

Minutes of the November 3, 2004 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)

President Steve Griffin recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Steve Griffin, Diane Mann-Klager, Will Morlock, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner (via phone).

Flanders-Wanner offered to present the August meeting minutes and quarterly treasurer's report via e-mail following the meeting. Smith made a motion for the board to review the minutes and treasurer's report in such a manner and include the subsequent motion to accept them in the official minutes once reviewed. Morlock seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Received

- Response letter from Rep. Herseth concurring with SDTWS's opposition to drilling on Arctic NWR
- Letter to SD Water Quality Council members summarizing its influential role in recent issue: The Council provided comment on a proposed drainage district in Moody Co., which resulted in regulation of nitrate pollution from the district's drain tile via a DENR point-source permit.
- Thank you from Chad Tussing (SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation) for \$500 donation to 2004 Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop in Custer, SD.
- Call for Presentations for 9th Annual Missouri River Natural Resources Conference (May 22-25, 2005) in Pierre. Submit presentations online at <http://infolink.cr.usgs.gov/events/05.htm> or contact Jim Riis for more information: 605-223-7701; jim.riis@state.sd.us
- Notice of availability of Draft Conceptual Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment
- Request for funding: TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group
- Summary of Leopold Education Project Workshop by SDTWS-sponsored participant, Laurie Root
- Request for public comment on proposal to construct electric lines over federal land in Custer Co.
- Thank you from SDSU Wildlife Conservation Club for travel grant to TWS Conference in Calgary

Dakotas Society of American Foresters (DSAF) Conference Sponsorship

Between SDTWS board meetings, DSAF formally requested financial support for their upcoming conference, "Science and Application in Forest and Wildlife Management in the Greater Black Hills". Flanders-Wanner motioned to sponsor the conference at the \$150 level, provided that DSAF send a more formal request for funding. Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed. At the DSAF conference, SDTWS was recognized as a partial sponsor of one of the breaks.

Student Travel Grant – 2004 TWS Conference

This year, SDTWS gave a \$250 grant to the SDSU Wildlife Conservation Club (TWS student chapter) to help diminish travel expenses to the 2004 TWS Conference. Based on this year's experience, Mann-Klager recommended that should SDTWS consider student travel grants in the future, it would be easiest to contact the SD student chapters and their advisors directly. Smith suggested that in the future, a "good faith" contract should be signed by the student chapter president, stating how the grant will be used to moderate travel expenses to and from the conference.

SDTWS Registration of Web Domain

Flanders-Wanner noted that a motion during the August meeting to renew the chapter's web domain was made under false pretense. At the time, the board did not know that the renewal letter was not from the company currently retaining the chapter's web domain. Charlie Bessken and the board are satisfied with the current domain provider. Thus, Smith motioned to note that the board recognized the error and wished to rescind the previous motion, seconded by Mann-Klager. Motion passed.

New Business

Requests for Funding

Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (WDMWG) of TWS: Art Smith, Chair Elect of WDMWG, made a request for financial support for the 11th Wildlife Damage Management Conference in Michigan, May 2005. It is the pre-eminent conference on wildlife damage in odd years, covering issues nation-wide and attended by 230-300 individuals. Morlock made a motion to contribute \$100 to the 2005 Conference, seconded by Flanders-Wanner. Motion passed.

Conference on the Ecological Importance of the Conata Basin

Sterling Miller, Senior Wildlife Biologist for the National Wildlife Federation, requested SDTWS involvement in the development of a 2-day conference. With her knowledge of the Conata Basin and the black-tailed prairie dog, Eileen Dowd Stukel was willing to assist on behalf of SDTWS, provided that the focus of the conference was scientific and not political. The board agreed to leave the final decision to participate up to Stukel and other SDTWS members possessing intimate knowledge of Conata Basin.

Request for Comment on Custer County Electrical Distribution Lines

Michael McNeill, District Ranger of Fall River Ranger District, requested public comment on a proposal to construct overhead-distribution lines on federal lands in Custer County. The board requested that Denny Mann (Public Lands Committee) and Eddie Childers/Boyd Schultz (Grasslands Committee) review the proposal and draft a letter for SDTWS.

Mercury Pollution Coalition Letter

Scot Miller of US Public Interest Research Group requested SDTWS sign on to a letter to Senator Tim Johnson urging opposition to the a proposed weakening of the Clean Air Act's protection from mercury emitted by power plants. The board agreed to sign on to the letter, provided a paragraph addressing the specific affects of mercury pollution on wildlife was added. Griffin had yet to receive any information indicating that the letter had gone out.

New Chair of Fee Hunting Committee

Andy Lindbloom has filled the vacant chair for the Fee Hunting Committee. In reference to fee hunting, John Wrede requested that SDTWS write a resolution on the commercialization of wildlife. The board agreed to refer the resolution to Andy Lindbloom, should Wrede want to proceed.

2005 Annual Meeting Updates

The 2005 SDTWS Annual Meeting will be returning to Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center in Oacoma on March 7-9. Morlock gave a candidate update: 2 potentials for Secretary/ Treasurer, 2-4 for board member, and 3 for President-Elect. Morlock also reported that the agenda was coming together slowly, particularly for the student segment. The theme would be Politics, Media, and Wildlife. The board brainstormed options for banquet speakers. Food and facilities will be similar to the 2004 Annual Meeting, with final details wrapped up at the January meeting.

December Newsletter

To be included in the upcoming newsletter: President's message, thank you to Andy Lindbloom for taking on responsibilities of Chair of the Fee Hunting Committee, request for committee updates at annual meeting, call for award nominations and presentations, minutes of the August board meeting.

Announcements: Upcoming Conference: Western States Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee, Symposium, and Workshop in Spearfish, SD

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was set for January 5, 2005, at 11:00 am in Pierre, SD. Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Morlock. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner – Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS