

Minutes of the March 6, 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 6:15 PM at Cedar Shore Hotel & Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Steve Griffin, Diane Mann-Klager, Laura Hubers, Will Morlock, & Bridgette Flanders-Wanner.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the January 5, 2005 board meeting. Mann-Klager motioned to accept the minutes and Morlock seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report. Mann-Klager motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Hubers. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Sent and Received

Letters Received: Letter from Organization of Wildlife Planners requesting sponsorship for an annual meeting being held in Rapid City on May 21-26. Letter from Forrest "Bump" Anshutz, President of Maga Ta-Hohpi Friends Group, requesting sponsorship for Huron Prairie Fest to be held May 14th. Letter from Wind Cave National Park informing SDTWS of public workshops regarding the prairie dog management plan and environmental assessment. Letter from CMPS President Steve Riley regarding a proposed change in the fee structure of CMPS and associated state and student chapters. Thank you letter from the Bald Eagle Awareness Days Steering Committee for event sponsorship.

Letters Sent: Letter in support of the South Dakota Water Quality Council's decision to oppose the SD Department of Agriculture's grant application (NRCS already has adequate tools in place, therefore no need for the grant). Letter written for SDTWS by Bill Schultze that followed up on comments made by SDTWS representatives regarding the James River Feasibility Study & EIS.

Wind Turbines in South Dakota

Griffin reported that a status report on wind turbines in South Dakota was added to the annual meeting agenda and would be led by Alyssa Kiesow with assistance from Diane Mann-Klager. The topic is being addressed to assess the potential/need for a resolution on the topic in 2006.

New Business

Huron Prairie Fest

Forrest "Bump" Anshutz, President of Maga Ta-Hohpi Friends Group, sent a letter requesting \$300 in support for the 1st Annual Huron Prairie Fest on May 14, 2005. The festival is being developed in collaboration with the USFWS as a free, educational event geared towards families. Morlock commented on the increasing popularity of festivals and suggested that the chapter should not get into the habit of funding events on an annual basis – it is in the best interest of festivals and other events to become self-sustaining. The board expressed concern that some events, including Bald Eagle Awareness Days and Becoming an Outdoors Woman, may be operating under the assumption of annual sponsorship without exception because they have consistently received monetary support from SDTWS. Hubers motioned to provide \$300 in support for Huron Prairie Fest based on the fact that it was a first-time request for a 1st annual event. Smith second the motion. Motion passed.

Organization of Wildlife Planners

The International Organization of Wildlife Planners sent a letter requesting sponsorship for their annual meeting to be held in Rapid City on May 21-26, 2005. Smith suggested that for each funding request received by SDTWS, the question should be asked, "Does the funding benefit TWS or provide wildlife education/conservation benefits to the people of South Dakota?" Upon further discussion, the board concluded that the funding request would not meet either of those criteria. Morlock motioned to provide no funding for the conference, second by Smith. Motion passed.

2004 Audit of Financial Records

Flanders-Wanner provided Smith with the 2004 Treasurer's records and check register for review.

Review of Ducks Unlimited Sponsorship

The board reviewed the value of purchasing a decoy from Ducks Unlimited, along with a SDTWS sponsorship of the Pierre chapter of DU. Morlock offered to assess how much the decoy makes at the SDTWS auction/raffle and get a list of items that DU donates to the SDTWS auction. The board agreed that the chapter is locked in to a DU sponsorship this year because the decoy has already been committed for the auction. The impetus for reviewing the DU sponsorship is based on 3 main concerns. First, sponsorship of the Pierre chapter may be foreseen as biased support of only one out of many DU chapters in SD. Second, DU sponsorship does not provide direct benefits to South Dakota because proceeds from all DU banquets go first to the national level. Third, there are several conservation organizations in the state that are donating auction items to SDTWS without the expectation of a sponsorship in their organization.

CMPS Fee Proposal

Griffin reviewed an informational item that will be presented at the SDTWS annual meeting. CMPS is proposing a new fee structure that would drop CMPS dues from \$5 to \$1. In conjunction, each state within the section would charge an additional \$1 and automatically provide a CMPS membership to each state member. The board discussed whether the membership dues could be increased by a simple vote from the membership or whether a change would need to be made in the bylaws, which would require a 30-day notice to members. Smith added that it isn't just CMPS that is struggling to retain members. All sections are facing the same struggles because it is difficult for states to find applicability in regional issues.

TWS Endowment Fund

Smith and Flanders-Wanner purported that an option to provide additional funding to the TWS Endowment Fund should be brought before the membership during the annual meeting. They recalled that the option to do so had been included in the discussion of whether to sponsor the Fund at the \$2000 or higher level during the 2004 annual meeting. However, the request to review sponsorship of the Fund was not found in the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting (in an effort to condense extensive conversation to a reasonable length, the final minutes had been summarized to a point where the specific statement was not apparent). The board agreed to present the option to the membership if time permitted.

Hotel Accommodations for Citizen's Award Recipient

Upon request from Kurt Forman, Smith motioned to pay for 2 nights of hotel accommodations and banquet tickets for Mike Williams and his wife. Mann-Klager second the motion. Upon further discussion, Smith amended the motion to also state that this motion would be used as guidance (a template) for future recipients of the Citizen's Award. Mann-Klager second the amendment. Motion and amendment passed.

Meal Counts for Luncheon and Banquet

Griffin reported a change in hotel policy now required final meal counts had to be made 24 hours in advance & could not be adjusted. Therefore, meal counts for the Tuesday luncheon & banquet would be due to the hotel immediately after the first meeting break on Monday afternoon. Thus, the board must ensure that everyone that wants to attend those meals registers on or before the first break.

Mann-Klager moved to adjourn, second by Hubers. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS