

Minutes of the January 20, 2011 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (SDTWS), Oacoma

Chad Switzer called the meeting to order at 10:02 am CST at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. Board members in attendance were John Kanta, Silka Kempema, Chad Switzer, Rocco Murano and Nora Kohlenberg.

Kohlenberg presented the minutes of the December 13, 2010, meeting. The meeting minutes were amended. Kempema made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Murano seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Kohlenberg presented the Quarterly Treasurer's report. Murano made a motion to accept the report and Kanta seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Old Business

Brown County Drainage

The Brown County Commission/Drainage Board has been approached by landowners to request changes in tiling restrictions. Kurt Forman drafted a letter to send the Drainage Board expressing concerns about wildlife habitat and other environmental concerns. The Executive Board reviewed the letter and sent it to the Brown County Commission/Drainage Board.

Dakota Grassland Conservation

Switzer attended a Dakota Grassland Conservation Area meeting in Huron. The proposed plan will include working with private land owners to help preserve native prairie in the Prairie Pothole Region.

Tiling Clinic

Murano shared with the board his experience in presenting an anti-tiling talk at the Tiling Clinic held at SDSU. The audience of the clinic was farmers. Murano did not receive any "push back" from the farmers. Other talks by other presenters were more pro-drainage.

Membership and Retention Surveys

Kempema will have surveys put together and have at the Annual Meeting for attendees to fill out. Board continued discussion on how we can get the survey out to people not attending the Annual Meeting and how we can get a good return rate on the surveys.

Elections

Board members are still working on looking for interested individuals to run for offices.

New Business

National TWS Conference Sponsorship

The National TWS requested a sponsorship for the Annual Conference. Board members discussed that we would like to continue to provide more local support by providing funding support for members of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society to attend. Switzer will send response back to TWS office.

2011 Annual Meeting Planning

Agenda: Discussed more possible speakers. The agenda is coming along and filling up.

Auction Items: Board discussed ways to expand the raffle. Some ideas that were discussed were guided fishing trips with George Vandel and John Cooper. The Board also approved purchasing a gun from Carl Madsen for \$500.

Committee Meeting: Board decided to hold the Committee Meeting immediately before the Business Meeting at 8:00 am on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Student Mixer: Kanta is working to get a sponsor for the prizes.

Farm Bill

Switzer will draft a letter and then send out letter for Board Members to review in the next week.

Next Board Meeting

The next Executive Board meeting will be on February 27th at Cedar Shore Resort.

Adjourn

Murano motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kempema at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nora Kohlenberg".

Nora Kohlenberg
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS