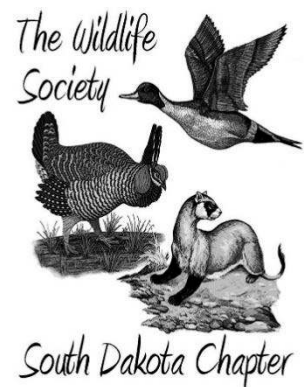


**SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Annual Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes**

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 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 of 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 pictures, news, stories, etc to be included
- 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

- No report

Wildlife Diversity – Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

- Casey Heimerl gave report

Committee Members: Casey Heimerl, Laura Hubers, Tom LeFaivre, Mike Gutzmer

- 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
- Activities with kids to learn about environment
- Club asked 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 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

- We've had a growing balance; some ideas are to have scholarship, small research grants, help student chapter; maybe increase current scholarships/travel grant
- Create program that if student becomes member of student club, then SDTWS will pay \$6 for students to become they are automatically member of SDTWS
- Discussion on membership- clarification that if you become member of SDTWS you are not automatically a member of TWS; you need to specifically become member of TWS; 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 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 importance of using science-based data to make decisions

-Coughlin- introduce ourselves (SDTWS) to Commission know 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:
 - 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 the accordance with the Code of Ethics
 - TWS Ethics Policy- subscribes 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 10:59 am