

**South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation**

**Board Meeting**

Oacoma, South Dakota

June 5, 2018

Board Members Present: Christine Hamilton, Steve Halverson, Delon Mork, Dick Muth, Larry Ness, Jack Theeler, Tony Bour, Jan Nicolay, Jeff Scherschligt. Ex Officio members present were GFP Commission Chair, Barry Jensen, and GFP Secretary, Kelly Hepler.

Others Present: Lindsey Hildebrand (GFP), Shuree Mortenson (GFP), Hunter Roberts (GOV), Bill Smith (SDDA), Matt Morlock (PF), Steve Donovan (DU), Neal Feeken (NC), Paul Lepisto (Ikes), Jeff Vander Wilt (NRCS).

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Christine Hamilton called the meeting of the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation Board to order at 1:55 pm CT and a quorum was present. No declarations of conflict of interest were heard.

**AGENDA**

Additions to the proposed agenda included acceptance of Scott Lawrence's resignation, Developmental Director discussion, spending level without board approval.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

Hildebrand presented Amendment #2 to the Articles of Incorporation. This change reflects the retirement of Wayne Winter and assigns Lindsey Hildebrand as the Registered Agent. Motion to approve Amendment #2 to the Articles of Incorporation was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REGISTERED AGENT**

Motion to accept resolution as presented in the meeting materials to appoint Lindsey Hildebrand as Registered Agent and Executive Director was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

**RESIGNATION OF SCOTT LAWRENCE**

Motion to accept the resignation of Scott Lawrence was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

**BOARD APPROVED SPENDING LIMIT**

Discussion was held about proposing a spending limit that would give the executive team discretion over small purchases for ease of operations or if the board would like to be involved in all financial spending decisions. Motion to give the executive team a discretionary spending limit of \$5,000 was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

#### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Discussion was held about hiring a development director to advance the foundation’s strategies and search for fundraising opportunities. Hamilton is willing to donate \$12,000 to help fund this endeavor and challenged the rest of the board to come up with a match. Grace Beck, Redstone Law Firm, has submitted a proposal that would allow for 2-3 days a month through the end of 2019, where she would put together a presentation about the foundation, talk to corporations, associations and individuals and potentially fundraise. NRCS could potentially co-fund an endeavor to hire someone and Steve Halverson also talked about putting some funds into the ring, but would want to look at two years’ worth of funding to get that started.

The question was raised if the foundation’s mission and potential projects are firm enough to create a presentation and get ready to go fundraise and what is our goal for fundraising? The refined report from the strategic planning within a week and that we can have a teleconference to review and decide where we want to go. Beck would be the point person and create the materials, the board would supply her with contacts and potentially go with her to the presentation and then the board member would ultimately ask for the donation. We can test this model and review after six months to see how momentum is building. This would serve the purpose of raising awareness and get us in the door.

Motion to approve acceptance of Hamilton’s donation of \$12,000 to fund a contract with Grace Beck for development was moved and seconded. Motion passed.

#### GRANT UPDATE

Steven Donovan with Ducks Unlimited and Matt Morlock with Pheasants Forever gave an update on the grants they received in 2016.

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount	Status
<b>Large Grants</b>			
Ducks Unlimited	James River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program	\$100,000	Completed
Ducks Unlimited	Summit Tract Restoration Project	\$60,000	Completed Note: Wetlands are full
Ducks Unlimited	Vig & Kemnitz Restoration Project	\$100,000	Completed
Pheasants Forever	Saline Soils Pheasant Habitat Program – East River	\$204,000	Full enrollment, seeding the last couple the first week of June 2018, PF putting another \$100k into the program.
<b>Small Grants</b>			
Ducks Unlimited	Firesteel Wetlands	\$10,000	Lacking additional funding source, program stalled, likely give grant funds back
Ducks Unlimited	Hyde County ROW	\$5,137.50	Completed
Ducks Unlimited	SD Hwy 37 ROW	\$7,463	Completed
Pheasant Forever – Northern SD Chapter	Aberdeen Pheasants Coalition Project	\$30,000	Completed Note: Successfully added 3,000 acres of Walk-In Area, they are starting

			round 2 of fundraising
Ducks Unlimited	Swan Lake Restoration	\$15,360	Completed Note: Will return a small portion of grant unused
Pheasants Forever Brookings Chapter	Nesting/Rearing Habitat on Working Lands	\$30,000	Ongoing
Pheasants Forever	CRP Habitat Enhancement in Deuel County	\$30,000	Completed Note: very successful, the program filled in 2 days
Ducks Unlimited	Mallard Dam Repair	\$20,000	Completed

Matt Morlock also detailed a program where SDSU extension will bring in saline soils at different levels and test what will grow at specific levels. There will be some good pictures for marketing. Pheasants Forever is also in the process of buying a drone, as they need to be better about telling the successes they've had.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Hepler commented that it needed to be done, thank you to the board and partners for being engaged and proceeding. Nicolay commented that she heard new thoughts and ideas and found the session very valuable personally and for the foundation. Theeler noted that asking friends in corporations if our vision and mission would create the type of interest we are looking for would be beneficial. Feeken, Nature Conservancy, thanked the group for the invitation and felt it was a good indication of the cooperative nature of this group. All NGOs echoed the same thought.

#### ADVISORY BOARD DISCUSSION

It was proposed to create an official advisory board for the NGOs for the Foundation. Discussion about other organizations that were not present for the strategic planning session included Farm Bureau or the Corn Board and SDSU. Roberts reminded the group that SDSU has a seat on the board, it just isn't filled at the moment and that if reminded they would likely sit back down to the table. Discussion included being inclusive as stated in one of the value statements and that invitations should be at least offered to more groups. Bring them on board and let them see that we aren't talking about being a threat to agriculture and that talking to them directly would be beneficial.

No action was taken as this would create a change in bylaws and board members will need to be notified 10 days in advance of a meeting for a vote to change bylaws.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

Roberts suggested that the next meeting could coincide with the Governor's Hunt in October.

Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 2:56 pm.