

Minutes of the November 5, 2003 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services Office in Pierre, SD. Board members present were Art Smith, Steve Griffin, Paul Coughlin, Diane Mann-Klager, and Bridgette Flanders-Wanner. Charlene (Charlie) Bessken, who has volunteered to maintain the SDTWS website, also attended the meeting.

Flanders-Wanner presented the minutes of the August 19, 2003 board meeting. Mann-Klager motioned to accept the minutes and Coughlin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Flanders-Wanner presented the quarterly treasurer's report. Coughlin motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Griffin. Motion passed.

Old Business

Correspondence Sent and Received

Letters Sent: The SDTWS chapter sent a letter to Mr. Tony DeToy, District Ranger/Legislative Coordinator for the Fort Pierre National Grasslands, commenting on a proposal to construct new pipeline sections in the Chester and Cut Off Grazing Allotments.

Letters Received: U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc sent a letter notifying SDTWS of a change in chapter bank account managers. Senator Tom Daschle sent a campaign letter to SDTWS. Dan Decker, 2003/2004 President of The Wildlife Society, sent a letter encouraging SDTWS leaders to promote membership in the parent Society amongst chapter members. Robert J. Warren, 2002/2003 President of The Wildlife Society, sent a letter to SDTWS requesting financial support for implementation of the Farm Bill.

Report from TWS 10th Annual Conference and Leader's Lunch

Mann-Klager and Flanders-Wanner offered informal reports on their experiences and observations at TWS' 10th Annual Conference and Leader's Lunch in Burlington, Vermont. Speakers during the Leader's Lunch included the TWS Student Chapter of the Year (Stevens Point), President of the New England chapter (Hosting Chapter), and Chair of the Biometrics Working Group (most active TWS working group). A group discussion on membership retention ensued following the presentations.

SDTWS Resolutions and Position Statements

The board reviewed their records of previously adopted resolutions and position statements. According to the Secretary/Treasurer records, it appears as if all resolutions and position statements from 1995 to 2003 can be accounted for except one. An ambiguous 1995 resolution on the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative (a.k.a. Teaming with Wildlife) has still not been located and will need further effort to locate. A discussion pursued on the proper method of archiving past resolutions and position statements. The board agreed that new resolutions and public statements should be archived on the SDTWS website and that the President and the Secretary/Treasurer should each be provided with a copy for their files. The board will request that the Resolutions and Public Statements Committee develop an official format for final resolutions that allows differentiation from proposed resolutions. The official format should

include the date the resolution was adopted and the signature of the current president to distinguish the resolution as adopted and final. The Resolutions and Public Statements Committee will also be asked to put an article in the December newsletter requesting original electronic copies of past resolutions and position statements. These original copies will be easier to archive on the SDTWS website than hard copies of the documents.

SDTWS Website Development

Charlie Bessken demonstrated the updated SDTWS website to the board members. The entire board was extremely pleased and impressed with Bessken's work on the website thus far. The board suggested several other topics for addition to the website. Once the website is complete, the board requested that Bessken present the website to the membership during the SDTWS Annual Meeting. Smith and Bessken both offered to check with TWS to inquire whether the website might be housed at the national level, as opposed to its current location at South Dakota State University. Should TWS agree to house the website, Bessken hopes to be able to log in to the website and upload new information herself for a much faster response time.

SDTWS 2004 Annual Meeting

Cedar Shore Catering and Contract: Griffin reviewed the most recent draft of the Cedar Shore Contract. All catering matters seem to be in order after a couple minor changes by Griffin.

New Officer Candidates and Elections: The President-elect and one Board Member will be elected at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Griffin reviewed current candidates, as well as other potential candidates that he intended to contact before the annual meeting. The board suggested several other potential candidates that could be contacted.

Speakers and Presentations: The theme for the 2004 Annual Meeting will be the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, with most of first afternoon's presentations devoted to that topic. Griffin reviewed a list of currently scheduled speakers. The board then discussed other potential speakers and presentation topics that might be of interest to the membership. Dan Decker, 2003/2004 President of TWS, was suggested as a potential banquet speaker.

New Business

December Newsletter

The board discussed the contents of the upcoming newsletter. Articles will include a call for papers, a call for candidates to run for office, a request for original electronic versions of past resolutions and position statements, a letter from Dan Decker promoting membership in TWS, minutes of the November 5 meeting, and reminders to make reservations, nominate individuals for annual awards, and have proposed resolutions/position statements prepared for presentation at the annual meeting.

Development of a Training Program for Farm Bill Technical Service Providers

Robert J. Warren, 2002/2003 President of The Wildlife Society, requested financial support for implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill. Funding is needed to develop a training program for Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to become familiar with Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications. TSPs are critical to ensuring full and successful implementation of the new and expanded conservation programs included in the bill. Coughlin

moved to contribute \$250 to development of a TSP training program, seconded my Flanders-Wanner. Motion Passed.

Past-Presidents Group

The board's discussion of the Past-President's Group continues to be favorable. However, the board will request that Casey Kruse develop a concept page on the Group's responsibilities before moving ahead with the idea.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 11:00 am on January 6, 2003 at Cedar Shore Hotel and Convention Center near Chamberlain, SD.

Coughlin moved to adjourn and Mann-Klager seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridgette Flanders-Wanner". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Secretary/Treasurer