

**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – February 22, 2009**  
**Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center, Oacoma, SD**

Chapter President KC Jensen called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. President Jensen recognized a quorum was present and recognized Ron Schauer as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Art Smith presented the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting. Three typos were noted and corrected. Dan Hubbard motioned to accept the report, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner seconded. No discussion, motion passed. Smith presented the Chapter's 2008 annual financial report. Corey Huxoll motioned to accept the report, Dan Hubbard seconded. No discussion, motion passed.

Section Update – Gary White

White summarized current work the Section including a strategic plan with Bob Lanka's leadership. By-laws are again being re-written. White then went on to cover parent TWS activities with a slide show. Launching of The Wildlife Professional, new Canadian Section, were some of many accomplishments. The Strategic Plan process was another major area of activity. Web support for sub-units has been enhanced and parent TWS support is getting better. A partnership with Johns Hopkins University Press has been established to do cooperative book publishing easier than what's been done in the past. The place for hunting emphasis in TWS and the recent controversy between TWS and the SE Section was briefly covered. A new MOU with USFWS and TWS has been signed that hopefully should let cooperative ventures continue between the 2 entities. TWS assisted USGS with the development of a climate change center; TWS also partnered with USGS and USFWS to develop a phenology program. A certification program for wildlife technicians is also new.

Future efforts include making The Wildlife Professional more appealing to state biologists, unified memberships so that all TWS members receive services from the parent society, maintaining WSB content in the new JWM, making the annual meeting more accessible to membership, and improving outreach to student chapters.

**Old Business**

**Committee Reports**

Nominations and Elections – Dennie Mann

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

President-elect: Chad Switzer (uncontested)

Board Member: John Wrede, John Kanta

Secretary/Treasurer: Corey Huxoll, Nora Kohlenberg

Each candidate gave brief comments on their background and goals for office. Mann called for nominations from the floor. The election was conducted. Jensen moved to accept the candidates & destroy the ballots, second by Doug Alvine. Election results were presented at the completion of Old Business.

President-elect: Chad Switzer

Board Member: John Kanta

Secretary/Treasurer: Nora Kohlenberg

Jensen thanked all for running for candidacy.

MO River Issues – Cliff Stone

Not a lot of activity since last year's meeting. Currently MO river states and tribes continue to monitor and lobby for a better river management program. Tribes were becoming disassociated with the group but appear to be participating again. Quite a few groups are associated with different management issues on the Missouri River.

Title VI is generally complete at this point, USACOE lands have been transferred to SD GFP with signing and grazing leases on those lands as the main work for now.

Audit – Jensen (for Forman)

Examination of the checkbook did not find any discrepancies.

Awards – Kohlenberg

Five total nominations for citizens (2) and professional (3), will be presented tonight. Student and open presentation awards were again procured as was one for president. MS and PhD awards will also be presented tonight. Email and newsletter notification of awards was again used and hoped to continue its use in the future. Solicitation for awards was started earlier this year because of the earlier date for the annual meeting. The process went smoothly and will be used again next year.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

No report.

Education and Information –

No report.

Membership – Switzer

Read list of new 27 members. 2 life members gained, 1 will be officially recognized tonight.

Program – Jensen (For Mann)

Thanked all speakers and attendees for coming to the meeting.

Resolutions – Dan Hubbard

No resolutions received.

Arrangements – Jensen (for Forman)

6<sup>th</sup> year at Cedar Shore, makes arrangements easy. This is nice in that it takes little time to do what's needed, but stagnation may be a concern. Will address this in New Business.

Book Service – Bob Klaver

No report.

Certification – Susan Rupp

Parent TWS office have AWB and CWB approved for trademark so anyone using these can use certified registration mark. Rupp summarized wildlife technician certification program. TWS has entered into an agreement with NRCS to recognize CWBs when working with private citizens. Have had 2 students apply for AWB this past year. Rupp does have certification packets and will give them to anyone who asks, and is also willing to travel to present certification materials if requested. On-line accessible forms for certifications are available at TWS website.

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

Went through several archived and donated boxes of past accumulated records. The documents were scanned which makes them much more accessible and has them on disk. One request for historical information was asked for this past year by someone from the parent organization, which was then provided.

Wind Power –Silka Kempema

Current wind energy projects in the state were summarized. SD Wind Energy Association was just developed to support the development of wind energy as a sustainable economic and environmentally friendly resource for the state. Lack of transmission lines is still an issue in the state, but a new proposal has been submitted by a commercial company. Summarized recent work by the SD Tower Working Group, under the SD PUC office, which developed siting recommendations for towers. Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee and American Wind Wildlife Institute groups' work was presented.

Question about vertical wind towers was asked and the potential for them to replace tri-bladed towers, no further info was known.

Question on the future of how many wind farms could be in the state; currently there are 4. There is a lot of interest with the limit being transmission. New lines would certainly reduce that limit.

Bio-fuels – Rupp

Not a lot of activity with this committee in the last year. Trying to get a hold of Tim McCoy, who is heading up parent TWS and AFWA biofuels groups. These groups are readying materials for North American tech reviews. Rupp would like to get more people actively involved in this group as the future will have a lot of needs in the future.

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

Nothing to report.

Fund Raising – Flanders-Wanner.

1<sup>st</sup> year as Chair, Flanders-Wanner thanked former chair's Tom Kirschenmann and Tony Leif, folks for bringing items for auction, Truax, Crop Production Services, Carl Madsen, DU, PF, NWTF, and the rest of her committee. Total proceeds \$2,330 in auction with \$500 going to Tony's Acres, Guessing Games brought in \$191. The rifle raffle that is still on-going.

### Grasslands – Bill Smith (for Boyd Schultz)

Last year lost 23,000 acres of CRP; this year 236,000 acres are expected to be lost. Larger tracts of land enrolling in CRP will be limited. The 2008 Farm Bill did have a watered down SodSaver, but at least that was still in it. Interest in easements continues to be high, but payments will be problematic.

### Newsletter – Charlie Bessken

Comments or topics were requested for both the newsletter and website. Request to let Board or her to know of email changes.

### Public Lands – Mann

Three projects to comment on this past year, which is slightly down from usual. Ft. Pierre Grasslands roads/access comment was provided with appropriate signing, allow access, but restrict damage. Fall River District management allotment plans were commented on. South Unit of Badlands National Park will be an issue that will be coming up.

### Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Diane Mann-Klager

No report.

### Wetlands – Pete Bergman

Written report in newsletter. Wetlands Loan Act died in committee last year, probably will not come back. Clean Water amendment was heard in committee but no action. 2010 will be next status and trends report for USFWS. Mapping for that project has already begun.

### Wildlife Disease – Kanta (for Steve Griffin)

There were 2,147 CWD samples taken last state fiscal year (elk & deer). All results are in; 10 elk, 8 WTD, and 12 mule deer found positive. 107 cases of CWD now found in free ranging animals in SD. Plague started in Lower Sage Creek this past year. Estimated size of area initially infected was 3,000 acres. Dusting of colonies and ferret vaccines were used. There were 239 ferrets captured and most given the vaccine. EHD was more prevalent this past year than past recent years. Scattered reports across state, not known if EHD was always responsible for their deaths. An estimated 1,650 deer in western SD were thought to have died due to EHD. HPAI testing continued, with 821 samples collected by SD GFP. H5 N1 still not found in state.

### Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

Six issues – p-dog 90 day finding, USFWS issued a positive finding and is undergoing a 12 month review of current information and will have that out in December 2009. Grey wolf delisting changes almost daily. New DC administration put any listing processes on hold so surrounding wolf populations have been again placed under federal protection. Greater sage grouse prior ruling was no listing was correct, but challenge took several sage grouse to be protected and this is one of them. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Lakes Birding Trail guide is now available. Chapter support has been provided for this and previous guides. Bald Eagle Awareness program will be later this month mostly in and around Pierre. Last year 750 people (estimated) in Sioux Falls and Pierre programs were reached. Teaming With Wildlife act (supported by Sen. Johnson) could send \$3.4 million needing a 25% non-federal match to SD. This act would fall under Pittman-Robertson as a sub-account. TWW currently numbers 177 coalition members (groups).

### **Other Reports**

#### SDSU Student Chapter Report – Mike Sellers

Thanked Chapter for travel support to Miami; 3 students attended and hoped for some to go to Monterey. Other activities included administering FAA exams, hosed 60<sup>th</sup> annual Buffalo Banquet, will have 61<sup>st</sup> this year, monitoring wild turkeys released by SD GFP, and an urban raccoon telemetry study.

Kurt Forman then opened the floor up for other discussions.

#### Northern Great Plains Working Group – Switzer

Group provided comments on Farm Bill, Senate budget hearing on Farm Bill, signed-off on numerous letters sent off on SodSaver provisions and on Farm Bill in general.

Brief comments about the Tony Dean Memorial Acres was given.

## **New Business**

### Approval of New Members

Larry Martin motioned to accept the previously read new members, Carl Madsen seconded. Motion carried.

### Meeting Sites/Dates for the 2010 Annual Meeting

General discussion of reasons for holding meeting in the central part of the state. No reasons were stated to move out of the area so 2010 conference will remain in the central area of the state, probably Oacoma. Date change from SDSU spring break was done this year but no great increase in students was noted. This date directly conflicts with Fisheries group but there are limited conflicts between these groups. Thought was perhaps not enough information is known to find out which dates would get the most students. College professors had some issues with finding replacement instructors. Point was made conflict with AFS should be avoided. Board will discuss the dates and look for no overlap but meeting will be held in the same general time frame – late February to early March.

### Additional New Business

Jensen asked for any additional topics, none were requested.

### Transfer of Gavel

Jensen transferred the "gavel" to president-elect Mann. Mann presented Jensen with a plaque and past-president's pin and thanked him for his service to the chapter over the past year.

Flanders-Wanner moved to adjourn, second by Rupp. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Art Smith, Secretary/Treasurer