

South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society



A Prairie Voice



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President's Message

I debated starting off this President's message by writing about how the temperatures are beginning to warm and days in the field are becoming a reality. Then, I remembered what Past President, Josh Stafford, said in regards to writing about the weather in his last President's message! He noted that talking about the weather is taking the easy way out. Weather is an easy conversation piece because everyone can relate to it. As biologists, it's something we deal with on a daily basis, whether it's in regards to site visits, landowner contacts, field work, or viewing it out the window from in front of a computer screen. But taking the easy way out isn't always the best decision. So, I'll forgo the cheesy weather talk and instead write about a harder topic, professional involvement.

Our Chapter has vacancies in both our standing and special committees. I encourage you to visit our website (<http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/leadership-governance/>) and learn more about what these committees do and how you can be a part of them! While we are on this topic, the parent chapter of The Wildlife Society is asking the state chapters to share their membership information (name and email) in efforts to boost national membership and involvement. The parent chapter will not sell your information to any outside sources. They want to offer state members the opportunity to buy a national membership. As a perk for being a national member, you will receive a weekly e-newsletter called *eWildlifer* that provides the latest news and links to wildlife related issues from across the nation, and access to online journal publications. As discussed at the annual business meeting, our board will be sending an email out to our membership at a later date with the details of this request for sharing contact information.



We had a very successful 52nd Annual Meeting. We had a total of 94 registered attendees, and I want to thank everyone for taking time from their busy schedules to make it to the meeting. It's not only nice seeing faces from the past and catching up with colleagues from other parts of the state but making new connections and partnerships as well. I also want to thank everyone who helped out with all of the logistics during the meeting. It's certainly a group effort to pull off a meeting of that magnitude. Thanks again to our sponsors who contributed funds to help cover some of the meeting costs.

I hope everyone was able to come away from the meeting learning something new. We received some positive feedback from the attendees about our new fundraising format. We definitely thought it was a success not only from a monetary standpoint, but in its entertainment and social aspect. We also had a great group of speakers that engaged our meeting theme, "*Natural History: Back to Basics with Backpacks and Binoculars.*" Talks ranged from citizen science happening in our own back yards, to common sense habitat management. The wildlife photography workshop by Michael Furtman was very well received. I think we all learned a few tips and tricks that can help document or show off the cool sights we are lucky enough to see. Our Keynote speaker, Robert Zink, was very entertaining as he addressed the crowd during our Tuesday evening banquet. He was able to put a humorous spin on wildlife research, while encouraging all of us as professionals to step outside our comfort zone by forgoing the technical writing to engage the public via newspaper articles or magazine columns.

As a board, we are now looking forward to planning our 53rd Annual Meeting and are currently looking at possible meeting dates. Once again, we plan on centering our meeting at Arrowwood of Cedar Shores in Oacoma, SD. President elect, Eric Magedanz, is in charge of next year's agenda. If you have any specific topics or themes you see relevant to our state and its wildlife/habitat, please contact Eric (emagedanz@pheasantsforever.org) or myself at any time.

Have a wonderful and enjoyable summer in the great state we call home, South Dakota!

Alex Solem, President – South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society News

Popular Articles on the TWS website

- [Cubs stay with their mothers longer to avoid hunters](#)
- [JWM: Habitat quality drives elk recruitment](#)
- [Smithsonian set to take over USGS Biological Survey Unit](#)

For the latest TWS News

<http://wildlife.org/learn/news-center/>



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation



Check it out...

- Renew your membership [online](#) at SDTWS website
- SDTWS is on Facebook!



Click [here](#) to join the group! Facebook is a great way to share information, post events, to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest.

Contact Chuck Pyle at goosemansd@hotmail.com if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.



2018 Annual Meeting Photos



James Headley
Life Member



Paul Mammenga
Life Member



**2018 Wildlife Professional
of the Year Award**
Nancy Drilling



2018 Citizen Award
Full Circle Farm Youth Academy

2018 Annual Meeting Photos



2018 Best Student Presentation
Kyle Kaskie



2018 Photo Contest Winner
Heidi Haivala

2018 Best Open Presentation
TJ Fontaine
USGS Nebraska Cooperative
Fish & Wildlife Research Unit



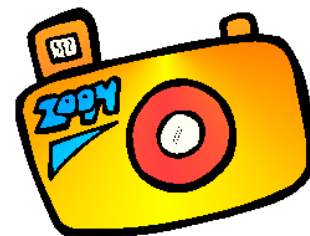
2018 Outstanding Wildlife
M.S. Student
Tyler Garwood

2018 Annual Meeting Fundraiser





PHOTO CONTEST



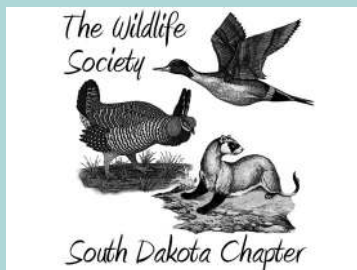
We know our members have great pictures from their outside adventures including landscapes, hunting, outdoor recreation, and flora/fauna. We would like to showcase your pictures during a photo contest at this year's annual meeting.

Entry fee: \$5 per photo—no limit on number of entries

Size: 8x10 attached to 10x12 black cardboard / foam board mat

- Photos can be submitted prior to the meeting to any board member or can be brought to the annual meeting
- Winner will be chosen by popular vote at 2018 Annual Meeting & receive 50% of the entry fees.
- The winning photo will be displayed on the SDTWS website and will be made into a canvas to be auctioned off at 2019 annual meeting.





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

207 Park Ave.

Sinai, SD 57061

Agenda - Executive Board Meeting, February 25th, 2018

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD

- Call to order: 7:10pm
- Present: Josh Stafford, Alex Solem, Nathan Baker, Ben Lardy, Brian Pauly, Jacquie Ermer, Bob Lanka
- Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Jacquie Ermer
 - Approval of minutes from last meeting
 - Motion to approve by Lardy; second by Solem; all in favor
 - Approval of Treasurers report
 - Motion to approve by Solem; second by Baker; all in favor
- Old Business
 - 2018 Annual Meeting Planning
 - Assignments
 - Setup, Computers, Lights, Banners
 - Tables
 - Registration- Ermer get cash box (\$700)
 - Photo Contest – Ermer set up
 - Sponsors – Truax, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Safari Club Intl, Crop Production Services
 - Posters (pin to wall- banquet room)
 - Agenda – Solem
 - Judging speakers (need 6)
 - Auction-
 - Live auction- Gay Simpson print
 - Stafford and Solem
 - Remaining items- silent auction
 - Keep open until 7pm Tuesday
 - Last year's minutes and financial reports- Ermer prepare
 - Audit- Baker
 - Guest Speakers- confirmed

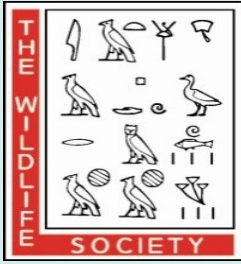
- Odds and Ends
 - Review Agenda- one additional talk on Tuesday
 - Raffle – Boyd print tickets; “IOU” slips throughout game night; Ermer get cash box
 - Nominations
 - President-elect- Eric Magedanz
 - Board Member- Nick Markl
 - Awards – Baker has awards, Stafford needs to sign
 - Life members -3
 - Master’s- 1
 - Open Committee Chairs- throughout meeting Stafford will announce need to fill vacancies; please sign up
- New business
 - Final annual meeting preparations
 - Lanka asked us to announce TWS Leadership Institute apps due Mar 1; main target for this opportunity is new professionals
 - Struggling to find candidates to run for board; how do we get more interest and participation? Discussion
- Motion to adjourn: Pauly; second Solem; all in favor
Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

TWS 25th Annual Conference



SAVE THE DATE

CLEVELAND, OHIO | OCTOBER 7-11, 2018

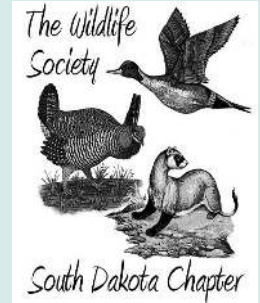


SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Annual Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes

27 February, 2018

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD



- * 9:00 am Call to order – President Joshua Stafford
- * Recognize a quorum; recognized Parliamentarian – Paul Coughlin
- * Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting – Jacquie Ermer
- * Mark Norton motion to approve as amended with edits to Other New Business “sharing member info with TWS”; second by Corey Huxoll; all in favor
- * Annual Treasurer’s Report – Jacquie Ermer

Julie DeJong motion to approve; second by Chuck Berdan; all in favor

Old Business

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections – Alex Solem

*Comments from the Candidates

-Board member candidate- Nick Markl

-President-elect candidate- Eric Magedanz

*Casting of the Ballots

-Motion by Mark Norton to cast unanimous vote of the ballots since there was only one candidate for each position; second by Eddie Childers; all in favor; motion passed

Audit – Nathan Baker

• Reviewed bank accounts after the 2/25/18 executive board meeting; found to be in good standing
Awards – Nathan Baker

- One nomination was received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award and two nominations were received for the Citizens Wildlife Award. We also received a nomination for the M.S. student of the year award. The Ph.D. student award is offered every other year, and will not be offered this year. Awards will be presented tonight during the Awards Banquet. Student and open presentation award plaques were again procured, as was one for our outgoing chapter president.

Conservation Review – Paul Coughlin

- As described in the SDTWS Chapter bylaws, the Conservation Review Committee is charged with reviewing legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and NEPA related documents affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat in South Dakota, and making recommendations to the Executive Board regarding possible action by the Board or Chapter.

Conservation Affairs Network:

- In 2014, the Chapter’s Executive Board tasked the Conservation Review Committee to serve as the Chapter’s representative to parent chapter’s Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). The CAN was launched in early 2014 and serves to engage and unify efforts by chapters, sections, and the parent Chapter in wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. The CAN is a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters

important to wildlife professionals.

2017 Conservation Affairs Network Activities:

- In 2017, no specific issues or topics for review were brought to the Conservation Review Committee by the Chapter's Executive Board or its membership. The Committee continues to participate in regular parent Chapter led CAN conference calls and webinars related to a variety of national issues.
- Topics on the Conservation Affairs Network's radar over the past year include:
 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act - The Conservation Affairs network, along with numerous other TWS chapter and section units, has become fully engaged in support and advocacy for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The Committee participated in several conference calls and webinars related to this topic. Obviously this remains a high priority for TWS at all levels.
 - Federal budgets and appropriations, and along with it the proposed reorganization of the Department of Interior
 - The American Prairie Conservation Act - a sign on letter was distributed in support of this legislation that would adopt a nation-wide "sodsaver" program
 - State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - a "Dear Colleague Letter" was circulated to express support for these grant programs
 - The 2015 "Waters of the United States" rule, which would have clarified the definition of the types of water bodies covered under the Clean Water Act
 - Forest Management Reform - The severity of the 2017 wildfire season has put forest management and fire funding reform at the center of many discussions on Capitol Hill, and a number of relevant pieces of legislation are making their way through Congress
 - The Executive Board and Chapter membership are encouraged to engage and utilize the Committee as a resource for addressing legislative, policy, and environmental issues affecting South Dakota wildlife and their habitats, and take full advantage of resources available through the Conservation Affairs Network, accessible on the TWS website.
 - Finally, I'll be stepping down as chair of this Committee, and Mark Norton has graciously agreed to assume the chair position.

Submitted by: Paul Coughlin, Chair

Education and Information – Laura Hubers

• Nothing to report; Laura would like to step down as chair and is looking for replacement
Membership – Chuck Pyle

• No report
Program – Alex Solem

• Gave update on agenda; natural history roots
Resolutions and Public Statements – Vacant

Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Nathan Baker

• Accommodations and facilities have been sufficient at Cedar Shores
Certification – Vacant

Chapter History – Corey Huxoll

• Nothing to report
Energy – KC Jensen and Silka Kempema

- No report; Silka stepping down as co-chair

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

- No report

Fundraising – Ben Lardy

- Game night instead of live auction; positive feedback

Grassland Issues –Boyd Schulz/Jim Madsen/Joel Murano/Pete Bauman

- Currently looking for new chair; No report

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker

- No updates on Missouri River Issues at this time.

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

- Please send to Jennifer any pictures, news, stories, etc to be included in newsletters

Public Lands – Mark Norton / Dennie Mann / Tom LeFaive / Eddie Childers

- Committee Members: Mark Norton (Chair), Dennie Mann, Tom LeFaive, Chuck Berdan, Eddie Childers, Greg Schenbeck, Paul Coughlin, Bob Hodorff, and Shelly Deisch
- The public lands committee submitted comments to the US Forest Service on the Eastern Pennington Waterline project in March of 2017. Our letter pointed out that the waterline project Environmental Assessment failed to fully consider the 2009 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and its rangeland and wildlife objectives, standards and guidelines. We received a notification that a draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact was completed on May 5th. This means they are proceeding without implementing any of our recommendations.
- The public lands committee also submitted a letter of support in March to the US Forest Service on the Limber Pine restoration project in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve on the Black Hills National Forest. We supported the project to restore a rare native tree species which will enhance the habitat diversity within the preserve and enhance the preserve's ability to fulfill its purpose.
- The public lands committee submitted comments to the US Forest Service on the Stony Butte Project Environmental Assessment on the Fort Pierre National Grassland in September. Our letter was supportive of many of the proposed actions to increase public recreational opportunity and to manage for increased biodiversity and the reduction of invading cool-season exotics. We did express concern over the Environmental Assessment not considering the impact of increased water development on site specific pastures and the potential for homogenization of grassland structure and decreased biological diversity.
- In the fall of 2017 members of the public lands committee attended a couple of meetings held by SD Game, Fish & Parks of the Rushmore Connector Trail working group. These meetings developed a couple of route options for a trail connecting Mount Rushmore to the Mikkelson Trail. The optional routes were then sent to the U.S. Forest Service for consideration.
- Just this month, the public lands committee sent another letter to the US Forest Service in response to the draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact on the Stony Butte Project. This letter thanked the Forest Service for their consideration and responses to earlier public comments and questions.
- All of the comment letters mentioned in this report are available on the SD TWS website.
- Paul Coughlin recently joined the public lands committee.
- Mark Norton will be stepping down as committee chair after the 2018 annual meeting.
- Eddie Childers and Chuck Berdan will be new co-chairs

Tribal Fish & Wildlife – Mike Gutzmer

- No report

Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

- No report

Wildlife Diseases – Steve Griffin

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** Surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in South Dakota during the period of July 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 resulted in the testing of 445 elk, 12 mule deer (MD) and 263 white-tailed deer (WTD), for a total of 720 samples. Most of the elk sampling involved collection of heads at drop off locations from hunter-killed animals from the Black Hills. A total of 150 WTD samples were collected through the Rapid City deer reduction program and additional CWD samples were collected from Harding and Tripp Counties during TB testing and hunter harvested deer from the Black Hills area. Most other samples were collected from vehicle killed animals that were used for baits during mountain lion DNA research in the Black Hills area. Overall, the majority of samples were obtained from the Black Hills and extreme southwestern part of the state, with sick surveillance testing occurring statewide. SD GFP asked hunters to voluntarily submit all elk heads for sampling, and offered to sample deer heads for anyone submitting samples to the GFP Regional Office in Rapid City, SD.

Test results received on 719 samples (1 WTD pending) indicate 11WTD, 0 MD, and 19 elk were CWD positive. Hunter harvest accounted for 10 of the CWD positive cervids (8 elk, 2 deer), and sick surveillance accounted for 9 of the CWD positive cervids (3 elk, 6 deer). Eight positive elk were collected during a February Wind Cave National Park (WICA) removal program. Additionally, 3 CWD positive deer were collected during the Rapid City deer reduction program within the city limits of Rapid City. The total number of CWD positive animals discovered in SD since the first free ranging white-tailed deer was found in the fall of 2001 is now 390, including 188 elk, 79 mule deer and 123 white-tailed deer. WICA has reported 10 deer and 126 elk as positive for CWD since 2002 and Custer State Park has reported 2 deer and 23 elk as part of these totals.

SDGFP continues to collect all voluntary hunter harvested 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. For more information on CWD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

WICA has started a new research project studying CWD within the Park. In November 2016, a total of 40 female elk were fitted with radio transmitters and sampled via rectal biopsy for CWD. At this time the results are not available from the rectal biopsy sampling. Additionally, WICA conducted a removal program in the Park and removed a total of 262 elk utilizing shooters guided by Park employees. A total of 261 of these elk were sampled for CWD through this effort. Thirty-four adult elk were found to be positive with CWD for a prevalence rate of 13.8 percent on the adult elk (246 adults). These figures have been included in statewide summaries. In early 2018, an additional 24 female elk were radio-collared and an additional 25 adult elk (24 bulls, 1 cow) were collected during a removal program in WICA. A total of 8 positive elk were found during this recent removal.

Hemorrhagic Disease: The State of South Dakota experienced a mortality event of mainly white-tailed deer during late August-December 2017 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and/or Blue Tongue (BT). SDGFP started receiving reports of sick and deceased white-tailed

deer during early August of 2017. As in previous years with substantial mortality in the summer months, EHD was suspected and efforts were made to document the virus through the Diagnostic Lab at SDSU. Through lab testing, confirmation was received that the EHD virus was present in white-tailed deer and a pronghorn, and confirmation was received about a case of the BT virus in a white-tailed deer. The SDGFP continued to document sick and dead ungulates until late December after a substantial frost ceased EHD/BT disease transmission in most areas of the state.

Seventeen counties from across South Dakota had confirmed or reported EHD virus (15 cases) or BT virus (1 case) in white-tailed deer or pronghorn. Most cases were found in western South Dakota with 359 deer, 4 pronghorn, and 2 elk reported. East of the Missouri River, 212 reports of dead or sick deer were recorded. Statewide, a total of 577 dead or sick animals were recorded in 2017, which included 571 deer, 4 pronghorn, and 2 elk. Substantially more animals were reported lost to EHD/BT in 2016 than in 2017. For more information on EHD in South Dakota visit: <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>

Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep: SDGFP continues working on research investigating the occurrence of pneumonia in our bighorn sheep herds in Custer State Park, Rapid City, Spring Creek, and Hill City. This research is investigating bighorn sheep as potential shedders of the pneumonia complex. Research started in early 2016, and results are being analyzed to determine the benefits of removing chronic shedders of the pneumonia complex. Information is listed below.

Objectives:

- Assess the efficacy of obtaining serial samples for classing free-ranging bighorn sheep as chronic shedders, indeterminate shedders, or negatives (non-shedders) in Custer State Park and Rapid Creek herds.
- Determine if bighorn sheep ewes surviving a past respiratory disease epizootic in Custer State Park and Rapid Creek herds as pathogen carriers exhibit differences in physical appearance and/or behaviors that are correlated with pathogen shedding status.
- Determine if removal of individuals that exhibit pathogen shedding patterns improve survival of free-ranging bighorn sheep lambs within the Custer State Park herd.

Expected Benefits:

- Development of techniques that can be used to enhance survival of bighorn sheep lambs post pneumonia disease epizootic will improve recruitment in bighorn sheep herds in the Black Hills and other regions of the west in bighorn sheep range.

Results to Date:

- 140 disease tests since January 2016 (81 tests, 59 re-tests)
- 61 animals currently collared (29 in Custer, 32 in Rapid City)
- 28 total positive animals for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (26 in Rapid City, 2 in Custer State Park), chronic shedders removed in Custer State park.
- Lamb survival: Collared every lamb (20 total) born in Custer State Park (experimental group), 7 mortalities to date, with 5 predations and 2 deaths due to unidentified disease. Collared 27 lambs in Rapid City, and documented 23 mortalities to date (9 pneumonia, 7 other disease, 3 predation, 2 unknown, 1 capture related death, and 1 human caused death).

- Adult survival: 4 adult mortalities in Custer State Park, with 3 due to mountain lion predation and 1 due to Legion Lake Fire. 18 mortalities in Rapid City (9 pneumonia, 1 predation, 2 capture complication, 4 human caused, 2 deaths due to other diseases).

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB):

Harding County, SD: Information below is from the South Dakota Animal Industry Board (SD AIB) website accessed March 27, 2018. <https://aib.sd.gov/BovineTB.html>

Background: Bovine TB was identified in three beef cows during routine slaughter inspection by USDA Food Safety Inspection Service inspectors at two Nebraska slaughter plants in February, 2017. The cows had been in feedlots in Nebraska and SD since November of 2016. Market records were used to identify the herd of origin in Harding County (northwestern SD), which was tested by state and federal animal health officials, revealing additional infected animals.

Update: No cattle remain on the index ranch in Harding County. Test negative animals were sent to inspected slaughter, revealing two additional infected cows. Cleaning and disinfection of conveyances, water tanks, and other potential sources of contamination will be completed. It is anticipated that the ranch may begin restocking soon.

One cow in an adjacent herd was found to be infected. This cow originated from the index herd and was moved to the adjacent herd in May, 2015. The remainder of this herd is quarantined, has tested negative and will undergo a second herd test in late May of 2017. No evidence of infection was found during testing of over 8,000 cattle in 12 other adjacent herds.

State and federal animal health officials continue to track cattle using sales records, official animal identification records, and certificates of veterinary inspection to identify animals that may have originated in the index herd and may now be in other herds.

One Butte County cow purchased from the index herd through a livestock auction market in May, 2016, was found to be infected. The remainder of this herd has tested negative and will undergo a second herd test in 60 days. All neighboring herds have been tested with negative results and the quarantines have been released.

Laboratory Update: March 17, 2017: The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA, has conducted whole genome analysis of the bacteria isolated from some of the affected animals from the Harding County herd. Experts have concluded that this strain of bacteria is nearly identical to a strain that is known to exist in dairy cattle in the Central region of Mexico and that it has not previously been identified in the US. This strain is not related to the recent strain found in Canadian cattle, previous cases identified in SD cattle or in Michigan wildlife and livestock. Additionally, it does not appear to be genetically similar to other strains that are sometimes found in the US, in feeder or rodeo cattle of Mexican origin, nor is it similar to the bacteria identified in captive cervids (deer and elk). Rather, this case appears to represent the introduction of a new strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* into the US. State and federal animal health officials working with the case will continue to attempt to investigate possible pathways of introduction into this herd. Molecular characterization of the causative agent of bovine tuberculosis from the infected animals has identified this strain as being very similar to a strain identified in Queretaro, Mexico in 1997. This strain is new to the US, and its pathway of introduction into the Harding County herd is as of yet unknown.

SD GFP Testing in Harding County, SD: A public meeting was held on March 23rd, 2017 at the high school in Buffalo, South Dakota. The primary purpose of this meeting was for SDGFP to present a wildlife surveillance plan to the landowners and producers of Harding County in response to the recent discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. Approximately 100 members of the public attended the meeting and many more watched the presentation over a live video feed. SDGFP staff members and the SD AIB were present and answered many questions. On March 27, 2017, SDGFP initiated its short-term wildlife surveillance effort. A “field laboratory” was established at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Camp Crook, SD. Three days of ground and aerial removal and retrieval of targeted animals near the index cattle herd yielded 55 white-tailed deer, 56 mule deer, 42 pronghorn, 37 coyotes, and 9 raccoon. Samples were collected and submitted for testing from all wildlife removed to NVSL in Ames, Iowa. All results on wildlife were found to be negative for Bovine TB. In November of 2017, approximately 750 letters were sent to deer hunters that had licenses valid in the area of the index herd asking for the heads of harvested animals for TB testing. A total of 18 WTD and 8 MD along with an additional sick WTD head were submitted over a 16 day season. All of these submitted samples were also negative for TB. Future surveillance in this area will be discussed in the future.

Tripp County, SD: Bovine TB was initially identified in October 2017 by meat inspectors at a Texas slaughterhouse. Official records linked the cow to a Tripp County, SD beef herd. Herd testing and laboratory confirmation revealed additional infected animals in the herd. Information from the SD AIB states that 50 additional positive cows of 338 tested were infected with TB. An additional 253 calves were tested with 2 positives found. Over 4,000 cattle were tested from surrounding herds with no positives found.

Trace out shows one positive cow found in NE, one positive cow found in Iowa, and one positive cow found in another SD feedlot and all came from the Tripp County index herd. All adult cows and bulls have been depopulated and approximately 250 calves that were born in spring of 2017 are still at the index property and will be fed until slaughter. The strain of bacteria has been determined to be most closely linked to Mexican-type strains, last seen in a Texas feed yard (untraceable animal) in 2013.

SD GFP Testing in Tripp County, SD: A public meeting was held on November 21, 2017 in Winner, SD. SDGFP staff members and the SD AIB were present and answered many questions with primary discussions related to the finding of TB in the cattle herd, but wildlife questions were also answered. The timing of the reporting of the TB infected cattle herd and the ongoing deer season did not allow SDGFP to conduct an adequate sample of hunter harvested deer in 2017. The season was in its last weekend when the SD AIB press release came out, and SDGFP only had a few days of the season remaining to collect samples. Word of mouth in the community allowed SDGFP to collect 23 deer samples for sampling. All of these were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA and came back negative for bovine TB.

SDGFP subsequently determined that more sampling needed to be conducted, so kill permits authorized the killing of 100 antlerless deer in Tripp County with emphasis for property on and surrounding the TB affected herd. These permits were valid from January 17, 2018 to February 28, 2018. Additionally, small mammal trapping was conducted on the index herd properties and 6 raccoons and 1 opossum was collected. Aerial gunning of coyotes was conducted on January 17, 2018 and 14 coyotes were collected. Due to the timing of collections and staff availability, car-

casses and deer heads were collected and frozen until nodes could be sampled on March 26, 2018 at the Rapid City Wildlife Lab.

On March 26, 2018, a total of 1 opossum, 6 raccoons, 14 coyotes and 62 WTD were sampled for TB, and the samples were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA for analysis. Results are pending on these samples, and future surveillance will depend on the results.

Rabies: Rabies is an enzootic fatal, but preventable, viral disease and a public health concern in SD. In 2017, 391 animals were tested for rabies, and 20 animals tested positive for the disease. This is a slight decrease from the 27 positive animals in 2016. The 20 rabid animals included 12 wild animals (8 skunks, 3 bats, and 1 raccoon) and 8 domestic animals (4 bovine, 2 cats, 1 dog, and 1 goat). There were 371 animals that tested negative for rabies in 2017. The majority of these included 114 cats, 68 bats, 45 dogs, 53 cows, 32 raccoon, 17 skunk, 8 horses, 3 deer, and 32 other. No human rabies was reported. Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*) are the primary rabies reservoir in SD.

Avian Influenza:

SDGFP- 2017 HPAI Sampling.

- SD experienced no HPAI outbreaks in 2017
- SDGFP agreed to participate in wild waterfowl sampling as part of the cooperative *Implementation Plan for HPAI Surveillance in Waterfowl in the United States*. This plan was a coordinated effort between the State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USDA, National Flyway Council, USGS, and USFWS.
- This sampling effort was focused on dabbling ducks with sampling done by watershed (HUC 4).
- SDGFP sampled 132 live dabbling ducks within the Oahe-Missouri River.
- No HPAI were isolated in this testing and no HPAI samples from wild birds have been confirmed in SD.

Brucellosis Testing in Elk: In conjunction with a radio-collaring effort of female elk from Custer County in the central Black Hills of SD in January 2018, 40 adult or yearling elk were tested for brucellosis. Serum samples were sent to NVSL in Ames, IA for testing of brucellosis at the request of the SD AIB. All results showed no brucellosis in the elk.

Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

- Committee Members: Casey Heimerl, Laura Hubers, Tom LeFaivre, Mike Gutzmer
- Casey Heimerl gave report
- Blue Ribbon Panel: Last year, we reported on the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, formed to identify solutions to long-term wildlife funding needs, particularly related to rare species. The legislative effort is called the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife, which resulted in the recent introduction of a House bill titled Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647). This legislation will redirect \$1.3 billion annually in existing royalties from energy and mineral development on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to support state-led efforts for the full array of fish and wildlife. Our committee recently submitted a draft letter to chapter leadership to Representative Noem requesting that she co-sponsor and support

the bill.

- Bald Eagle Awareness Days: Our chapter continues its support for this educational event. The 2017 event was held in late February with the total audience estimated at more than 1,000 people. The event featured presentations in Sioux Falls and Pierre, with school programs in Pierre. The SDGFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City held a companion event during Bald Eagle Awareness Week. The 2018 event was held last week and again included events in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

Recent endangered species activities in South Dakota:

- The FWS continues to review the status of the monarch butterfly to determine whether listing is warranted. That decision will be made by June 2019. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is partnering with federal, state, tribal and private partners to develop a scientifically sound conservation plan as an alternative to listing. GFP hosted a Monarch Summit in October 2017 to begin the process of engaging key partners in planning for this species, with the intent to develop a state strategic plan during 2018.
- The FWS published a notice in December 2017 announcing initial positive findings for three species found in the state for further investigation for listing as threatened or endangered species. The species are sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), which was formerly the eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*). The Service will begin status reviews and seek data on these species. The tricolored bat has been affected by white-nose syndrome. This species has been documented in several abandoned mines in the Black Hills of South Dakota and may also occur along riverine corridors with available hibernacula. Within South Dakota, the sicklefin chub is a state endangered species found in the lower Missouri River. The sturgeon chub is a state threatened species that inhabits several western South Dakota tributaries to the Missouri River.
- In October 2017, the FWS announced its determination that the Black Hills population of the Black-backed Woodpecker would not be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service determined this population was not a subspecies, and therefore not a listable entity that met the criteria under the Distinct Population Segment Policy.
- The FWS has requested information about the yellow-banded bumble bee (*Bombus terricola*) and is scheduled to make a listing determination during the current federal fiscal year. This species' present distribution in the state is unknown.
- SDGFP recently drafted status reviews of all state listed species and delisting and downlisting criteria for species with sufficient information. The full draft document was made available through the Game, Fish and Parks' Commission process, with a 60-day public comment period. Comments are currently being reviewed, and a final document will be prepared for submission to the Commission in April 2018.
- On 27 September 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Turner Endangered Species Fund, Turner Enterprises and Game, Fish and Parks reintroduced 19 black-footed ferrets on Bad River Ranch in Stanley County. The ferret is a federal and state endangered species and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan. Although this is the seventh reintroduction site in South Dakota, it is the first on privately-owned land. To encourage and assist private landowners to become willing participants in ferret reintroductions on their property, the USFWS established a Programmatic Black-footed Ferret Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA). The reintroduction at the Bad River Ranch was made possible by landowner enrollment in the SHA.

Other Reports:

SDSU Student Chapter Report- DJ Reker

- DJ Reker- current student Chapter President; 45 members; about 15 active members
- Members did different activities with kids to learn about environment

- Club asked their student members what they wanted to get out of membership;
 - they want to help “real-life” agencies and programs to gain experience
 - they participated in “brush cut for grouse” with MN DNR- students are actively helping with management and research
- How can SDTWS help get word out? how can we get more interest in job fairs? students want to make money vs volunteer
- Reker says he gets more emails from MN and WY with opportunities than from SD; suggested to use Natural Resources Facebook page more; Natural Resources Dept sends out mass email to all members; send emails to secretary Kate Tvedt

Election Results – Alex Solem and Joshua Stafford

- Unanimous vote of ballots: President Elect Eric Magedanz; Board Member Nick Markl

Other Old Business

- Board agreed to pay national membership for student officers
- Email from Parent society- last business meeting SDTWS agreed to send out email to our members asking if they are ok with us providing TWS name and valid email address so TWS can then send one issue of E-Wildlifer monthly and consider becoming member; members can opt-out within 30 days of SDTWS sending this email request; also members can opt-out at any time even if agree initially
- Trying to reach out to state chapter members to become member of TWS

New Business

Scholarship

- The Chapter has had a growing balance; some ideas is to have scholarship, small research grants, help student chapter; maybe increase current scholarships/travel grant
- Suggested to create a program that if student becomes member of student club, then SDTWS will pay \$6 dues for those students to become student members of SDTWS (note: they are not automatically a member of SDTWS just by being student club member)

Membership

- Discussion on membership- clarification that if you become a member of SDTWS you are not automatically a member of TWS; you need to specifically become a member of TWS by paying those membership dues; Students who pay student member dues are a member of SDTWS but being a member of SDSU Club does not automatically make you member of SDTWS

Approval of new members

- Brian Pauly motion to use checkbox on registration form as approval process for new members applying at annual meeting; no second; motion died
- Ben Lardy motion to approve new members; Corey Huxoll second; discussion- Ermer read list of new members; by show of hands all current voting members voted in favor to approve new members.

New Members (dues paid at annual meeting): Zach Compson, Sean Core, TJ Fontaine, Sprih Harsh, Ryan Wendinger, Nicholas Peterson, Lana Rencountre, Jackie Krakow, Hilary Syvertson, Daniel DeBoer, Isaac Johnson, Clyde Lehr, Jason Muldoon, Cody Rolfes, Jeremy Todorff, Ann Zurbriggen, and Jennifer Lutze

- Suggested that next year we need to explain bylaws for new member approval at start of annual business meeting

Meeting site/dates for the 2019 Annual Meeting

- Mark Norton motion to allow board to decide next year’s meeting location; second by Julie DeJong; all in

favor; motion passed.

Other New Business

Chuck Berdan- suggested we should send GFP Commission a letter of who we are and continued importance of using science based data to make decisions

- Coughlin- introduce ourselves (SDTWS) to Commission so they become familiar with who we are and what our objectives are, important issues to us; appreciate use of science to base decisions
 - Berdan motion to send letter to GFP Commission; Coughlin second; all in favor; motion passed
- Bob Lanka- CMPS Section representative to TWS Council; provided update
- State Wildlife Management and Conservation Book now available- Tom Ryder
 - 2016/2017 budget- \$60,000 in black
 - as of Jan 1, 2017 all members receive electronic access to TWS journals- cost \$125/yr
 - 2018 Annual TWS meeting in Cleveland, OH in Sept
 - 2019 Annual TWS meeting in Reno, NV- will be joint with AFS
 - TWS is working with AFWA (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) to encourage more state employees to become TWS members and getting involved; talking about enhancing state package if state agency becomes a member (e.g., SDGFP becomes a member so then employees have access to TWS)
 - TWS Give Back Program- an idea to recruit; current member can nominate someone to get free membership for 6 months with hopes they will continue to be a member
 - Virtual conference experience for those that can't physically make it to annual meeting; fee
 - TWS stance on Bylaws and Code of Ethics:
 - TWS Bylaw- all members of the society must pledge upon application, renewal, or recertification to uphold and conduct their professional and membership-related activities in accordance with the Code of Ethics
 - TWS Ethics Policy- all members subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct and will proactively promote and address ethical behavior

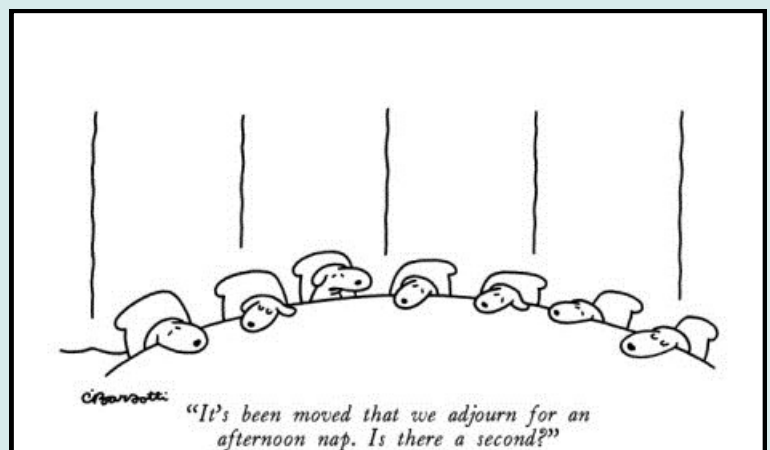


Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Alex Solem

Presentation of Past-President Plaque- Joshua Stafford

Motion to Adjourn Josh Stafford; second by Jennifer Briggs

Meeting adjourned 10:59am



SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

February 23, 2017 - February 22, 2018



CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance **\$ 1,117.47**

2017 Income (after February 22, 2017) **\$ 16,902.00**

gun raffle, t-shirts, photo contest, auction	\$ 3,346.00	
Registrations (after 2/22/2017)	\$ 8,795.00	
Annual dues at annual meeting	\$ 680.00	
Meals	\$ 2,351.00	
Annual dues after annual meeting	\$ 180.00	
Sponsorships/Donation (2017 meeting)	\$ 1,550.00	

2018 Income (from January 1, 2018 - February 22, 2018) **\$ 293.67**

Dues paid to parent TWS website	\$ 196.00	
Registration (late paypal transfer 2017 mtg)	\$ 67.67	
Membership dues	\$ 30.00	
Sponsorships/Donations (2018 meeting)	\$ 750.00	

2017 Expenses (which occurred after February 22, 2017) **\$ 13,600.20**

Annual Meeting (2017)		
Grad Student awards	\$ 450.00	
Award/plaque purchases	\$ 413.79	
Photo contest winner	\$ 47.50	
Meeting supplies	\$ 140.61	
CMPS auction proceeds	\$ 504.00	
Cedar Shores	\$ 11,413.33	
Square costs/fees	\$ 165.71	
Paypal costs/fees	\$ 113.26	

Donations/Sponsorships/Scholarships		
SDSU Student travel to National TWS meeting	\$ 200.00	
Dues paid to CMPS for members (2 years)	\$ 149.00	
Bank fees	\$ 3.00	

2018 Expenses (from January 1, 2018 - February 22, 2018) **\$ 88.78**

Canvas print	\$ 34.46	
Meeting Registration forms-printing	\$ 54.32	

Balance of Checking Account (as of February 22, 2018) **\$ 7,387.02**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance		\$ 15,747.14
2017 Income (after February 22, 2017)		\$ 4.33
Interest	\$ 4.33	
2018 Income (Jan - Feb 22, 2018)	\$ 0.40	
Interest	\$ 0.40	
2017/18 Withdrawals (Feb 23, 2017- Feb 22, 2018)		\$ 0.00
Transfers to Checking	\$ 0	
Balance of Savings Account (as of February 22, 2018)		\$ 15,751.87
<hr/>		
TOTAL BALANCE CHECKING (2/22/18)		\$ 7,387.02
TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS (2/22/18)		\$ 15,751.87
Total Balance Checking and Savings (2/22/18)		\$ 23,138.89

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Ermer

Secretary/Treasurer

SDTWS Executive Board 2018

President

[Alex Solem](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 3rd Street SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 353-7319

President-Elect

[Eric Magedanz](#)

Pheasants Forever
1720 4th St. NE Suite 3
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 880-2651

Board Member

[Brian Pauly](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 3rd ST. SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 353-7185

Past-President

[Josh Stafford](#)

207 Park Ave
PO Box 10
Sinai, SD 57061
(605) 688-5759

Secretary-Treasurer

[Jacquie Ermer](#)

42924 140th St
Webster, SD 57274
(605) 345-3381

Board Member

[Nick Markl](#)

SD Game, Fish & Parks
12869 140th St.
Roslyn, SD 57261
(605) 345-3381

Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative:

Rocco Murano, 353-7185

SDTWS Life Members

Doug Alvine	Jonathan Jenks	Erling Podoll
Galen Burgett	John Kelley	Chuck Pyle
Eddie Childers	Colleen Kolbeck	Greg Schenbeck
Mary Clawson	Rolf Kraft	Boyd Schulz
Charles Dieter	Thomas Kuck	Steve Spawn
Lester Flake	Scott Larson	Cara Staab
Kurt Forman	Thomas LeFaive	Dave Steffen
Andy Gabbert	Tony Leif	Eileen Stukel
Dave Gilbert	John Leisner	Joel Tigner
Steve Griffin	Jesse Lisburg	Tom Tornow
Troy Grovenburg	Kevin Luebke	Ralph Town
Bob Hodorff	Carl Madsen	Spencer Vaa
Harris Hoistad	William Morlock	William Walker
Earl Hyink	Glenn Moravek	Dave Azure
Warren Jackson	Jay Peterson	James Headley
		Paul Mammenga

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: $25 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 25 = \250)

Age 36 to 45: $20 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 20 = \200)

Age 46 to 65: $17.5 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 17.5 = \175)

Age 66 to 75: $12.5 \times \text{annual dues}$ ($\$10 \times 12.5 = \125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For More Information, Contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.

SDTWS—Standing Committee Chairs *

Audit - Mark Norton, 773-3096
Awards - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194
Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521
Membership - Chuck Pyle, 353-5753
Program - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Nominations and Elections - Nathan Baker 223-7709
Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

SDTWS - Special Committee Chairs *

Arrangements - Mark Norton, 773-3096 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874
Certification - Vacant
Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195
Energy - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742
Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709
Fund Raising - Ben Lardy
Grassland Issues - Vacant
Missouri River Issues - Nathan Baker, 223-7709
Newsletter - Jennifer Briggs, 256-2974
Website - Charlene "Charlie" Bessken, 222-9445
Public Lands - Mark Norton, Eddie Childers, 433-5263
Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Mike Gutzmer, 402-910-3533
Wetlands - Randy Meidinger, 380-0380
Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786
Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742

*Please see the Committees webpage at [SDTWS](#) to find the list of Committee members and email contact information.

The South Dakota Chapter TWS Objectives are:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

To aid in the achievement of these objectives, the South Dakota Chapter proposes to:

- Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, their Section, and The Society.
- Evaluate and respond to the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
- Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats for wildlife.
- Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations.
- Encourage communication between members and nonmembers to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.
- Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted public or private actions that could affect wildlife and to make these evaluations known to the public and public officials.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (indicate home or work) _____

E-mail address (for newsletter delivery) _____

Employer: _____

Please note:

SDTWS's newsletter, A Prairie Voice, is all electronic. Therefore, an email 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 email address). Email is also the typical mode of communication concerning other SDTWS news.

Please check one: _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member

*If you did not renew your dues in 2017, you will be considered a new member in 2018 as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Please check box:

By becoming a member of SD TWS, I support the Chapter's bylaws and objectives:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

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

Jacquie Ermer

42924 140th ST

Webster, SD 57274

605-345-3381

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 = \$250

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

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

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

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.