

## South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – March 2, 2010 Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center, Oacoma, SD

Chapter President Dennie Mann called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. President Mann recognized a quorum was present and recognized Ron Schauer as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Nora Kohlenberg presented the minutes of the 2009 annual meeting. Five typos were noted and corrected. Mary Clawson motioned to accept the report, KC Jensen seconded. No discussion, motion passed. Kohlenberg presented the Chapter's 2009 annual financial report. John Kanta motioned to accept the report, Lori Jennings seconded. No discussion, motion passed.

### National Update – Gary White

White summarized current work by the National Chapter. National membership is up by 18.2%. Highlights included a new strategic plan, expanding partnerships, a new membership roster on the internet, and a new book series contracted with Johns Hopkins University Press. TWS is getting into the social networks including Facebook, Twitter, List Serve and blogging. TWS is working on student outreach and has hired a liaison to work with Native American students. There are still some issues with federal participation in TWS and the solution may be legislative. There has been some concern over the Bylaw change regarding the requirement of AWBs and CWBs to be a member of National in order to keep certification. There is also a new Professional Member category to try to get students interested in a national membership and is more affordable. Up coming Council actions were briefly discussed, this includes a technical review on controlled burning, restarts Wildlife Society Bulletin electronically, and a pilot program to get TWS into high school. White also mentioned the 2010 Annual TWS Conference in Snowbird, Utah, will be October 2-6, 2010. He also encouraged members to participate in the COWCH program, which involves interviewing retired wildlife professionals.

## Old Business

### Committee Reports

#### Nominations and Elections – Chad Switzer

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

President-elect: Rocco Murano (uncontested)

Board Member: Silka Kempema, Robert Klaver, Jason Tronbak

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

President-elect: Rocco Murano

Board Member: Silka Kempema

Switzer thanked all for running for candidacy.

#### Audit – Switzer

Examination of the checkbook did not find any discrepancies.

#### Awards – Kohlenberg

Three total nominations were received, one nomination for citizens and two nominations for professional. Award will be presented tonight. Student and open presentation awards were again procured as was one for outgoing chapter president. Two MS awards will also be presented tonight.

#### Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

Not tasked by Executive Board. Encouraged input by membership to approach the committee.

#### Education and Information – Laura Hubers

No report.

#### Membership – Kohlenberg

Read list of new 51 members. 3 life members gained, 1 will be officially recognized tonight.

#### Program – Switzer

Thanked all speakers and attendees for coming to the meeting.

Resolutions – Dan Hubbard

One new resolution for wilderness designation at Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Will vote on under new business.

Arrangements – Jensen

7<sup>th</sup> year at Cedar Shore, makes arrangements easy and successful. Great central location for all traveling.

Book Service – Bob Klaver

Not much activity. Recommended to disband the book committee.

Certification – Susan Rupp

There were two application submitted by students for AWB certification. Also was approached by a couple professionals. Rupp tried to set up certification workshops, but there was a lack of interest. A Technical Certification is being set up. A new webpage was also created for Certification on the state chapter website.

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

No requests.

Wind Power –Silka Kempema

Discussed current sites and new expansions. Provided an update on siting guidelines, it is a long process and is still in the works. The 2-year charter that is in place was extended.

Bio-fuels – Rupp

Rupp is chairing the Biofuels Technical Review Committee for the parent chapter of The Wildlife Society. There are six members of the Technical Committee and are looking for assistance in the Biofuels committee efforts. The goal of the committee is to have a draft of the Technical Review by January 2011.

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

Nothing to report.

Fund Raising – Flanders-Wanner.

Thanked folks for bringing items for auction, Truax, Crop Production Services, Carl Madsen, DU, PF, NWTF, and the rest of her committee. Committee is brainstorming new ideas. Bridgette talked with undergrads for ideas. Didn't have enough items donated to the auction to split into silent and live, so all items were sold on the live auction. Total proceeds \$1,322.50 in auction, Games brought in \$103. The rifle raffle that is still on-going.

Grasslands – Boyd Schultz

CRP had a net loss of approximately 168,000 acres of CRP occurred in 2009. Approximately 148,000 acres will expire on September 30, 2010. SD now has a CREP program designed for a specific geographic region. Initial contracts are being signed and landowner interest seems strong.

Newsletter – Charlie Bessken

Nothing to report.

Public Lands – Mann

Meetings regarding the South Unit of Badlands National Park are in progress with no results yet.

Tribal Fish & Wildlife –

Membership requested to re-chair this committee as there has not been a report since about 2005. A sign-up sheet was passed around for anyone who expressed interest to sign up.

Wetlands – Pete Bergman

Tom Dahl, USFWS, is in SD for meetings. Most of the mapping project for the status and trends report has been completed. Look for the report in the fall.

### Wildlife Disease – Steve Griffin

*Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):* From July 1, 2009 to January 22, 2010 a total of 1,822 samples (384 elk, 462 mule deer, 975 white-tailed deer, and 1 moose) were collected from southwestern South Dakota and the Black Hills of South Dakota. As of January 22, 2010, all results are in, and we have found four CWD positive elk, 13 CWD positive white-tailed deer, and eight CWD positive mule deer. Since testing began in 1997, South Dakota has documented 137 cases of CWD (41 elk and 96 deer) in free ranging deer and elk. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 29 of these animals (21 elk and 8 deer). Custer State Park has found four elk and one deer.

*Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease:* In the fall of 2009, we only had reports of a slight die-off in Butte County. A total of 50-100 deer were estimated to have died due to this disease. No other reports were recorded in South Dakota.

*Avian Influenza:* Starting in August 2009, samples were collected from waterfowl in South Dakota and tested for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1. Most of the sampling was conducted in the East River Regions of South Dakota with Hunting and Capture (banding program) testing the main sample collection tools. SD Game, Fish, and Parks collected a total of 600 samples and additional samples were collected by USDA Wildlife Services. Morbidity and Mortality surveillance was also conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Game Fish and Parks. After this years sampling, we can still report that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 has never been found in South Dakota or in North America since testing has begun.

*Plague:* No update at this time.

### Wildlife Diversity – Silka Kempema

*Black-footed Ferret:* Three groups petitioned for USFWS to designate three reintroduced populations of BFF as endangered, rather than non-essential experimental populations. The populations are located in the Canata Basin in SD, Shirley Basin in WY, and Aubrey Valley in AZ. On December 15, 2009, SDTWS sent a letter in opposition to the proposal based on the fact that the designation change is not biologically necessary and could severely damage and endanger future endangered species efforts.

*Wildlife Diversity Small Grants Funding Opportunity:* GFP Wildlife Diversity Program is accepting proposals for a small grants program. Grants are focused on education and outreach projects.

*SD Teaming with Wildlife Coalition:* There are more than 6,200 organizations and businesses in the US have endorsed TWW. South Dakota's coalition now stands at the 10<sup>th</sup> largest state coalition in the nation. Coalition is a great example of support when dealing with legislative issues or topics.

*Shovelnose Sturgeon proposed for listing:* Service announced that they are considering listing the shovelnose sturgeon as a threatened species under ESA because of the similarity in appearance to federally endangered pallid sturgeon.

*Bald Eagle Awareness Days:* SDTWS is long time supporter of the event. In 2010, the event will be February 25-27 and include presentations and programs at the GFP Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls on February 25 and the Ramkota Inn in Pierre on February 27.

### MO River Issues – Cliff Stone

Report in newsletter. The Army Corps of Engineers has been directed by Congress to conduct a review of the original purposes established by the 1944 Flood Control Act (often referred to as the Master Manual). The goal of this multi-year study is to determine if changes in the eight purposes, established in the Act for operation of the Missouri River Reservoir system, are warranted. The eight purposes are flood control, hydropower, water supply, irrigation, navigation, recreation, water quality and fish and wildlife. Infrastructure operated by both the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation is included in the study. This series of meetings began in November and will run through late-February. They have been well attended by invited participants representing interests such as utilities, agriculture, navigation, development, recreation, Tribes, state and local government, water supply, and fish and wildlife. These focus group meetings are not the formal scoping meetings that will define the size and shape of the study. The SD TWS Missouri River Issues Committee will continue to monitor and report to the chapter on the progress of this effort.

### **Other Reports**

#### SDSU Student Chapter Report – Vincent Koenig

Thanked Chapter for travel support to Monterey; 3 students attended and hoped for some to go to Snow Bird, UT. Other activities included hosting the 61<sup>st</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.

### **New Business**

#### New Resolution for Wilderness Designation

Terry Mayes presented information on proposed Wilderness Designation at Red Shirt, Chalk Hills and Indian Creek. He informed the membership that the plan is in the works to address roads and off road use. If the Wilderness becomes designated, these areas would be treated separately with one road to continue to go through Indian Creek – antiquity for rock hunters to access agate beds. There are

questions regarding how unforeseen issues would be handled, examples given were Black Hills Black Elk Wilderness area and the Mt. Pine Beetle Infestation. Having legislation would tie our hands on management and local managers are more accountable.

#### Approval of New Members

John Kanta motioned to accept the previously read new members, Mary Clawson Seconded. Motion carried.

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

Will avoid conflict with AFS meeting. 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. Plan on meeting at Cedar Shores.

#### **Additional New Business**

##### Resolution for Wilderness Designation

One typo was identified. Dan Hubbard moved to correct the typo, Paul Coughlin seconded. Motion carried.

The designation was voted on by the membership through ballots. The results were to approve the resolution. Corey Huxoll moved to accept the results, Jennifer Briggs seconded. Motion carried.

##### Disband Book Service

Bob Klaver reported that he has not received requests in the years that he has chaired the Book Service Committee. Klaver proposed to disband the Book Service Committee. There were no comments from the floor. The decision will be made by the Executive Board.

##### Transfer of Gavel

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

Ron Schauer moved to adjourn, second by Chuck Dieter. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nora Kohlenberg, Secretary/Treasurer