



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

895 3rd St. SW

Huron, SD 57350

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Executive Board Meeting
17 September 2013

Attendance: Silka Kempema, Mark Norton, Casey Heimerl, Nathan Baker, Travis Runia, and Troy Grovenburg

Silka called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM (Camp Lakodia)

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed. Mark will resend google drive access information to Grovenburg. Mark made motion to approve minutes, Grovenburg seconded — motion carried.

Grovenburg provided treasurers report. Board discussed format and amount of detail to be provided in reports. Decision was made to leave amount of detail to the Treasurer. Casey made a motion to accept the report, Travis seconded — motion carried.

Silka provided thank you letters from Dave Steffen and Paul Mammenga for the board to review. Additionally, Silka provided the response of Representative Noem to the Conservation Compliance letter for the board to review. The board also reviewed action on issues that were addressed over email (providing comments on the Bureau of Land management (BLM) Resource Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Ft Pierre National Grassland southwest fence relocation and waterline project Environmental Assessment).

No new funding requests were received by board members.

Discussion on emails from current TWS president via budget. Norton commented that this does not really affect us as a state chapter.

Conservation grazing position statement – Pete Bauman sent a position statement on conservation grazing from MN TWS. The board discussed whether we should have a position on conservation grazing. Norton commented that this may be something we should forward to grassland conservation committee as well as the position statement committee. Board will forward to both committees.

The board discussed the use of member email list. What should it be? Disseminate CMPS TWS as well as national TWS information. Other information (such as sharing MNTWS workshop announcement) will be used for newsletter filler.

CMPS meeting. Silka has document to send to board. Active issues (CMPS conservation affairs network):

- Missouri River Confluence Area DEIS – Draft letter was written by Paul Coughlin. Nick’s name was spelled inconsistently; Silka will correct and send letter.
- Buffalo Gap land exchange – Letter was forwarded to Public Lands Committee and thought we should respond to it. Will give Lands Committee official go ahead to respond. Travis inquired if they can do some sort of conservation easement on land being given up. Silka would ask Dennie Mann.
- Nebraska National Forest (NNF) Outfitters and guides – NNF initiated an assessment of need for authorized outfitting or guiding activities. During board discussion, Travis stated that we have sent letters in past in protest to same issues. Present to Public Lands and Fee Hunting and Ownership of wildlife committees. Board consensus was to let them draft letter referencing our position statement.
- Sharing Comment letters
 - BLM comment letter – had a request for a copy of Chapter’s comment letter from SDTWS member. Silka provided a copy.
 - Board also received a request for Chapter’s comment letter from a non-member. This initiated discussion on use of letters. Mark commented that all letters are public record once submitted. Prior to submission we should be more cautious. The Board has no issues sharing published letters. Could even place letters on website. Silka will respond to non-member letter request and have them placed on the website.

Awards Committee – Board discussed upcoming call for professional and citizen awards for 2014.

Travis asked if we should have a position statement on wind energy. Possible limited involvement by USFWS-employed members? Maybe have a draft ready for next business meeting to stimulate discussion. Silka will visit with Dr. Kent Jensen.

Mark gave an update on the 14 August NRCS Tech Committee meeting.

Update on conservation compliance. Travis attended town hall meeting with Representative Noem at the SD State Fair. Half of the meeting was non-farm bill related. Noem stated her support for sodsaver. Frank Lucas (House Ag. Chairman) was against linking compliance to crop insurance.

2014 meeting theme and banquet speaker. The board talked about guest speaker requests and costs. Mark proposed the theme of educating the larger public on conservation work beyond the tip of a fishing pole or barrel of gun. Focus on different ways of generating funding and awareness. Focus more on general public and not just hunters and anglers. Mark will do the meeting agenda.

No additional business.

Grovenburg made motion to adjourn. Casey seconded. Silka adjourned at 11:50 AM.