



South Dakota Chapter

The Wildlife Society

October 2006

President's Message

In the July issue of *The Prairie Voice*, you first heard me announce my intent to delve into the issue of committee involvement. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress the SDTWS board has made in exploring that issue.

Intent on learning more about the current status of our many committees, I sent a questionnaire to all of our committee chairs in August. The questionnaire included the following questions:

1. How many members does your committee have?
2. Does your committee need more members? Would you like to see more member involvement?
3. Does your committee work best alone or would it function better if combined with another committee?
4. What are the 5 most important topics that you feel your committee should be concerned with?
5. What are your goals/objectives for your committee in the next year?
6. If possible, identify other SDTWS members with interest, experience, or knowledge in your committee
7. Would your committee benefit from more board guidance or support?
If so, please specify the type of support that would be most beneficial to your committee?

The response rate was high, with 18 of 20 committees polled providing comments. (Thank you committee chairs for taking the time to compose such thoughtful responses). The Executive Board got our first chance to review chairs' responses as a group at our board meeting on September 5th.

We learned that committee size was small, averaging 1.5 members per committee. We also found that the need for additional members depended largely on the type of committee. For instance, all 6 of the committees that said they did *not* need more members were administrative-type committees. These committees provided limited and clearly identified services to SDTWS, such as awards, resolutions, or arrangements. Conversely, committee chairs charged with addressing conservation issues unanimously felt that they would benefit from larger committee membership.

While we regarded the information and comments as very useful, we also quickly realized that summarizing committee responses and addressing the needs of our various committees was not going to

be an easy task. Committee responses were highly variable, with some committees specifically requesting further guidance, some requesting assistance with membership recruitment, and others requesting committee consolidation. Then, there were some committees that seemed to be perfectly fine with the status quo. It became quite evident that we weren't going to be able to address all committee needs within the limited time available during our executive board meetings.

Nevertheless, we are highly interested in your comments/requests and will be doing as much as we can to keep the momentum up on addressing these issues. That being said, it may take a while before each committee's individual needs are addressed. As a first order of business, the board set a September 15th deadline for each board member to review every questionnaire for needs that could be addressed quickly and easily. The board will now be making an effort to address those needs before our next board meeting on November 9th.

Quick fixes aside, the questionnaires were a bit like opening a can of worms. The board has realized that the depth of some of your thoughts/replies may go beyond a quick fix. Therefore, the board also set a 2nd deadline (October 27th) by which to take some time to step back and review the overall function of our committees. We will try to identify areas where we can be more efficient (such as identifying overlap between committees), areas that may not be adequately addressed (consider the need for additional committee roles), and other "big picture" issues.

Thus, some of you will probably be contacted in the near future (for quick fixes), while other committees may not hear from us for a bit. Regardless, the message I'd like to leave with you is that we are continuing to move on this and all requests/comments will be addressed with due time. Thank you so much for your participation in this exercise and we welcome your feedback as we move through this process.

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
President, South Dakota chapter of The Wildlife Society

Looking for a Few Good SDTWS Candidates

The SDTWS is currently soliciting nominations for three vital positions on the Executive Board:

- President Elect
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Board Member

These positions provide a unique opportunity to simultaneously increase your professional growth and play a formative role in many issues that will impact the wildlife of South Dakota for generations to come. Please consider running. We intend to have the complete slate of candidates finalized within one month of publication of this newsletter.

For more information contact Kurt Forman at sdtws@brookings.net or 692-8359. Thank you.

Minutes of the June 8, 2006 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

President Bridgette Flanders-Wanner recognized a quorum & called the meeting to order at 10:50 A.M. at the Federal Building, Huron, South Dakota. Board members present were Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, Will Morlock, Laura Hubers, K.C. Jensen, Tom Kirschenmann, & Art Smith.

Smith presented minutes of the March 5 and 8, 2006 board meeting. Four minor spelling corrections were noted. Morlock motioned to accept, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Smith then presented the Treasurer's report. The performance of the Certificate of Deposit and Life memberships were discussed. Kirschenmann motioned to accept the report, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Also discussed, but not voted on, was the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes. The Annual Meeting financial report was presented with Morlock motioning to accept the report, Kirschenmann seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Old Business

Correspondence Sent

- A letter was sent to Maga Ta-Hohpi indicating a check for \$300 was being sent. The event was attended by 300 people.
- A letter of appreciation was sent to Representative Herseth for her support of the Wetlands Loan Act. There seems to have been a change in her focus for the better. The change may be due to a change in Herseth's staff.

Correspondence Received

- A request for funding the Huron Prairie Fest from the Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi was received. The support for \$300 was voted on by the Board via email.
- A handwritten letter of thanks was received by Charlie Rokusek, recipient of the SDTWS 2006 Citizen Award.
- The Chapter was CCed a seventeen page reasonable letter sent by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society selecting pipeline (instead of channeling) option for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Their reasoning for recommending pipeline over channeling was ease of cleaning and monitoring. The ND Chapter also commented that opening a conduit between the two waterways was not a good idea.

Board Duties

Morlock updated the list in the last couple of days. This is still a work in progress. The group added a few items to the lists.

Northern Great Plains Working Group

Flanders-Wanner is the Chapter's point of contact for this group. The advantage of assigning someone with more specialized knowledge in this area was favorably discussed. The Board explored and identified other options for potential points of contact, which are not already associated with the group. Jensen motioned to see if interest is there with two potential co-chairs and form a special committee about Farm Bill and Great Plains issues with the individuals chosen to be at the discretion of the Chair, Kirschenmann seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

National Awards

Jensen noted that the Chapter's McDonough award nomination was submitted too late for 2006, but the nomination would be developed for 2007. The Fellows award would also follow in suit. The Student Chapter ran out of time to submit themselves for Student Chapter of the Year, but hopefully they will try earlier in 2007.

New Business

Sale of Public Lands Versus Increasing Private Grazing Fees on Public Lands

Flanders-Wanner will draft a letter for Board review following the direction given to the Board at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Sponsorships

Disparate levels of funding by past sponsors, but all were given equal levels of appreciation, was recognized as a problem. The Board discussed the difficulties in categories of sponsors. Flexibility was decided as a good idea, but differentiation between funding differences was also desired. Kirschenmann will work on categories and email to the Board.

Committee Involvement

The Board noted that some committees were/are much more active than others. Some less active committee chairs would like direction from the Board on tasks. The Board agreed that a newsletter article should be written letting members know about the enhanced emphasis of Committees. Board also thought that committee chairs should be asked about where they'd like to go with their committees. Flanders-Wanner will work on asking chairs on this topic, what goals they are interested in, committee memberships, etc.

Newsletter items

- US State delegates should be on the distribution lists. Before sending, the editor should check with the President on issue contents.
- Next year's annual meeting will be written by Kurt Forman.
- President's message will be written by Flanders-Wanner.
- Committee reports (those electronically submitted) will be provided by Smith. Recent meeting minutes will also be submitted by Smith.
- Morlock will provide award recipient pictures and news.

2007 Meeting

Forman had contacted Flanders-Wanner about an idea for a grassland issues panel concept. The idea would include having panel members outside of the normal Wildlife Society realm to give their views.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting was tentatively set for September 5th (Tuesday) perhaps in Brookings, 11:00 am CDT.

Jensen moved to adjourn, seconded by Morlock. Motion passed (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

Committee Reports

Book Services

I would like to remind the SDTWS members of the Book Service. In the past, there have been significant savings to TWS members for relatively expensive wildlife books. For example, Pronghorn: Ecology and Management by Bart O’Gara and Jim Yoakum lists for \$85; TWS members have been able to buy it with a 40% discount plus shipping. The Book Service might not be the best option for all purchases. For less expensive books it has been more economical to purchase them through a local book store because of shipping charges. Additionally, some companies do not provide a discount because they are nonprofit organizations.

With the changing environment of the internet, use of the South Dakota TWS Book Service has diminished. Companies like Amazon are now providing a service that the South Dakota Chapter used to do. The Executive Board is presently reviewing the role and usefulness of the Special Committees. Please let your Board Members know your thoughts concerning the Book Service.

Do not hesitate to contact me (605-594-6067) if you would like to see if the Book Service can help you with your next book purchase.

Bob Klaver - Chairperson

Teaming with Wildlife Initiative (Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative Committee)

Thanks to assistance from many chapter members, South Dakota recently reached its goal of 100 Teaming with Wildlife Coalition members. The Teaming Coalition continues working on a long-term effort to secure stable, dedicated funding to meet the needs of all fish and wildlife species and their habitats. The national coalition was instrumental in securing State and Tribal Wildlife Grants funding, which is a stop-gap measure in addressing unmet funding needs in a more comprehensive way. South Dakota’s coalition continues to grow, and our members will be critical to making the case that support for all wildlife and their habitats is strong and widespread in our state.

To join the coalition, visit this website: <http://www.sdgap.info/Wildlife/Diversity/teaming.htm>

FY2007 State Wildlife Grants funding is presently still in negotiation between the House, which recommends \$50 million, and the Senate, which recommend \$67.5 million. All 3 of South Dakota’s delegation support the higher funding level. We often contact our representatives only when we have a complaint or request, so please consider sending a brief note of thanks for their support. These contacts help them justify continuing this support during future debates and votes on the floor.

Sen. Tim Johnson <http://johnson.senate.gov/offices.html>

Sen. John Thune <http://thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Email>

Rep. Stephanie Herseth <http://www.house.gov/herseth/contact.html>

Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chair

Resolutions and Public Statements

If you have a resolution for the Chapter to consider at the next annual meeting you may send it to the committee chair at any time. In order to be considered, a resolution only needs to be sponsored by two

voting Chapter members. You can send it, preferably as a Word attachment to an email, to the Chair, Dan Hubbard at daniel.hubbard@sdstate.edu. You needn't worry too much about format. As long as the draft has the appropriate background and facts, he can put it in the correct format. If you have any questions, contact him (PH: 605-688-4780). Additionally, if you have an idea for a resolution but aren't sure that you have enough of the "facts" to put one together, contact Dan anyway and perhaps the appropriate committee or person can be identified to help put together a credible resolution.

Dan Hubbard – Chairperson

“Grassland Legacies”—Theme for the 2007 SDTWS Annual Meeting

The future of South Dakota's grasslands will be the theme of the general session at the 2007 SDTWS annual meetings in Oacoma on March 5th -7th. Speakers from across the region will address a variety of issues related to the ecology, management and conservation of the state's grasslands. Special emphasis will be placed on issues being addressed in the ongoing farm bill deliberations which could culminate in 2007. Specific farm bill topics to be addressed in Oacoma included the future of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in South Dakota and the continued conversion of native prairie to cropland. Insights will also be provided by representatives of South Dakota's livestock and ethanol industries. At the time of this newsletter two to three slots remain open for additional presenters. Suggestions for additional general session presentations should be provided to Kurt Forman at sdtws@brookings.net, or 692-8359.

SDTWS Works on Native Prairie Issues

The ongoing conversion of native prairie to cropland is a primary resource concern in South Dakota that has national implications. Most estimates indicate that 40,000-50,000 acres of native prairie are lost annually in the state. This new wave of “Sodbusting” poses a wide variety of concerns to wildlife populations, particularly ground nesting birds. The issue has garnered enough attention to recently generate federal reviews by both the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accountability Office. The SDTWS is committed to making native prairie conservation a top priority in the upcoming year.

On August 8th, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner represented the SDTWS at a meeting between Representative Stephanie Herseth and the South Dakota Conservation Alliance. The meeting was designed to brief Representative Herseth on the new wave of “Sodbusting” moving across the state and discuss grassland conservation solutions. By all accounts it was a very productive meeting. Additionally, the SDTWS will be briefing National TWS staff on the issue and soliciting their assistance on native grassland issues during the 2007 Farm Bill deliberations.

A potential “Sodsaver” provision in the 2007 Farm Bill has quickly gained widespread endorsement as an effective means to curb the loss of native prairie. In general, a “Sodsaver” provision would prohibit federal commodity support payments and federally subsidized crop insurance on native prairie converted to cropland after enactment of the new Farm Bill---thus, removing what most consider to be a primary incentive to convert native prairie to cropland. This concept has broad and growing support by a variety of groups including Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Izaak Walton League of America and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The SDTWS will continue to work diligently on this vital issue and keep our membership informed.

How Green is your Congressperson?

By Greg Pavelka—SDTWS Newsletter Editor

On November 7, 2006 American citizens will go to the polls to elect 33 members of the United States Senate and all 435 members of the House of Representatives. The members of Congress hold great power to affect virtually all aspects of American life from setting tax rates to approving appropriations for the defense of the country. In electing representatives to Congress a citizen should consider a wide spectrum issues and candidates' position before casting his or her vote. That being said, members of the Wildlife Society as wildlife professionals have more than a passing interest on issues involving the environment. With the upcoming mid-term elections less than a month away, I think now is a good time to see how "green" or environmentally friendly the South Dakota congressional delegation is.

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) annually compiles a scorecard of the 535 members of Congress based on how the congressperson voted on bills the League deems are important to the environment. This month LCV issued its scorecard for the 109th Congress. The scorecard is based on votes from both the first session (2005) and the second session (2006). What follows are the scorecards for the South Dakota congressional delegation, U.S. Senators Tim Johnson (D) and John Thune (R) and U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth (D).

The League scored the Senate based on 27 votes on environmental issues in 2005 & 2006. These votes included such issues as the energy conference report, renewable energy, global warming, natural gas facilities, vehicle fuel economy (2 votes), opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling (4 votes), human pesticide testing, storm water cleanup, mercury admissions, environmental funding (2 votes), low income energy assistance (2 votes), oil company tax credits, logging roads in the Tongass National Forest, farm conservation programs, Central American Free Trade Agreement



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—Alaska

(CAFTA), population, the nomination of Judge Janice Brown to the U.S. Court of Appeals, off-shore drilling (2 votes), and Army Corps of Engineers projects reform (2 votes). (For a complete description of the votes go to www.lcv.org and click on the 2005 and 2006 scorecards.) A pro-environment vote was given 3.7 points. An anti-environment vote or no vote was given zero points. Therefore a senator voting with the LCV position on all 27 votes would have a score of 100 while a senator voting against the LCV position or not voting at all would have a score of 0.

Senator Tim Johnson's LCV score for the 109th Congress score is 78, which is higher than his lifetime LCV score of 69. Senator Johnson voted for the LCV position on 21 votes, against the LCV position on 5 votes and did not vote on one issue. The votes where Senator Johnson voted against the LCV position were on the energy conference report, the two votes to increase fuel economy and the two votes on off-shore drilling. Senator Johnson did not vote on natural gas facilities. Senator John Thune's LCV for the 109th Congress score is 15 which is a shade higher than his lifetime LCV score of 13. Senator Thune voted for the LCV position on 4 votes, against the LCV position on 22 votes and did not vote on

one issue. Senator Thune voted for the LCV position on human pesticide testing, farm conservation programs, CAFTA and low income energy assistance (1 vote). Senator Thune did not vote on natural gas facilities.

The 100 members of the Senate as a whole had a LCV score of 45.5. By party affiliation the 44 Democrats had an average score of 81.7 and the 55 Republicans had an average score of 15.7. (Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont is an independent.) The LCV scores for Senators Johnson and Thune are very close to their respective party averages. The South Dakota LCV average of 46.5 is also close to the national average of 45.5.

The LCV scored members of the House of Representatives on 30 votes. The votes were on the energy bill (2 votes), fuel economy, MTBE gas additive liability, natural gas facilities, oil refineries (2 votes), environmental justice, air pollution & oil refineries, natural gas drilling, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil drilling (4 votes), environmental funding cuts, endangered species, public lands sell off, CAFTA, border construction exemption, water projects, off-shore drilling (2 votes), drilling royalties, low income energy assistance, clean water, toxics release inventory, food safety, Tongass National For-



Least Tern Chicks—SD Endangered Species

est logging roads and salvage logging (2 votes). (For a complete description of the votes go to www.lcv.org and click on the 2005 and 2006 scorecards.) A vote for the LCV position gained 3.3 points on the scorecard. A vote against the LCV position or no vote garnered no points. Representative Herseth has a LCV score of 53 for the 109th Congress. She voted for the LCV position on 16 votes and against the LCV position on 14 votes. Representative Herseth's votes against the LCV positions were on the energy bill (2 votes) natural gas facilities, oil refineries, ANWR (1 of 4 votes), endangered species, border construction exemption, water projects, off-shore drilling (1 of 2 votes), oil refineries, food safety, clean water and salvage logging

(2 votes). In 2004 Representative Herseth had an LCV score of 56. (By way of comparison, South Dakota's representative in 2003, William Janklow's (R), had an LCV score of 5 and John Thune's LCV score as South Dakota's representative from 1996-2002 was 6.)

The LCV scored 433 of the 435 members of the House (the Speaker of the House, Republican Dennis Hastert, who votes at his discretion, was not scored nor was a vacant House seat in New Jersey scored). The average LCV score for House members was 46.3. As with the Senate, there is a major difference in the average score of Democrats compared to Republicans in the House. Representative Herseth's score of 53 was well below the 82.8 average for the 201 Democrats, but was quite high compared to the average of 14.2 for the 231 Republicans. (Vermont's lone representative is an independent.)

So how green is South Dakota as reflected by our national representatives? Pretty much the middle of the road. Senators Johnson and Thune are very close to their parties' average and the overall South Dakota average is close to the national average for the Senate. Representative Herseth, while far below the average for Democrats in the House, is above the national average and very high compared to the Republican average – middle of the road. Of our three congresspersons, only Representative Herseth is up for re-election in November. Senator Johnson will be up for re-election in November 2008 and Senator Thune will stand for re-election in November 2010.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Bridgette Flanders-Wanner
Huron WMD
200 Fourth Street SW
Huron SD 57350
phone 605-352-5894 ext 14

Past-President

Will Morlock
SD Game, Fish & Parks
400 West Kemp Ave.
Watertown SD 57201
phone: 605-882-5200

President-Elect

Kurt Forman
419 Hunters Ridge
Brookings SD 57006
Phone: 605-692-8359

Secretary-Treasurer

Arthur Smith
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501
phone: 605-773-7595

Board Member

Tom Kirschenmann
SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 Third Street SW
Huron SD 57350
phone 605-353-8477

Board Member

K.C. Jensen
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Sciences NPB 138D
PO Box 2140B
South Dakota State University
Brookings SD 57007
phone: 605-688-4781

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committees

Audit - Patrick Russell, Chairperson, 226-7587

Awards - Nora Kohlenberg, Chairperson, 773-4675

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, Chairperson, 773-4194

Education and Information - Laura Hubers, Chairperson, 947-4521

Membership - Chad Switzer, Chairperson, 605-353-6699

Program - Kurt Forman, Chairperson, 692-8359

Nominations and Elections - Kurt Forman, Chairperson, 692-8359

Resolutions and Public Statements - Dan Hubbard, Chairperson, 688-4780

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committees

Arrangements - Cliff Stone 734-4530 & Will Morlock 882-5200, Co-Chairs

Book Service - Bob Klaver, Chairperson, 594-6067

Certification - Vacant

Chapter History - Cara Staab 673-9347 & Corey Huxoll 773-41953, Co-Chairs

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, Chairperson

Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229

Fund Raising - Tom Kirshenmann, Chairperson - 352-1874

Grassland Issues - Eddie Childers, 433-5263 & Boyd Shulz, 697-6041, Co-Chairs

Missouri River Issues - Vacant

Newsletter - Greg Pavelka, Editor, 402-667-2581

Nongame/Endangered Species - Eileen Dowd Stukel, Chairperson, 773-4229

Private & Public Land Management - Dennis Mann 394-2391 & Tom LeFaive 223-2316, Co-Chairs

Resource Activism - Chuck Dieter, Chairperson, 688-4555

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, Chairperson, 226-7621

Wetlands - Kurt Forman, Chairperson, 692-8359

Wetlands and Waterbirds Recognition Honor Roll - John Koerner & Ken Higgins, 688-6121

Wildlife Diseases - Teresa Zimmerman 433-5378 & Steve Griffin 394-2391.

Wind Turbines - Alyssa Kiesow, Chairperson, 605-773-2742

If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your address has changed, send the information to: Greg Pavelka at Gregory.a.pavelka@usace.army.mil, or call 402-667-2581, or fax the information in at 402-667-2588.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Application for Membership/Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Indicate Home or Work) _____

E-mail Address (*for newsletter delivery*) _____

Home E-mail Address (*for list serve*) _____

Please Note:

The SDTWS List Serve is a one-way, non-conversational list serve used on an infrequent basis solely to inform members about important conservation issues and legislation. Due to the sensitive nature of some list serve content, we strongly advise that you provide us with a home e-mail address.

SDTWS' newsletter, The Prairie Voice, is all-electronic. Therefore, an e-mail address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an e-mail address).

Please Check One: New Member 2006 Dues Renewal

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Art Smith
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues (\$10 x 25 = \$250)

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues (\$10 x 20 = \$200)

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 17.5 = \$175)

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Chad Switzer (605) 353-6699.