

Minutes of the March 7, 2004 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)

President Art Smith recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Ron Schauer, Steve Griffin, Paul Coughlin, Diane Mann-Klager, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the January 6, 2004 board meeting. Schauer motioned to accept the minutes and Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report. Coughlin motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mann-Klager. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Sent and Received

Letters Received: Eileen Dowd Stukel, Nongame Biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, sent a letter thanking SDTWS for its contribution of \$200 in support of Bald Eagle Awareness Days, along with a report of the achieved objectives of the event.

Letters Sent: A letter was sent to all SDTWS chapter members on February 2, 2004. The letter was sent to alert members of an opportunity to impact the proposed House Bill 1194, which would limit conservation easements to 30 years in South Dakota. The letter encouraged concerned members to contact their state representatives to persuade them to oppose the bill. The letter also provided several talking points, which chapter members could use to communicate their message. A letter was sent to Mr. Anthony Detoy, District Ranger and Legislative Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service, addressing SDTWS's concerns pertaining to a proposed land exchange on the Fort Pierre National Grasslands. The chapter did not believe that a land exchange would be in the best interest of the public or the Forest Service unless grazing pressures were lessened on the land parcels to be acquired.

SDTWS 2004 Annual Meeting

Details of the annual meeting were discussed. A couple last minute details were organized. All was in order and progressing as planned. Four deserving recipients had been selected for the 2004 Professional and Citizen Awards from several excellent nominees. One candidate would be running for President-elect and four candidates for the Board Member position. Catering was in order, all presentation slots were full, and an agenda of meeting activities had been prepared.

Land Exchanges on Forest Service Lands

The board commended Mr. Detoy for his efforts to solicit feedback from SDTWS on land exchanges on Forest Service lands. The board agreed that additional opportunities to comment on Forest Service land exchanges would be valuable. Board members resolved to contact all Ranger Districts in South Dakota via Dennis Mann, the chapter's Chair of the Public Lands Committee, letting the Forest Service know that SDTWS would be interested in providing additional feedback in the future.

New Business

TWS 11th Annual Conference

The TWS 11th Annual Conference is set for September 18-22, 2004, in Calgary, Alberta. SDTWS discussed a request from Arlen Todd and Terry Kowalchuk, Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs, for monetary support of the conference. Mann-Klager motioned that SDTWS provide \$250 in financial support and an additional \$250 to help fund travel expenses for South Dakota students attending the conference. Schauer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TWS Endowment Campaign

Robert D. Brown, Vice President of TWS, sent a letter seeking sponsorship of the TWS Endowment Campaign to Sustain Wildlife Conservation. The premise of the Campaign is to raise \$3 million to endow TWS's policy and outreach educational efforts. Many states have designated State Campaign Chairpersons to promote fund raising activities in their states. The board decided that additional input from the chapter membership and further information regarding the status of South Dakota's Chairperson were necessary before a funding decision could be made. Smith offered to contact Bruce Morrison, Campaign Chairman for CMPS, to attain more details.

TWS Economic Growth Working Group – Position Statement

The Working Group for the Steady State Economy sent SDTWS a Draft Position Statement on Economic Growth that was under consideration by The Wildlife Society. The working group was requesting letters of support from state chapters that were in favor of the draft position statement. The board agreed that the position statement included some excellent points concerning the impacts of economic growth on wildlife conservation. However, the board could not wholly support all of the points within the statement. Therefore, Griffin motioned to defer the issue until after the next TWS Council meeting on March 16, where the draft would be discussed in further detail. Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SAF/TWS Joint Conference

Dave Thom, Program Chair for the Dakota Society of American Foresters, sent a draft agenda for the proposed joint conference of SAF and SDTWS. The conference, scheduled for October 27-28, 2004, would feature new information about the greater Black Hills. As a co-sponsor, SDTWS would be asked to provide support in logistics, publicity, program, and fund keeping. The board agreed that the conference would be valuable and were in favor of co-sponsoring the conference. Griffin offered to inquire further before SDTWS made any definite commitments.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was tentatively set for June 2, 2004, at 11:00 am in Pierre, SD.

Schauer moved to adjourn and Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS