

South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting
March 7, 2006
Cedar Shore Hotel & Convention Center, Oacoma South Dakota

Chapter President Will Morlock called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. at the Cedar Shore Convention Center in Oacoma, South Dakota. President Morlock recognized a quorum was present and recognized Ron Schauer as the meeting parliamentarian. Secretary Art Smith presented the minutes of the 2005 annual meeting. Mary Clawson moved the minutes be approved as presented; second by Steve Griffin. Motion passed. Smith presented the Chapter's 2005 annual financial report. John Kanta moved to approve the report as presented; second by Laura Hubers. Motion passed.

Old Business

Nominations and Elections – Bridgette Flanders-Wanner

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner presented the list of candidates for President-elect and Board Member. Candidates were:

President-elect: Cara Staab, Kurt Forman

Board Member: Chuck Dieter, Tom Kirschenmann

Morlock called for nominations from the floor. With no further nominations, Rick Halseth moved to cease nominations; second by Ron Fowler. Motion passed & the election was conducted. Dennie Mann moved to accept the candidates & destroy the ballots, second by Larry Barden. Election results were presented at the completion of Old Business.

President-elect: Kurt Forman

Board Member: Tom Kirschenmann

Audit – Steve Griffin

Griffin reported that the Chapter's 2005 financial books were in order. Paul Mammenga motioned to approve the report; second by Chuck Dieter. Motion passed.

Awards – Nora Kohlenburg

Three total nominations were received for the Professional and Citizen's awards. These awards recipients will be forwarded to the CMPS Section for their awards competition. Awards for 'Best Student Presentation' and 'Best Presentation' were again procured and will be presented in an effort to recognize outstanding presentations at the SDTWS meeting. The Master of Science student award nominations were received and will be presented.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

This committee was not tasked with anything specific this past year from the Board or Chapter members. The Committee did follow federal conservation easements tax bill. This bill is still in the House, and has tax incentives this time around. The Committee is also keeping an eye on the proposed NEPA overhaul. This overhaul is desired by some on the House Committee and the Administration. The Committee is also looking at funding rural schools with federal lands sale proposals.

Education and Information – Laura Hubers

The development of an endangered species educational trunk for students by the USFWS was reported.

Membership – Chad Switzer

Switzer reported that 34 invitational letters were sent out to organizations and individuals prior to the meeting. Three new life members were gained in 2005.

Program – Bridgette Flanders-Wanner

Flanders-Wanner thanked all those who helped with program content. Flanders-Wanner thanked professors, students, & professional for presenting.

Resolutions – Dan Hubbard

No resolutions received. Resolutions need sponsorship from two members to be submitted for consideration by the chapter. Several ads were run in the newsletter with no response. Hubbard suggested Committee Chairs submit resolutions. Formatting will be taken care of by the Resolutions Committee.

Arrangements – Steve Griffin & Cliff Stone

Griffin reported that centrally located Cedar Shore venue is helping make a higher meeting attendance. This is an appropriate venue and returning is easier. Cliff Stone acquired the services of Jensen/Houska as auctioneer for the SDTWS annual auction & fundraiser.

Book Service – Bob Klaver

No report.

Certification – Pat Russel

Received one application for Certified Wildlife Biologist. For anyone interested, Committee has applications materials and criteria.

Chapter History – Cara Staab

Committee met one time during the year, went through archives. Committee is still unclear on how to get information on archives, need to meet with former Committee Chair, Ron Fowler.

Wildlife Disease – Teresa Zimmerman

This is a new Committee with Steve Griffin and Krysten Schuler the other members. Committee goals of: facilitate disease information; facilitate cooperation between agencies and non-governmental organizations on wildlife disease; enhance professional knowledge; increase public knowledge; and increase undergrad knowledge on wildlife disease have been identified.

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

Last year's commercialization of wildlife idea was brought to the Committee. Current Chapter resolution was published in the newsletter, questioning if it is needed to be revised. One comment was received. Will address Chapter desires in New Business.

Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

State Wildlife Grants information was summarized. Committee is currently making a state wildlife resources coalition list. Goal of the list is to identify 100 groups with similar interests; list is 30 short of that goal.

Non-game and Endangered Species – Eileen Dowd-Stukel

800 people attended the Annual Bald Eagle Awareness Days. Work on the birding trails guides (two of four completed) was noted. State Threatened and Endangered list was updated this past year. Missouri River endangered species work with SDGFP continues, information on this can be found on the Wildlife Diversity web page. Species updates were given on bald eagles, Black Hills mountain snail, American dippers, black-footed ferrets, Wyoming wolf, freshwater mussels, and Dakota skipper.

Fund-raising – Tom Kirschenmann

Kirschenmann thanked Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, UAP Timberland, the Rocky Mountains Elk Foundation and members who donated items. He also thanked members who participated in the raffle & auction. The live auction brought \$2,300, which was down just a bit from last year.

Grassland Issues – Eddie Childers

No Report.

Missouri River Issues – Vacant

No Report.

Newsletter – Greg Pavelka

The February newsletter was sent out, 170 copies, 90 electronically (55%). We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter.

Public Land Management – Dennis Mann, Tom LeFaive, Mary Clawson

Mann reported on a partnership project with U.S. Forest Service in the Black Hills eco-region thinning trees and elk habitat projects funded through WHIP. Black Hills are in their sixth year of drought, water is extremely important.

LeFaive requested that the SDGFP develop a policy statement with other agencies input for uniformed focus on wildlife management for the state. Federal agencies often are bogged-down with paperwork and federal regulations.

Clawson reported on habitat enhancement with burning in the Prairie Coteau through the Nature Conservancy and other organizations and agencies and on the fire learning network. Work is being done on grant applications to work private lands.

Resource Activism – Chuck Dieter

This Committee did not do much past work, but last year the mountain lion lawsuit was very prominent. Other issues this past year were protests of the BNP foothold trapping; Gov. Rounds sent a letter to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) addressing their contact about anti-rodeo, anti-research, anti-hunting on wildlife staff. Dieter reported that anti-fishing/hunting propaganda are being sent to schools across the nation, also that Sioux Falls was labeled as the most anti-vegan friendly.

Tribal Fish and Wildlife – Diane Mann-Klager

No report.

Wetlands – Kurt Forman

Wetlands Loan Act was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives November 14, 2005. This Act will accelerate duck stamp habitat acquisitions, also will protect wetlands. Act has \$4 million loan with future increases on duck stamps. There were 76 sponsors in the House of Representatives, complete support from State Governor's Association, the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and many non-government organizations.

Wetlands and Waterbirds Recognition Honor Roll – John Koerner, Ken Higgins

No report.

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Student Chapter Report – Emily Lorenzen

Chapter activities were reported on. Activities included: Waubay 123, Earth Day at the Great Plains Zoo, proctored a natural resources test with South Dakota and Minnesota Future Farmers of America, wood duck nest monitoring, 57th annual Buffalo Banquet, 2nd annual fire training, starting a storm-spotting class at SDSU for the public, 20 student members (9 undergrads) attended the National Wildlife

Society meeting in Wisconsin, same number of undergrads looking to attend Anchorage. October 20th in Brookings will be the 58th Buffalo Banquet, Thompson center fire rifle being auctioned, drawing 5/1 to fund the Anchorage trip, Chapter wanting to participate in the student Quiz Bowl, SDSU clothing sales to fund student Chapter club.

President Morlock called for other old business.

Mike Williams (Ike's) spoke about meandering lakes/public waters issue. Public's use on these areas, especially next to private lands, spurs commercialization of wildlife.

New Business

CMPS Section Representative Report – Bridgette Flanders-Wanner for Tom Ryder
Changes in the TWS publications, their availability electronically were presented.

Wind Power in South Dakota – Alyssa Kiesow

Kiesow reported the group met this past August and January. Group objectives were developed in August. Strategies and actions items were developed in January. 2006 workshop with Minnesota and North Dakota on wind power was being considered, would include agencies along with The Wildlife Society.

Approval of New Members – Chad Switzer

Thirty new members (15 students) were read. Tom Turnow motioned to accept the new members, second by K.C. Jensen. Motion passed.

2007 Annual Meeting

Dennie Mann recommended Chamberlain again; John Kanta motioned to leave location to Executive Board, seconded by Mann. Motion passed.

Additional New Business

- Commercialization of Wildlife – Lindbloom. Modifications of existing resolutions is a Board decision. Will gather member input over the next year.
- TWS Strategic Planning – Art Smith. Smith reported on the reason for and progress made by the Strategic Planning Committee. He also suggested to all present that when the time came for Chapter or general membership comments on the planning process.
- Punch Podoll spoke to the group about the sales of public lands. He suggested that maybe this is the right time to introduce the public land's market value to its users. Grazing fees are well below any market value, even below walk-in-access fees. If agencies/Chapter members approach legislative leaders on the concept, more money could easily be raised without selling public land. Morlock suggested the Board could write a letter to South Dakota Congressional leaders. Greg Pavelka indicated that Representative Hersheth sits on a House Committee that originated the public lands sale bill.

Transfer of Gavel

Morlock transferred the gavel to president-elect Bridgette Flanders-Wanner. Flanders-Wanner presented Morlock with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the chapter over the past year. She then summarized the accomplishments over the past year (wildlife public policy, e-mail newsletter, and others).

Koleen Colbeck moved to adjourn, second by Corey Huxoll. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Art Smith, Secretary/Treasurer