



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

895 3rd St. SW

Huron, SD 57350

(605) 353-8477

Executive Board Meeting

7 January 2015

- Attendance: Mark Norton, John Kanta, Silka Kempema, Casey Heimerl, Lee Erickson, Paul Coughlin
- Location: Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma
- Mark called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm
- Minutes from the previous meeting were not available to approve.
- Board reviewed the treasurer's report through 12/31/14. Erickson made motion to approve the report. Silka seconded – motion carried.

Old Business:

- Invite to Dakotas AFW-TWS Futures Conference – was not sent to the membership by the requested deadline still need details on date and location.
- Funding request from Parent Society for Annual Conference – at the previous meeting the board decided to not provide funding.
- Funding request for wood duck box materials for the Hamlin County shop class – the board provided funding for \$200 and received a thank you letter from the class.
- Website renewal – The board approved via email to renew with our current website provider. Charlie Bessken will be reimbursed for the renewal costs. The board discussed the possibility of rolling our website into the parent society website. More information is needed first.

New Business:

- Newsletter Committee Chair/Website editor

- Charlie Bessken notified the board that she would like to give up her position as the newsletter committee chair and website editor in the near future. Membership will be notified about the opening at the annual business meeting. The board also discussed the possibility of splitting the positions and responsibilities that Charlie was covering.
- Certification Committee Chair
 - This position still remains vacant and needs to be filled. Members that have been inquiring about certification are currently being directed to the parent society website.
- Bald Eagle Awareness Days Funding Request – requests \$200 for upcoming educational raptor programs. Lee made a motion to approve. Kanta seconded. Motion approved. Grovenburg will send a check to Casey Heimerl.
- 2015 Annual Meeting Planning
 - Meeting Handbook
 - The board went through the meeting handbook and assigned responsibilities for the upcoming meeting
 - Agenda
 - Kanta provided an update on the program agenda. He has received several student abstracts but could still take a few more professional presentations. He has been coordinating with Matt Schwarz, contaminants specialist with the USFWS, and has some leads for potential speakers.
 - Registration form
 - Norton presented the new registration form. Changes include a selection for the free raptor workshop and the option to purchase a t-shirt for \$12.
 - Raffle/Fundraising
 - Casey suggested raffling a shotgun this year. Kanta will contact Cabela's in Rapid City for gun options.
 - Casey and Travis Runia will contact local businesses for donation items.
 - Auctioneers
 - Silka will contact Ted Petrak to see if he will be the auctioneer again.
 - Meeting sponsors
 - Norton has contacted Dennie Mann who will request \$250 from each the Safari Club and Crop Production Services.
 - Kanta will contact the Great Plains Natural Science Society to see if they will cover the travel costs for some of the guest speakers.
 - Casey will contact the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
 - Norton will contact Millborn and Truax and Pheasants Forever.
 - Menu
 - Board decided on the menu for meals and breaks

- Review of award nominees
 - The board reviewed award nominations and selected a M.S. student award, PhD student award and Wildlife Professional award.
 - Board discussed our current student award nomination form and review process; thought improvements could be made to help standardize application process
 - Board also discussed increasing membership of the Awards Committee and having this committee review and select recipients.
- Board member candidates
 - Need nominations for board member at large, president-elect, and secretary/treasurer. The board discussed possible candidates and will contact to determine interest.
- Silka will be in charge of organizing presentation evaluations.
- Lee will work with the SDSU student chapter on the possibility of having another student-professional mixer.
- Norton will be in charge of getting rooms at Cedar Shores for the SDSU student chapter.

Info Items:

- Conservation Affairs Network
 - Paul Coughlin provided an update on the Conservation Affairs Network - a joint effort to encourage communication on policy and other issues related to wildlife from the parent chapter down to the state levels
 - Paul was asked to provide a presentation of how the conservation network works at our annual meeting. There are future plans of setting up a database on the parent website for chapters to archive comment letters and policy statements that will be made available to members and the public.
 - Paul requested that the board include him when committees address an issue (i.e. response letters, etc.)
 - Each state chapter is to identify their five top policy issues to share with parent chapter. Board may request assistance from the committees with identifying issues for SD.

- Kanta made a motion to adjourn. Casey seconded. Motion carried – 3:00 pm.