

**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Business Meeting Minutes
25 February 2014
Cedar Shore Resort and Convention Center
Oacoma, SD**

Past-President Silka Kempema called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM at Cedar Shore Resort and Convention Center in Oacoma, SD. Past-President Kempema recognized a quorum was present and recognized Paul Coughlin as the meeting Parliamentarian.

Secretary/Treasurer Troy Grovenburg presented the Minutes of the 2013 annual meeting to the attendees. Minutes also were sent electronically to members prior to the annual meeting. Two editorial comments were suggested. Kent Jensen motioned to accept the report and Mark Norton seconded. Motion passed. Grovenburg presented the annual financial report. Jensen made motion to approve, Brent Jamison seconded. Motion carried.

Elections

President Mark Norton presented the candidates for new board members. Each candidate made a few comments on their background and their reasons for running for a position.

President Elect

John Kanta
Nathan Baker

Executive Board Member

Brent Jamison
Lee Erickson

The election was conducted and ballots were counted.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Audit

Travis Runia completed the financial audit. Examination of the checkbook did not find any discrepancies.

Awards – Baker

One nomination was received for the Citizens Award. We also received three nominations for the MS student of the year award. The PhD award will be offered next year. Awards will be presented during the Awards Banquet. Student and open presentation award plaques were again

procured, as was one for the outgoing Chapter President. Additionally, gift certificates were procured for the auctioneers.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

No Report

Membership – Grovenburg

There were 13 new members this year and 5 new life members.

Sponsors – Norton

Norton read the list of sponsors and thanked them.

Resolutions and Public Statements

Committee had been chaired by Dr. Dan Hubbard. With his retirement, the Committee needs a new chair.

Special Committee Reports

- Arrangements – Travis Runia

Cedar Shores is competitive price-wise. At this point, there is no reason to move the meeting.

- Certification

Currently vacant, looking for members and a chair.

- Chapter History

No Report

- Wind Power

No Report

- Biofuels

Currently vacant, looking for members and a chair.

- Fee Hunting

No Report

- Fundraising – Casey Heimerl

We raised \$2,329 on silent and live auction. We will be selling tickets for the GoPro thru the end of the meeting.

- Grasslands – Erickson

Two major issues this year, HB1006 and HB1083. Both were tabled in Committee and are currently dead.

- Missouri River Issues – Baker

Cliff Stone stepped down as Chair. Currently working with Conservation Review and Public Lands Committees to support Niobrara conservation areas.

- Newsletter

No Report

- Public Lands – Dennie Mann

1. Outfitter and Guides Needs Assessment for Nebraska National Forest

Commercialization and Privatization of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources
Monitoring and Enforcing of Special Use Permits will be all but impossible

2. BLM RMP

Areas covered: Greater Sage Grouse impacts, forage allocations, Invasive vegetation, habitat management plans, wind energy developments, water developments, fencing, surface disturbance, oil and gas developments, raptor protection, Protection Priority Areas (PPA), fire management, recreation, Ft Meade Area management.

3. Fort Pierre National Grasslands Fence relocation and water development

Support of adding dependable water, support big game friendly fence, utilize grazing rotations to improve grouse nesting habitat, opposed removal of dugouts and dams and fence out the three dugouts that still hold water and the headwaters of Booth Dam.

4. Nebraska National Forest-Bufalo Gap National Grasslands and Badlands National Parks “Kelly Exchange” - 633 conveyed to Kelly and 667 conveyed to USA.

Positive aspects include: Transfer of private land inside BLNP back to NPS, remove domestic livestock from within the boundary of the park, increase BLNP acreage and black footed ferret acreage in the Roberts prairie dog town. One negative issue of this exchange would be loss of public access from Hwy 240 to forest service property unless an agreement can be made with Mr. Kelly for an easement for public access through the

exchanged property. The only other access point is west from the Sage Creek Road and FS Road 7191, along a section line between sections 21 and 28, and adjacent to private land. SDTWS believes that if access from Hwy 240 is eliminated that will direct all access to Forest Service lands from the Sage Creek Road and would increase more public use and possible conflicts during hunting seasons and those engaged throughout the year with fishing activity. The solution would be to negotiate a legal easement with Donald Kelly prior to the exchange which would eliminate future conflicts from various user groups.

5. Land Protection Plan for the Ponca Bluffs Conservation Area and the Niobrara confluence

Support Preferred Alternative C to provide long term protection, encourage the partnership between USFWS, NPS, NGOs, private landowners, and agricultural groups to protect and enhance these two river areas.

- Tribal Fish & Wildlife

No Report

- Wetlands

No Report

- Wildlife Disease – Steve Griffin

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): From July 1, 2013 to January 15, 2014 a total of 169 samples (122 elk, 8 mule deer, and 39 white-tailed deer) were collected from southwestern South Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and the Black Hills of South Dakota. As of January 15, 2014 all results are in except for 9 pending results, and we have found 7 CWD positive elk, 6 CWD positive white-tailed deer, and 2 CWD positive mule deer. Since testing began in 1997, South Dakota has documented 251 cases of CWD (86 elk and 165 deer) in free ranging deer and elk. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 66 of these animals (56 elk and 10 deer). Custer State Park has found seven elk and one deer. A total of 25,066 wild deer and elk have been tested for CWD since 1997.

We are collecting all elk samples as we have in the past, but only sample deer heads from CWD units that are submitted to the Rapid City Regional Office. We continue to test any suspect animals from across the state.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease: The State of South Dakota experienced another substantial die-off of white-tailed deer during September-October 2013 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue (BT). South Dakota started receiving reports of sickly and deceased white-tailed deer during the late summer and early fall, and as in previous years, we suspect EHD, and move towards documentation of the virus through our Diagnostic Lab at South Dakota State University. Through laboratory testing,

we confirmed that both the EHDV and BTV virus was present in mainly white-tailed deer, but also confirmed in elk, and pronghorn. South Dakota continued with documentation of sick and dead wildlife until the middle of October when most of the state experienced its first killing frost and thus the end of the biting flies.

Eleven counties from across South Dakota had confirmed EHD virus (14 cases) or Bluetongue virus (11 cases) in white-tailed deer, elk, or pronghorn. Most cases were found in western South Dakota with a total of 678 deer, elk, pronghorn reported. In the eastern side of the state, a total of 169 reports of dead or sick deer were recorded. A total of 847 dead or sickly deer, elk, or pronghorn were recorded in South Dakota during 2013. Totals included 825 deer, 19 pronghorn, and 3 elk.

Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep: SDGFP has concluding research through SDSU on bighorn sheep and the dissertation is being completed. We continue at a reduced level to monitor bighorn sheep for health issues, and documented 2 lambs with pneumonia again this year. We believe that we continue to loose bighorn lambs to the disease as we have only documented 7 lambs that survived to our fall survey period. We have documented the pneumonia complex in our adult bighorns, and have experienced some adult mortality due to pneumonia. We look forward to the final report and analysis.

Tuberculosis: Bovine TB was found in a cow from the Hutchinson/Turner County area in late 2013. The Animal industry board is testing other cattle herds in the area and we are waiting for some results. We continue to work with the State Veterinarian to monitor for the disease in wild cervid populations. Staff knows what to look for, and we are looking for any abnormalities in harvested cervids to monitor for the disease in our cervid populations. We have not found anything in our deer or elk that would suggest that TB is in the wild cervid populations in any area around these cattle operations.

Other: Diseases that we are aware of and monitoring for in South Dakota include White Nose syndrome in bats, plague in prairie dogs, rabies, and west nile virus. A lot of this monitoring is done through the South Dakota Department of Health, and we work well with the Animal Industry Board on other disease issues.

- Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel

The WAP revision is in process of being completed. Expect a draft plan for public viewing this spring. Anticipate finishing in June.

Bald Eagle Awareness Days was held June 2013 and the 2014 event was last week at the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus.

Working to complete the wind energy habitat conservation plan.

New species listings being considered are wolf, Dakota skipper, Poweshiek skipperling, rednot, and black-backed woodpecker.

- Other Reports

- Central Mountains and Plains Section Update – Dr. Gary White

Dr. White presented a PowerPoint presentation “The Wildlife Society: Moving Forward” that touched on a variety of topics:

- TWS History (including Student Chapters)
- TWS Organization – 8 sections, 62 chapters, 120 student chapters, and 22 working groups
- Governing Council – 12 voting members
- Current TWS Officers and Staff
- TWS Memberships
 - 2013 down to 10,125
 - Was record membership previous three years
- Milwaukee annual conference (5-10 Oct 2013)
 - Conference and awards banquet were a huge success
- Technical Reviews Update
 - Controlled burning is the only one currently being worked on
 - Approved Technical Reviews included North American Model, Management of Ungulates in National Parks, Biofuels, Oil and Gas in Rocky Mountains, and Large Mammalian Carnivores
- Position Statements
 - No new ones this year
 - Ad Hoc Committee on deer/big game farming
 - Pinned deer hunts
 - Drugged deer
 - Genetic manipulation
- Budget (2012)
 - Net loss of \$91,005
 - Still down but represents a big improvement
 - 2013 figures will be out in March
- Selected Council Actions
 - Budget issues
 - Need to balance the budget in 2014
 - Provisional membership in database
 - Conservation Affairs Network
 - Extended Agency License for TWS Journals
 - \$4,500 per year

- Publications
 - Reviewed all TWS publications
 - Wildlife Society Bulletin
 - Just over 1,100 individual subscriptions
 - Expected >3,000
 - Institutional subscriptions are only 23% of JWM
- New Journal Editors
 - Evie Merrill, JWM
 - Chris Ribic, WSB
- Wildlife Techniques Manual
 - 7th Edition of the Wildlife Techniques Manual was completed
 - Nova Silvy, Editor
 - Two volume set launched in March 2012, published by John Hopkins University Press
- Federal Leadership in Professional Societies
 - A TWS-led coalition of professional/scientific societies was successful in changing the rules for federal service employees on boards
- Annual Conference
 - 21st Annual Conference will be in Pittsburg, PA
 - 25-30 October 2014
 - If members need help to justify attending:
 - The Wildlife Society Annual Conference Justification Toolkit
 - How to calculate ROI of the conference
 - Justification letter for your supervisor
- TWS Leadership Institute
 - Launched in 2006
 - 10-15 participants receive grants to attend the TWS Annual Conference
 - Goal is to provide basic leadership training and skills for young professionals
 - Mix of practical exercises, classroom work, readings, discussions, lectures, and writing projects.
 - Participants will be tracked for several years to evaluate program success
 - CMPS had one person last year
 - Budget cut for 2013, but funding was achieved thanks to Wyoming, Colorado, and CMPS

- TWS Awards
 - Awards include the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award, Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research, Chapter and Student Chapter of the Year Awards, Conservation Education Award, Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Research Scholarship, Diversity Award, Fellows Program, Group Achievement Award, Honorary Membership, Jim McDonough Award, Special Recognition Service Award, Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award, and TWS Wildlife Publication Awards.
- TWS Fellows Program
 - Recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our profession
 - Nominee must meet the following criteria:
 - TWS member for last 10 years
 - Active in TWS at Chapter, Section, or international level
 - Must have a distinguished professional record that includes significant contributions to wildlife resources and the profession
 - Deadline this year is 15 Feb.
 - CMPS members inducted as TWS Fellows at the Milwaukee meeting – Rick Hoffman, Colorado, and Bob Lanka, Wyoming
- TWS Distinguished Service Award
 - Recognizes long-term commitment to the Society
 - Membership longevity
 - Some who is/was “always there” and could be counted on to serve the Chapter, Section, or International organization
 - One nominee per section per year
 - 2013 – Carl Wolfe, Nebraska
- 2014 CMPS Meeting
 - Will be held in Sheridan Wyoming, 26-28 August
- Bill Vodehnal
 - Leadership Institute – deadline may still be open
 - Need to be responding to issues
 - CMPS – letter tying conservation compliance to insurance
 - Forest Service – commercial outfitters, special use permits
 - Letters posted on website

- Student travel grants announcement coming soon
- SDSU Student Report
 - Jessica Ring – President
 - We started off the year with a grill out to recruit new members. The club held a camping trip at Oakwood Lake State Park. We repaired some fence and cleared off brush at Conservation Park. We have had two speakers present at our meeting. Josh Smith, SDSU PhD student, presented on his bighorn sheep and mountain lion research. Susan Fredrickson from the office of Career Development presented on resume building. A few of us volunteered at the Klondike Derby Boy Scouts Event in Lake Benton, MN. We have two Ag days approaching where we'll have a booth set up. We are in charge of the Natural Resource Management testing for state FFA. The 66th Annual Buffalo Banquet will be held April 15th.

Election Results

- Norton gave election results
 - President Elect – John Kanta
 - Board Member – Lee Erickson
 - Dennie made motion to accept ballot. Chuck seconded. Motion approved.
- Other Old Business

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of new members
 - Norton – Motion to accept new members. Kanta motion, Corey Huxoll seconded. Motion approved.
- Meeting sites/dates for 2014 meeting
 - Jensen made motion to leave it to the board. Dennie seconded. Motion approved
- Other New Business
 - GPNSS approached board about participating in workshops
 - Grovenburg went over the current GPNSS workshops
 - Board felt that it was something we needed to talk to the members about
- Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Mark Norton
- Presentation of Past-President plaque
- Adjourn – Motion to adjourn (10:15 AM) – Corey Huxoll, Kanta seconded. Motion approved.

