

Minutes of the September 5, 2007 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS)

Meeting was called to order at 9:55 AM. Kurt Forman, KC Jensen, Chad Switzer, Tom Kirschenmann, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner were present.

President Forman chose to skip Secretary's and Treasurer's reports (as they were not available) and moved straight into old business.

Correspondence Received

Thank You letter from Leopold Education Project

- We had a short discussion on how few "non Pheasants Forever" organizations sponsored scholarships (SDTWS was only one of only 3 not directly associated with Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, or LEP)
- Both Anne Lewis and Laura Hubers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and felt that it was worthwhile

Correspondence Sent

Confirmation letter to SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club

- Jensen provided an update: SDGFP will be fully funding the urban raccoon study put on by SDSU Wildlife Club (no extra funds will be needed to cover expenses)

Confirmation letter to National Wildlife Federation regarding SD Climate Challenge

- Sterling Miller had contacted Forman, as he had not received the sponsorship check as of our board meeting. Forman will contact Treasurer Smith to check on the status of the check.

Comment letter to the USFS on black-tailed prairie dog management

- TWS' Laura Bies commented that the letter was one of the best written letters she had reviewed on the subject

Confirmation e-mail to NWF regarding SD Climate Challenge

- Agenda on the website has started to fill in over the last month
- Kurt is still trying to find a SDTWS member to moderate the Wildlife break-out session
 - Kurt checked to see if a board member is available to go (none are available)
 - It is difficult to find someone because it is the waterfowl season opener and immediately following TWS conference in Tucson
- Kurt called Ron Schauer in Sioux Falls to ask about Sioux Falls SDTWS members. Ron will check with a few people and get back to Kurt (if none, Sterling Miller will have to moderate that session himself)

Additional Old Business

- Flanders-Wanner reminded board of Carl Madsen's request at the annual business meeting for SDTWS to become a member of the SD Resource Coalition. (At the board meeting at the end of the annual meeting in March, the board voted to pay the fee necessary to become a member of that organization). Kurt said he would take care of getting SDTWS signed on as a member.

Sodsaver update by Kurt

- Senate version is much stronger and more comprehensive than the House version, but there is a good indication that Sodsaver will be in the Farm Bill in some format
- Farm Bill won't be done in October, but their goal is to have it completed by the end of the year

Request for comment on management of Badlands National Park (South Unit)

- Dennie Mann recommended that we wait for a formal list of alternatives, as this is a scoping meeting and there will be additional opportunities to comment

Wind energy letter to the SD Public Utilities Commissioner

Issue was tabled until next Board meeting where the Wind Power committee will explore further options.

Funding Request – Sioux Empire Sportsman/Conservationist of the Year Banquet

- Request is from SDTWS' 2006 Citizen's Award recipient Charlie Rokusek
- Rokusek himself started the banquet in 2005 with the intention of sharing the area's natural resource efforts with local legislative leaders
- Charlie is asking for sponsorship of the banquet this year and only this year because this year's award recipient is a SDTWS member (Ron Schauer)
- Kirschenmann expressed concern about setting a precedent for sponsoring awards banquets in general (doesn't neatly fall into our 2 categories of sponsorship: (1) benefits the people of SD or (2) benefits the resource of SD)
- Forman made motion to sponsor \$100 for the banquet, seconded by Kirschenmann – motion passed with all in favor

Funding Request – Harvey Dunn Grassland Conservation Project

- The board commended Tom Tornow for his creative endeavor
- After some discussion, the board called Tom Tornow to clarify several of their questions regarding the need of the request
 - Tornow confirmed that the date was set for Saturday September 22
 - Tornow offered to speak with caterers and get a quote for the food portion of the request (since that cannot be covered directly by the USFWS)
- Jensen motioned to sponsor at \$250, seconded by Switzer. Motion passed.

Additional New Business – Leaders Lunch

- Flanders-Wanner brought up the Leaders' Lunch at the TWS annual conference in Tucson, which has traditionally been covered by SDTWS
- Forman motioned to sponsor 4 tickets for Jensen, Smith, Flanders-Wanner, and SDSU student president Kelly Heitkamp to attend, second by Kirschenmann. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting Update

- Jensen confirmed that Dan Svedarsky, current TWS President, will be the banquet speaker for the 2008 annual meeting.
- Jensen is contemplating focusing his plenary session of Education

- One possible speaker could be Charles Scalet's paper Ramblings of a Dinosaur
- Other possible speakers in the areas of university education, outdoor education, and recruiting young hunters and fishers were discussed
 - Kirschenmann suggested that new SDSU Department head give presentation

Next meeting set for November 19 in Pierre (10:00 AM at SDGFP)

Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 noon, second by Flanders-Wanner.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
(Acting) Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS