

## **Minutes of the May 22, 2007 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)**

President Kurt Forman recognized a quorum & called the meeting to order at 9:07 am at GFP Conference Room, Huron, SD. Other Board members present were Tom Kirschenmann, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, KC Jensen, Chad Switzer, & Art Smith. Also attending the meeting were Scott Larson, Kelly Heidkamp, and Kevin Robling.

Smith presented minutes of the March 2007 board meeting. One date correction was noted, Jensen motioned to accept the minutes, Kirschenmann second. Motion passed (5-0).

Smith then presented the Treasurers report. No discussion, Kirschenmann motioned to accept the report, Flanders-Wanner Second. Motion passed (5-0).

Scott Larson presented a special topic, SDTWS's role in current Conata Basin prairie dog issues. Larson covered the history of the grasslands (Bankhead-Jones act of 1930's) and the eventual USFS management in the 1960's. The current operational plan started in 1998 and was adopted in 2002, with a boundary management plan developed in 2004. Larson showed some slides of this and related materials.

Discussion and possible options on comments were covered by the group. One option is to avoid saying 1 particular option is best but instead to comment on concepts the Chapter supports – using best info, science-based decision, etc. Public Lands Committee (Dennie Mann) will be asked to write a comment and to work with Larson and Smith on a draft letter. Larson suggested broadly Cc'ing the letter would be good.

Also Larson gave a heads-up on the consumption of lead by predators of prairie dogs was given to the group as a topic that may hit the front page soon.

### **Old Business**

#### Correspondence Received

- CRP letter from Thune. First response from Thune's office on any subject, could be due to economics of pheasant hunting. Hunting groups have his ear.
- Prairie Groups Tech Council meeting sponsorship request. Email vote by Board to fund this due to short time frame.
- SD Grasslands Coalition tour invite – Forman will be attending and will represent the Chapter.
- Dakota AFS letter on Missouri River & flood control act of 1944. Chapter received a Cc, part of the Missouri River management. The letter speaks about the need for new replacement legislation. Forman will email Missouri River Committee tasking them if they're interested in increasing their involvement in this issue.
- Alaska Coalition request for comment on Tongass National Forest management plan. Forman did email sign-on to sponsor the management plan for the forest.
- FONSI notification from NPS for black-footed ferret reintroduction at Wind Cave.
- Invitation to USDA CSP workshop in Sioux City. No one from the Board will be attending.
- Invitation by Ike's to attend Farm Bill workshop in Sioux Falls. Forman called Mike Williams, but did not attend. Chapter's stance known through working relationships.
- Annual request for tax info and Board member data from TWS. Completed and done.
- NDTWS letter n EIS for Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Chapter Bcc'd letter.

#### Correspondence Sent

- Sponsorship confirmation letter sent to the SD Grasslands Coalition.
- Sponsorship confirmation letter sent to Maga Ta-Hopi Friends Group. 350 attendees, good crowd.
- Sponsorship confirmation letter sent to the Waubay NWR for the Jr. Duck Stamp program.
- Comment letter sent to USFWS on the proposed rule for wolf delisting and boundary issues. No movement by USFWS.
- Sponsorship confirmation letter sent for the National Leopold Education Project workshop. Forman hasn't heard from Laura Hubers or Ann, assume the project is still happening.
- Petition sign-on letter for Tongass National Forest management plan mentioned above.
- Comments on the USDA CSP program to the Northeast Nebraska RC&D council. This was a communication by Forman about specific criteria needed to get rewards.
- TWS call for Awards Nominations. Award nominations from the Chapter were sent in on time, 1 nomination for Fellows Program will be saved for next year.
- Northern Great Plains Working Group update by Switzer:  
This group has been relatively quiet since their last meeting. There was a small meeting in March to develop recommendations to the state to use both rates; new rates should be announced by mid-summer. CP-38 proposes 20,000 acres of CRP to be given to South Dakota, fall sign-up, will provide nesting cover directed towards pheasants.

## **New Business**

### Request for comment on USFS Black Hills land exchange

Referred to the Public Lands Committee, 17Apr07. Chapter letter of support for exchange is ready to be mailed.

### Request for comment on Angostura management plan

Referred to the Public Lands Committee. Response deadline due date of 1Jun07.

### Newsletter Items

Suggestion for Greg Pavelka to sent out a link to the newsletter (not a pdf) to members. Charlie Bessken will blink-link the newsletter. Tasks were given to the Board for the next issue.

### Funding Requests

- SDSU Student Chapter raccoon study. Kevin Robling presented the study outline. Board suggested to present the study to SDSU and GFP, then return to the Chapter if funding is still needed.
- SDSU Student Chapter TWS meeting travel funds, national TWS conference, and the International Wildlife Management Working Group requests. Kelly Heidkamp presented a proposal for student travel funding. Kirschenmann motioned to fund Student Chapter at \$1,000 and not to fund the national TWS conference itself or the International Wildlife Management Working Group, seconded by Flanders-Wanner. Motion passed (5-0).
- South Dakota Outdoor Exposition (17-18May07, Huron) Board discussed the concept of the expo, conflicts with existing venues, and overall feeling about the expo. The event fits with the Chapter's funding ideals. Jensen motioned to support event with \$300 but not to have a booth, Smith seconded. Motion passed (5-0).
- National Wildlife Federation climate change conference (28-30Sep07, Sioux Falls) Board discussed the admirable cause of the conference but noted that it is at a difficult time (right after national TWS meeting). Questions about the audience and co-sponsors were unable to be answered. Six different tasks were requested, with varying levels of support by the Board. Smith motioned to not support items 1-4 (put a link to the event on Chapter website, publicize the event to members through mailings, put an article in the newsletter, sent at least 1 member to the conference to engage in discussion, and act on items 5 & 6 via email by 1Jul07 (sponsor event, write statement of support), Flanders-Wanner seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

### Annual Meeting

Jensen informed the group no theme was developed yet.

### Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was set for September 5<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at 10am Central at the GFP office in Huron, SD. Switzer moved to adjourn, seconded by Jensen. Motion passed (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS