

Minutes of the January 5, 2005 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)

President Steve Griffin recognized a quorum & called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Foss Building in Pierre, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Steve Griffin, Diane Mann-Klager, Will Morlock, Laura Hubers, & Bridgette Flanders-Wanner.

Flanders-Wanner presented minutes of the November 2004 board meeting and the quarterly treasurer's report. Smith motioned to accept the minutes and treasurer's report, seconded by Mann-Klager. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Received

- Request letter from Ken Higgins to place notice about his book in the November issue of A Prairie Voice
- Thank you letter from Tom Troxel for sponsorship of the Society of American Foresters Conference in Rapid City
- Notification letter from William Perry, Wall District Ranger, regarding Indian Creek Land Exchange
- Letter from Chris Hesla, Coordinator of the SD Conservation Alliance (SDCA), requesting start-up support
- E-mail from Ken Higgins requesting sponsorship of Northern Great Plains Workshop
- Letter from Bill Schultze thanking SDTWS for his Professional Award in 2004
- Memo from Sandra Staples-Bortner, TWS Program Director, with TWS promotional posters and brochures for SDTWS use
- Thank you letter from James B. Armstrong, Chair of TWS Wildlife Damage Working Group, for sponsoring the 11th Wildlife Damage Management Conference
- Letter from Russell Somsen, Fundraising Coordinator, requesting sponsorship of Bald Eagle Awareness Days

Correspondence Sent

- Letter to William Perry, District Ranger-Buffalo Gap National Grassland, supporting Indian Creek Land Exchange
- Letter to Awards Selection Committee for the nomination of Mike Williams for the National Wetland Award
- E-mail (list serve letter) requesting SDTWS representatives at scoping meetings for James River EIS
- Letter to Joy Gober (USFWS) and Shelly Deisch (SDGFP) in support of the Preferred Alternative of the Draft Conceptual Restoration Plan for Whitewood Creek and the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne River Watersheds, South Dakota

Recognition Awards for Outstanding Service

Griffin will write messages for the Outstanding Service Awards and have Mike Lees order plaques for SDTWS Annual Meeting.

Conata Basin Workshop

The technical workshop, Managing Prairie Dogs and Black-footed Ferrets in Conata Basin, South Dakota: A Conservation Landscape of Global Significance, is scheduled for February 26-27, 2005. To date, the organizers have not contacted SDTWS's representative, Eileen Dowd-Stukel, for input. No request for sponsorship has been received by SDTWS.

New Business

Requests for Funding

South Dakota Conservation Alliance (SDCA): Chris Hesla, Coordinator, made a request for start-up funds to launch the newly formed SDCA. Paul Coughlin, SDTWS Representative to SDCA, gave the board the following update: A proximate issue is easement legislation – SDCA is distributing informational packets in a proactive effort to get information into legislator's hands regarding easements. SDCA will have a strong presence at the Annual Conservation Day held January 31st during the legislative session. Chris Hesla and Dave Nellman will serve as SDCA lobbyists. SDCA continues to add more organizations as charter members. The board agreed that the formation of SDCA is an important conservation step in South Dakota. Flanders-Wanner moved to provide \$1,000 of start-up support for the Alliance. Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Northern Great Plains Workshop: Ken Higgins, Workshop Chairman, along with Workshop Co-Chairs, Kent Jensen, Spencer Vaa, and Jon Jenks, requested financial support for a workshop on recent advances in bird capture, banding and marking, and capture and removal of strayed/nuisance wildlife (August 17-19, 2005). Morlock motioned to provide the workshop committee with a \$250 loan, to be repaid upon receipt of workshop registration fees. Hubers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bald Eagle Awareness Days: Russell Somsen, Fundraising Coordinator, requested financial support for Bald Eagle Awareness Days, to be held February 24-26. Smith motioned to provide \$200 in support of the event, seconded by Hubers. Motion passed.

TWS Publication Survey

The Wildlife Society Council through its Publications Subcommittee is conducting a thorough review of its publications in an effort to improve the professional society. Bruce D. Leopold, Chair of the Publications Subcommittee, requested that SDTWS respond to a survey regarding TWS's 4 publications: Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Society Bulletin, Wildlife Monographs, and The Wildlifer. Board members who wished to assist with the survey agreed to fill out the form and submit it individually.

Website Maintenance

Flanders-Wanner reported a problem where some members were inadvertently accessing the old SDTWS website through a link on the SDSU website. Griffin will send an e-mail to Jon Jenks and Charlie Bessken asking that the old web site be removed. Bessken informed the board that the 1-year contract to host the new SDTWS website (www.SDWildlife.org) was near expiration. Mann-Klager motioned to pay \$350 for web hosting services for the next 5 years, seconded by Smith. Motion passed.

Wind Turbines in South Dakota

Natalie Gates raised a question about the chapter's position on wind energy in South Dakota. Gates expressed an interest in SDTWS development of guidelines for the turbine companies relating to potential impacts, sensitive habitats in SD, siting recommendations, mitigation measures, and perhaps a registration requirement so a record can be kept of turbines present and planned. With the biggest wind turbine farm in the U.S. planned for South Dakota (1000 turbines) and collision mortality (birds and bats) plus avian avoidance behaviors as the main issues with turbines, SDTWS involvement would be prudent. Griffin will add wind turbines to the agenda for the annual meeting and contact Gates regarding development of a resolution.

Elicited Media Response for TWS Climate Change and Wildlife Report

TWS released its report, *Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America*, in December. In a concerted effort to brief the media on the report, TWS referred reporters to TWS members in several states so they could obtain local perspectives on the issue. Thomas Franklin, Acting Executive Director, requested a SDTWS representative be available to discuss climate change and wildlife conservation with reporters. No SDTWS members were contacted regarding their local perspectives on the report.

Public Scoping Meetings for James River Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the James River Water Development District hosted public scoping meetings for the James River Feasibility Study/EIS on December 13-16, 2004. The study will assess flood damage reduction and channel restoration benefits. John Koerner made statements at a public scoping meeting as a representative of SDTWS and provided the hosts with a copy of SDTWS's Resolution Concerning the James River of Eastern South Dakota. At the request of SDTWS (via SDTWS list serve and personal contact), several other members attended scoping meetings. SDTWS requested that Bill Schultze draft a letter on behalf of SDTWS for submittal during the response period.

SDTWS List Serve

SDTWS sent out its first group e-mail in December to members signed up to receive information on pertinent SDTWS topics via e-mail. Flanders-Wanner suggested that, in the future, SDTWS use a more structured, professional list server which could automatically support the administrative demands of a list serve. Using a professional list server would ensure only one-way communication (the list serve could not be used as a vehicle for group discussions), provide an online subscription process, and automate e-mail list subscribe and unsubscribe functions. Flanders-Wanner presented monthly prices for several list servers. Mann-Klager offered to look into free services.

SDTWS Newsletter

SDTWS changed to Harold's Printing Company of Brookings beginning with the September newsletter. The switch has saved SDTWS \$150 to \$200 in costs per printing. The board discussed how it should respond to member requests to advertise in the newsletter. To this point, requests have not been troublesome, and the board agreed to table the topic until there is a need to address the issue. Topics for the February newsletter include minutes of the November board meeting, biographies of officer candidates, a mail-in election ballot, and a schedule for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

2005 Annual Meeting Update

The Monday afternoon program will follow the theme, *Politics, Wildlife, & the Media*. Officer candidates are President-elect: Diane Mann-Klager, Chad Switzer, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner; Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Spawn and Art Smith; Board Member: Greg Wolbrink and Kent C. (KC) Jensen. Banquet speaker will be Howard Vincent, CEO of Pheasants Forever.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was set for March 6, 2005, at 6:00 pm at the Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. Mann-Klager moved to adjourn, seconded by Hubers. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS