

## **Minutes of the January 6, 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 11:00 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center near Chamberlain, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Ron Schauer, Steve Griffin, Paul Coughlin, Diane Mann-Klager, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner. Cliff Stone, who has volunteered to help coordinate the 2004 Annual Meeting, also attended the board meeting.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the November 5, 2003 board meeting. Coughlin motioned to accept the minutes and Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report. Coughlin motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Schauer. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented a draft of the 2003 financial statement for review. A thorough discussion of the financial state of the life membership investment ensued. At present, all contributions from the general checking account that were used to start up the life membership investment have been paid back. Enough interest was accumulated during 2003 to cover dues for all 2002 and 2003 life members. However, as a mutual fund, the life membership investment is subject to fluctuation along with the market. Therefore, the executive board agreed that a spreadsheet should be created to track the investment's ability to accrue enough annual interest to consistently cover dues for the life memberships. Flanders-Wanner agreed to create a spreadsheet to document the performance of the life membership over time.

### **Old Business**

#### Correspondence Sent and Received

*Letters Received:* Harry Hodgdon, Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, sent a letter thanking SDTWS for its contribution of \$250 in support of the Farm Bill Implementation Campaign.

#### SDTWS 2004 Annual Meeting

Details of the annual meeting were discussed. Griffin provided an overview of the preliminary meeting schedule. The Board brain-stormed potential presentation topics, as some presentation slots were still open in the meeting schedule. The board also discussed potential banquet speakers and agreed to do some checking around for a good speaker candidate. Prospective auction items were discussed. The President-elect and one Board Member will be elected at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Griffin reviewed current candidates and the board suggested several other SDTWS members who might be interested in running for office.

#### SDTWS Website Development

The SDTWS website has been fully updated by Charlie Bessken and is waiting to be uploaded onto the server at South Dakota State University. The board discussed several options for making the website more virtual by increasing the chapter's ability to post new information to the site as frequently as needed. After some discussion, the board agreed to have Charlie look into how much it would cost for SDTWS to purchase its own website. If expenses are reasonable (which they are expected to be), then purchasing a website would be the preferred option. This option would allow SDTWS to have complete control over the quality of the website, as well as provide its members with pertinent information in a timely fashion. It is the board's intention to have the updated

version of the SDTWS website online by March so that it may be debuted during the SDTWS Annual Meeting.

## **New Business**

### February Newsletter

The board discussed the contents of the upcoming newsletter. The newsletter will include biographical sketches of the election candidates for President-elect and Board Member. A draft meeting agenda, minutes of the January 6 meeting, reminders to make reservations, any proposed resolutions or position statements, and requests for auction items also will be printed.

### South Dakota Furbearer Trading Cards

Chad Tussing, Education Services Coordinator for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), sent a letter seeking sponsorship of a project to create 32 South Dakota Furbearer trading cards. The cards are being designed to teach about the identification, tracking, biology, and range of these animals. The 32-card sets will be distributed at educational classes and presentations, at fairs, and to teachers and others interested in South Dakota furbearers. By partnering with the SDGFP, the SDTWS logo would be printed on the back of each card. Schauer motioned to donate \$500 for the project. Mann-Klager seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

### Bald Eagle Awareness Day

Russell Somsen, Funding Coordinator for the Bald Eagle Awareness Day Committee, sent a letter requesting financial support for Bald Eagle Awareness Day. The major expense of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual event will be for the educators from the Raptor Center, while expenses for printing, publicity, refreshments, and facility rental also will be incurred. Schauer motioned to donate \$200 for the event, seconded by Coughlin. Motion passed.

### Fort Pierre National Grassland Proposed Land Exchange

Anthony Detoy, District Ranger and Legislative Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service, sent a letter requesting written comments to a proposed Federal land exchange on Fort Pierre National Grassland. The details of the land exchange will be referred to the Public Lands committee for comment.

### Past-Presidents Group

The board's discussion of the Past-President's Group continues to be favorable. The board would like to see Casey Kruse present his proposal to the membership during the annual meeting.

### Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on March 7, 2004 at Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center near Chamberlain, SD.

Mann-Klager moved to adjourn and Schauer seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridgette Flanders-Wanner  
Secretary/Treasurer