

**SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND BOARD  
MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER – FOSS BUILDING  
PIERRE, SD  
DECEMBER 21, 2015**

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Board Members Present: Steve Halverson, Christine Hamilton, Delon Mork, Dick Muth, Larry Ness, Jan Nicolay, Bob Roe, Jeff Scherschligt, Hunter Roberts, and John Cooper. Doug Balvin and Tony Bour via conference call.

Members Absent: Barry Dunn, Barry Grossenburg, Tim Kessler, Scott Lawrence, and Les Lindskov.

Others Present: Steve Donovan, Neal Feeken, Stephanie Judson, Jim Madsen, Mike McKernan, David Nomsen, and Buddy Seiner.

Staff Present: Kelly Hepler, Wayne Winter, Bill Smith, Tom Kirschenmann, and Rachel Comes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board president Scherschligt called the meeting of the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund board to order at 1:00 p.m. CT and declared a quorum.

**MINUTES**

Roe moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Halverson. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF BALLOT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBACCOUNTS**

Winter reviewed the establishment of two subfunds at the SD Community Foundation passed by the Board by electronic ballot, noting that only the board has the ability to establish a subfund, which requires majority vote. The vote to establish these subfunds was unanimous. These subfunds will be utilized for spendable contributions one being for funds received by Pheasants Forever and the other for contributions from others.

**STATUS OF PRIVATE FUNDS COMMITTED BY NGO'S**

Winter informed the board that all funds pledged have been deposited and the Board can now claim state funds that were committed by the legislature in the 2015 session.

Scherschligt thanked the NGO's for their donations that allowed the Board to meet the matching requirement to obtain the state funds.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – PROVIDED BY SDCF**

Winter and Scherschligt confirmed the SD Community Foundation is investing endowed funds noting that a report showing returns will be presented at the next board meeting.

**STATUS OF STATE FUNDS ALLOCATED THROUGH HB 1192**

The Board was provided copies of the letter of intent for the 2015 legislative session on HB 1192 in regards to the SD Habitat Conservation Fund and a draft of articles of incorporation.

## 2016 GRANT PROGRAMS

Cooper provided an overview of the grant program and the criteria used by the grant subcommittee to score and rank the grant proposals. He walked through the lists of small and large grant requests, funds available and funding types.

Motion by Cooper, second by Roe to approve the small and large grants, and also the transfer \$36,250 of spendable funds to the endowment to match the balance of funds in that account. Both of these proposals were recommended by the grant subcommittee. Motion carried.

## FUNDRAISING

Scherschligt asked the Board for recommendations on how to raise the next million dollars to match the Governor's challenge over the next two years and what could be done to establish a consistent source of funds. The Board discussed possible partnership opportunities with the agricultural community such as seed dealers and chemical companies. Other options discussed were taxes, donations and outreach to corporate partners.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR INCORPORATION AND APPLYING FOR NON-PROFIT STATUS FROM IRS

Winter explained the Fund was originally conceived to work through the SD Community Foundation to accept and handle donations, but that can be limiting for fund distributions. If the board desires more flexibility to manage spendable funds the best option is for the Board to incorporate and apply for non-profit status. Winter recommended that endowed funds stay with the SD Community Foundation.

Nicolay moved to incorporate the SD Habitat Conservation Fund as a nonprofit corporation in South Dakota and apply for tax exempt status from the IRS. Seconded by Roe. Motion carried.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The Board agreed to meet quarterly with the next meeting to be held in April.

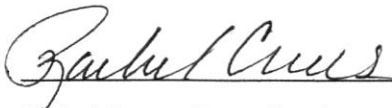
## ATTENDANCE BY PRESS AND PUBLIC AT BOARD MEETINGS

Motion by Cooper to develop a Board policy that would provide for an executive session at each board meeting. Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried.

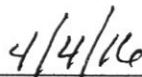
## ADJOURN

Nicolay moved to adjourn. Seconded by Roe. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

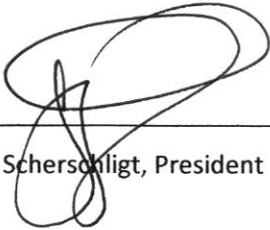


Rachel Comes, Recording Secretary



Date

Approved by:



Jeff Scherschligt, President

4.4.16

Date