

## South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – March 6, 2007 Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center, Oacoma, SD

Chapter President Bridgette Flanders-Wanner called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. President Flanders-Wanner recognized a quorum was present and recognized Ron Schauer as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Art Smith presented the minutes of the 2006 annual meeting. Mary Clawson moved the minutes be approved as presented; second by Larry Martin. Motion passed. Smith presented the Chapter's 2006 annual financial report. Corey Huxoll moved to approve the report as presented; second by Ron Fowler. Motion passed.

### Old Business

#### Review of 2007 Committee Changes/Updates

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner summarized the changes in committees undergone in the last year. She thanked the old and new Chairs for work on a questionnaire on goals, needs, and desires. There were overwhelming responses which varied across committees. Several committees were eliminated (example: Resource Activism) but before they were eliminated the Board went to the existing Chair. Wetlands and Waterbirds was also eliminated, it had lost its momentum as no reports had been received in several years. Two committees were combined (Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding, Non-Game and Endangered Species), the Grasslands and Public and Private Lands committees were reconfigured due to their overlap and now have 3 chairs. One new committee was developed, Energy, with 2 subcommittees (Biofuels and Windpower). The desire for committee formations should come from the general membership.

### Committee Reports

#### Nominations and Elections – Kurt Forman

The list of candidates were:

- President-elect: KC Jensen (uncontested)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Art Smith (uncontested)
- Board Member: Chad Switzer (uncontested)

A call for nominations from the floor was requested. With no further nominations, George Vandel moved to cease nominations; second by Bill Smith. Motion passed & the election was conducted. George Vandel moved to accept the candidates & destroy the ballots, second by Dennie Mann. Election results were presented at the completion of Old Business.

- President-elect: KC Jensen
- Secretary/Treasurer: Art Smith
- Board Member: Chad Switzer

#### Audit – Will Morlock

Will Morlock reported that the Chapter's 2006 financial books were in order. He suggested to the Board that the books should be examined in a more rigorous manner than has been done in the past due to the increasing assets of the Chapter. ?? motioned to approve the report; second by ???. Motion passed.

#### Awards – Nora Kohlenburg (presented by Silka Kempema)

One nomination was received for the Citizen's award, four for the Professional award. These awards recipients will be forwarded to the CMPS Section for their awards competition. A special recognition award was also given this year. 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. The MS student award nominations were received and will be presented.

#### Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

This committee was not tasked with anything specific this past year from the Board or Chapter members. The purpose of this Committee is to review state & federal actions associated with EIS and NEPA actions. Over time these types of review fell under other existing committees.

#### Education and Information – Laura Hubers

This Committee is currently looking for assistance to develop a centralized list of the many educational and outreach programs available in the state. Examples were given. Waubay NWR is hosting the Jr. Duck Stamp program this year. Committee asked any K-12 teachers and students interested in entering the contest to contact Laura Hubers.

#### Membership – Chad Switzer

Chad Switzer reported that 35 invitational letters were sent out to organizations and individuals prior to the meeting. Two new life members were gained in 2006 (Cara Staab and Andy Gabbert). Two other life members will be recognized later in the evening. At this meeting 150 had registered and 37 new members were gained.

#### Program – Kurt Forman

Kurt Forman thanked all those who helped with program content. This conference has the biggest registration in recent memory, mainly due to the presentations and Terry Grosz.

#### Resolutions – Dan Hubbard

No resolutions received. Resolutions need sponsorship from 2 members to be submitted for consideration by the chapter. Several ads were run in the newsletter with no response. Hubbard suggested Committee Chairs submit resolutions. Formatting will be taken care of by the Resolutions Committee.

#### Arrangements – Will Morlock & Cliff Stone

Will Morlock reported that coming back to Cedar Shore makes it easy and smooth and the auction was excellent. He also thanked the sponsors for their help. Cliff Stone acquired the services of Jensen/Houska as auctioneer for the SDTWS annual auction & fundraiser.

#### Book Service – Bob Klaver

No report. Bridgette Flanders-Wanner summarized her discussions with Bob Klaver on the need for this committee.

#### Certification – Vacant

No report.

#### Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

This Committee is still planning on getting together with former Committee Chair, Ron Fowler. The Committee had developed a purpose statement which was read to the group.

#### Windpower – KC Jensen, Silka Kempema

A written report was submitted. Highlights of the report were reporting the state has a wind resource that is being targeted for energy development. The end of the year production of wind power energy in SD in 2006 was 44 MW. In 2002 there was only 3 MW being produced in SD. There are 28 potential new wind power project locations in the state. The area north of I-90 and west of Hwy 81 in eastern Hyde, Hand, Buffalo, and Jerauld counties and McPherson and Edmunds counties are the most realistic areas for development in the next 2-3 years. The Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority to provide siting guidelines for projects > 100 MW. During the 2007 SD legislative session there were efforts to increase wind production in the state. In 2004 SDGFP and the SD Bat Working Group developed voluntary wind turbine siting guidelines.

#### Bio-fuels – Art Smith

Art Smith briefly discussed national TWS biofuels work. This is a new Committee and no other report was submitted.

#### Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

This Committee developed a letter for the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands guiding on grasslands. The Committee's suggestion was to recognize the best interest of wildlife and public access. The idea of privatization of wildlife was also discussed, with no change by the Board.

#### Fund-raising – Tom Kirschenmann

Kirschenmann thanked DU, PF, UAP Timberland, NWTF, RMEF, Terry Grosz, Truax, & members who donated items. He also thanked members who participated in the raffle & auction. The live auction and raffle brought about \$2,500.

#### Grasslands – Boyd Schulz

Two private grasslands issues, Sodsavers and CRP/Farm Bill were mentioned. The potential grassland losses could be huge, the Committee will work on the 2008 Farm Bill.

#### Missouri River Issues – Cliff Stone

This is a new Committee with no activity to report on. Preliminary short-term goals of the Committee were to get up to speed on current MO river issues, evaluate some existing river issues and provide recommendations to the Board, develop long-term goals, and coordinate T&E species issues with the Wildlife Diversity group.

#### Newsletter – Greg Pavelka

No report.

#### Wetlands – Pete Bergman

Two items were mentioned: SD272 wetlands loan act, which will increase the purchase of wetlands, property acquisition, and conservation easements and restorations; and the National Wetlands Inventory (thunderstorm maps). There are problems using outdated data, which may be a critical problem in the future.

#### Wildlife Disease – Teresa Zimmerman

Report on CWD was 2,500 cervids were tested with 3 elk & 7 deer were found positive, all from the southwest corner of the state. Avian Influenza tested 837 game birds and 186 non-game birds, none were found positive. Salt toxicity killed 1,000 snow geese in Codington County.

### Wildlife Diversity – Silka Kempema and Eileen Dowd Stukel

A written report was produced with the assistance of Scott Larson. Report included discussion on black-footed ferrets, wolves, bald eagle, black-tailed prairie dogs, swift fox, Bald Eagle Awareness Days, Great Lakes of South Dakota Birding Trails, and Wildlife Diversity Funding and Teaming With Wildlife.

A brief summary was then given on committee formations. New committees need to be created as ad hoc committees, then after 2-3 years turn into special committees.

### **Other Committee Reports**

#### CMPS Report – Tom Ryder

Tom Ryder reported that the SD Chapter is performing very well in the Central Section in TWS and is recognized as a leader. The Chapter is going in the right direction. He then provided an overview of TWS hierarchy. He then went on to summarize the last year of Council's work (publications changes, trying to make TWS more relevant and accessible to members, JWM backlog, WSB integration into JWM, the Wildlife Professional). Laura Bies is working steadily on many issues. A position statement on energy development in the Section and a public trust doctrine issue is being developed into a position statement. A wind energy technical review draft was created and being reviewed by Council, and a biofuels technical review is also being made. He then covered the change in the Section where a Canadian Section will be developed, taking 2 provinces away from the CMPS. The TWS meeting will be in Tucson, AZ, 23-27 Sept., 2007.

#### Northern Great Plains Working Group – Chad Switzer

A written report was submitted. That report included thanking the Board for becoming a member of the group. A list of issues the group looked over in the past year included habitat restoration and protection, the Wetlands Loan Act, ethanol and other biofuels, Sodsaver, and Farm Bill. A letter was distributed to the audience that had speaking points regarding Farm Bill/CRP importance to be delivered to SD delegates. Bill Smith, Chad Switzer, and Carl Madsen contributed heavily to this product.

#### Website – Charlie Bessken

An on-line presentation of the site was given to the audience.

#### SDSU Student Chapter Report – Kelly Heitkamp

Kelly Heitkamp thanked the Chapter for the travel support for the Anchorage TWS meeting, and indicated fundraising for Tucson had already been started. Chapter activities were reported on. Activities included: 57<sup>th</sup> annual Buffalo Banquet, Waubay 1-2-3, Earthday at the Great Plains Zoo, National Ag day, Conservation Park clean-up, Swiftel Center event clean-up crew, storm spotting classes, gun raffle, camping trips, wings night. Future fall activities are: the 59<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Banquet (10/26/07), ice fishing, and Tucson TWS conference.

President Bridgette Flanders-Wanner called for other old business, none were brought forward.

### **New Business**

#### Approval of New Members – Chad Switzer

The new members were read. Dennie Mann motioned to accept the new members, second by Tom Kirschenmann. Motion passed.

#### 2008 Annual Meeting Location

No new locations were suggested. Eddie Childers asked about costs at other venues. Tom Kirschenmann indicated the Board is looking at potential alternative sites.

#### Additional New Business

• Carl Madsen noted that SDTWS is not a member of the SD Resources Coalition, and made a motion for the Chapter to join. Dan Hubbard seconded. Motion passed.

#### Transfer of Gavel

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner transferred the gavel to president-elect Kurt Forman. Kurt Forman then presented Bridgette Flanders-Wanner with a plaque and thanked her for her service to the chapter over the past year, especially on the committee restructuring and review. Kurt Forman then summarized the accomplishments over the past year. Bridgette Flanders-Wanner thanked all for their support over the past year.

Steve Griffin moved to adjourn, second by Larry Martin. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Art Smith, Secretary/Treasurer