

SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
BOARD MEETING
PIERRE, SD
October 26, 2018

Board Members Present: Christine Hamilton, Steve Halverson, Doug Balvin, Tony Bour, DeLon Mork, Larry Ness, Terry Schultz, and Jack Theeler. Ex Officio Board Member Kelly Hepler. Board members elect: Dan Rykhus and Dr. Barry Dunn (via phone.)

Advisory Board Members: Jim Ristau (SD Corn), Neal Feeken (NC), Paul Lepisto(Ikes), Matt Morlock (PF), and Lynn Tjeerdsmma (Thune-via phone). State Staff: Governor Daugaard, Hunter Roberts(Gov), Shuree Mortenson (GFP), Kevin Robling (GFP), Bill Smith (SDDA), Lindsey Hildebrand (GFP), Sean Blanchette (GFP), and Judy Smith (GFP).

Others Present: Angela Ehlers (Assoc of Conservation Districts), Brenda Forman (Assoc of Coops), Jodie Anderson (SD Cattlemen), Grace Beck (Redstone Law Firm), and Jeff Zimprich (NRCS-via phone).

CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Hamilton called the meeting of South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation board to order at 10:37am CT and a quorum was present. No declarations of conflict of interest were heard.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Governor Daugaard addressed the group to discuss potential funds he may contribute to the Foundation before his exit as Governor. Future funds are for research and economic development and he would like to see the Foundation come forward with a plan to include research and development work. He noted that it was important for the Foundation to be specific and concrete in the request to assure his confidence in the mission. In addition, he would like to see a full time staff member who will do fundraising, who is inspiring and has qualities to lead to success. The Governor committed \$100,000 towards that goal.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Motion to elect Christine Hamilton, Doug Balvin, Tony Bour, Dick Muth, Barry Dunn, and Dan Rykhus to terms ending in 2021 was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to accept Jan Nicolay's resignation from the board was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to elect Christine Hamilton as President, Delon Mork as Vice President and Steve Halverson as Secretary/Treasurer for 2019 was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Grace Beck, Redstone Law Firm, who was hired to development work for the Foundation asked each board member to organize and get together with people within your community. She would come to that gathering, and help make the ask for dollars to get the fundraising efforts moving. She also stated that she was happy to continue to work with the Foundation until we are able to fulfill the Governor's direction.

Jeff Zimprich, NRCS , commented that there is a lot of potential for NRCS and the Foundation to work together. We can improve health of soil, habitat, provide jobs, improve water quality and assist landowners financially. NRCS have the resources to sit down and help to come up with projects that reach these goals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Hildebrand provided the financial report from First National Bank and the South Dakota Community Foundation noting total assets and funds available. Motion to accept the financial report was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Handouts were provided for the marketing efforts the Foundation has partnered with GFP on over the last couple months. A mailer will go to 35 Preserve Operators that recently attended a forum that includes a brochure and donation cards and return envelopes. The hope is that hunters will begin to see our information and we know they see the importance of habitat conservation.

A proposal from Paulsen Ag was included in the meeting packet and is informational at this time. Hamilton also reached out to Fresh Produce, another SD agency. Her goal was to show the magnitude of resources it would take to initiate a marketing campaign and begin thinking about the future of the Foundation in terms of communicating the message.

ADVISORY BOARD

Roll call was taken to determine if a two thirds quorum was present, 10 of 15 members were accounted for.

Motion to accept the SD HCF bylaw amendment #1 to make the addition of Article VII as presented was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Member organizations and representatives recommended were Ducks Unlimited, Steve Donovan; Izaak Walton League, Paul Lepisto; The Nature Conservancy, Neal Feeken; NRCS, Jeff Vander Wilt; Pheasants Forever, Matt Morlock; SD Corn, Jim Ristau; Federal Government Policy, Lynn Tjeerdsma. Motion to accept the Advisory Board Election of Members and Representatives as recommended for 2019 was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

PF GRANT FUNDING REALLOCATION REQUEST

Motion to approve PF request to reallocate \$27,000 of funding from Nesting/Rearing Habitat on Working Lands grant to the Saline Soils program was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REGISTERED AGENT

Motion to accept resolution as presented to appoint Sean Blanchette as Registered Agent and Executive Director was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jodie Anderson, SD Cattlemen's Association: Have been working with partners to create a land trust. This will go to the vote of the membership in November. The association has a long term commitment to conservation.

Brenda Foreman, Coop Association – The association is all about ag unity and is made of 27 ag organizations from conservation, ag, commodity groups. Have constant connection and conversations about what the each organization is doing.

Angela Ehlers, SD Association of Conservation Districts - Work with a lot of partners around the state and all citizens of SD are their members. They are working with FSA and NRCS to reach out to non-operating landowners to build interest in conservation and practices and to build local leadership potential for conservation planning and implementation.

Lowell Mesman, Farm Bureau - Grassland conservation is on the uptick. FB is also working with SD Cattlemen's and will know after a vote of their membership if they will be involved in the land trust.

Final comments on the meeting included:

- setting up a meeting to discuss proposal to Governor for more funds
- expanding the reach of the brochure that will go to the preserve operators to all pheasant hunters in the state following the season – will make request to GFP commission
- pushing the Foundation out in more GFP publications

- focusing efforts on conservation and increasing the economic value that is added to SD by conservation efforts
- creating a checkoff when purchasing a license
- sustaining hunting heritage and appealing to the emotional side of the importance of preservation
- inquiring on conservation funds at Cabelas/Bass Pro Shop

Ness and Hamilton praised Rykhus and Raven Industries for their donation of \$5 million to SDSU's Precision Ag program. Rykhus commented that the program was a big part of their business and the difficulty lies in convincing producers to convert. The challenge will be to come up with a model and take it to people to give them hard evidence. Anderson commented that there will be a lot of land in the next decade passing down to younger generations and she hopes to see the hurdles lessen. The next generation of operators is willing to look at data and has a different mindset. Rykhus agreed and commented that now we just need to generate the data and research.

Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am.