =100 MW (~66 turbines) is awaiting the Governor's approval. Landowner incentives for wind turbines are high (\$2000-\$6000/turbine/year). The speed of wind power development is dependent on the Production Tax Credit, which is an annual appropriation. Ken Higgins commented that because it is difficult to oppose "green energy", minimally a surcharge should be placed on wind energy to support wildlife research and state programs. Pete Bauman asked for suggestions from the floor on recommendations for siting of wind turbines and transmission lines. Dan Hubbard made a motion to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to deal with wind power issues, second by Diane Mann-Klager. Motion passed.

Approval of New Members – Chad Switzer

George Vandel motioned to accept the 29 new members, second by Denny Mann. Motion passed.

2005 Annual Meeting

Cara Staab offered to assist with a west river meeting if so desired. The final decision on location was left up to the board.

Additional New Business

Thomas LeFaive requested the Public Land Management committee be merged with private lands as a proactive step to prepare for the Title 6 Private Lands projects that are coming. Griffin charged the executive board to take care of the request, since the Public Land Management committee was not a core committee and would not require a vote from the membership.

Transfer of Gavel

Griffin transferred the gavel to president-elect Will Morlock. Morlock presented Griffin with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the chapter over the past year.

George Vandel moved to adjourn, second by Laura Hubers. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, Secretary/Treasurer