

Minutes of the June 8, 2006 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)

President Bridgette Flanders-Wanner recognized a quorum & called the meeting to order at 10:50 am at the Federal Building, Huron, SD. Board members present were Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, Will Morlock, Laura Hubers, KC Jensen, Tom Kirschenmann, & Art Smith.

Smith presented minutes of the March 5 and 8, 2006 board meeting. Four minor spelling corrections were noted. Morlock motioned to accept, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Smith then presented the Treasurer's report. The performance of the CD and Life memberships were discussed. Kirshcenmann motioned to accept the report, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Also discussed, but not voted on, was the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes. The Annual Meeting financial report was presented with Morlock motioning to accept the report, Kirshcenmann seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Old Business

Correspondence Sent

- A letter was sent to Maga Ta-Hohpi indicating a check for \$300 was being sent. The event was attended by 300 people.
- A letter of appreciation was sent to Representative Herseth for her support of the Wetlands Loan Act. There seems to have been a change in her focus for the better. The change may be due to a change in Herseth's staff.

Correspondence Received

- A request for funding the Huron Prairie Fest from the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi was received. The support for \$300 was voted on by the Board via email.
- A handwritten letter of thanks was received by Charlie Rokusek, recipient of the SDTWS 2006 Citizen Award.
- The Chapter was Cc'd a 17 page reasonable letter sent by the NDTWS Chapter selecting pipeline (instead of channeling) option for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Their reasoning for recommending pipeline over channeling was ease of cleaning and monitoring. The ND Chapter also commented that opening a conduit between the 2 waterways was not a good idea.

Board Duties

Morlock updated the list in the last couple of days. This is still a work in progress. The group added a few items to the lists.

Northern Great Plains Working Group

Flanders-Wanner is the Chapter's point of contact for this group. The advantage of assigning someone with more specialized knowledge in this area was favorably discussed. The Board explored and identified other options for potential points of contact, who are not already associated with the group. Jensen motioned to see if interest is there with 2 potential co-chairs and form a special committee about Farm Bill and Great Plains issues with the individuals chosen to be at the discretion of the Chair, Kirschenmann seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

National Awards

Jensen noted that the Chapter's McDonough award nomination was submitted too late for 2006, but the nomination would be developed for 2007. The Fellows award would also follow in suit. The Student Chapter ran out of time to submit themselves for Student Chapter of the Year, but hopefully they will try earlier in 2007.

New Business

Sale of Public Lands Versus Increasing Private Grazing Fees on Public Lands

Flanders-Wanner will draft a letter for Board review following the direction given to the Board at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Sponsorships

Disparate levels of funding by past sponsors, but all were given equal levels of appreciation, was recognized as a problem. The Board discussed the difficulties in categories of sponsors. Flexibility was decided as a good idea, but differentiation between funding differences was also desired. Kirschenmann will work on categories and email to the Board.

Committee Involvement

The Board noted that some committees were/are much more active than others. Some less active committee chairs would like direction from the Board on tasks. The Board agreed that a newsletter article should be written letting members know about the enhanced emphasis of Committees. Board also thought that committee chairs should be asked about where they'd like to go with their committees. Flanders-Wanner will work on asking chairs on this topic, what goals they are interested in, committee memberships, etc.

Newsletter items

- US State delegates should be on the distribution lists. Before sending, the editor should check with the President on issue contents.
- Next year's annual meeting will be written by Kurt Forman.
- President's message will be written by Flanders-Wanner.
- Committee reports (those electronically submitted) will be provided by Smith. Recent meeting minutes will also be submitted by Smith.
- Morlock will provide award recipient pictures and news.

2007 Meeting

Forman had contacted Flanders-Wanner about an idea for a grassland issues panel concept. The idea would include having panel members outside of the normal TWS realm to give their views.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was tentatively set for September 5th (Tuesday) perhaps in Brookings, 11:00 am CDT.

Jensen moved to adjourn, seconded by Morlock. Motion passed (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS