

**SOUTH DAKOTA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND BOARD
CONFERENCE CALL
PIERRE, SD
SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**

Board Members Present: Barry Dunn, Christine Hamilton, Steve Halverson, Scott Lawrence, Jan Nicolay, Cathy Peterson, Hunter Roberts and Jeff Scherschlight via conference call.

Members Absent: Larry Ness, Dick Muth, Bob Roe, DeLon Mork, Doug Balvin, Tim Kessler and Tony Bour.

Others Present: Steve Donovan, Jim Madsen, Mike McKernan, David Nomsen, Corissa Krueger, Jack Theeler and Terry Schultz.

Staff Present: Kelly Hepler, Wayne Winter, Tony Leif, Tom Kirschenmann, and Rachel Comes.

CALL TO ORDER

Board president Scherschlight called the meeting of the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund board to order at 10:00 a.m. CT and declared a quorum.

MINUTES

Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Hamilton. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschlight-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Winter provided the financial report from the South Dakota Community Foundation noting total assets and funds available via the pass through fund.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Winter provided draft articles of incorporation for the board's review and requested approval of the resolution to adopt these articles of incorporation. Winter noted exofficio member voting rights and assignment of Winter to be names as Registered Agent. The board modified article VII to replace Bob Roe as an incorporator with Christine Hamilton.

Motioned by Peterson to approve resolution to adopt the articles of incorporation with recommended revisions. Seconded by Halvorsen. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschlight-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

DRAFT BYLAWS

Winter provided the revised bylaws explaining that the board already has bylaws and that these are a basically the same with a few minor additions. Hepler noted that the original bylaws were approved by the legislature and the board has been operating under them.

The board modified Article I: Purpose to include wildlife habitat and not just pheasant habitat.

Motioned by Nicolay to adopt the bylaws as amended. Seconded by Roberts. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschligt-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

CORPORATE RESOLUTION TO OPEN BANK ACCOUNT

The board reviewed the corporate banking resolution and selected the following as officers to be signatories: Jeff Scherschligt, President; Bob Roe, Vice President; and Steve Halverson, Treasurer.

Motioned by Lawrence to designate officers as signatories on a new bank account and require dual signatures on checks. Seconded by Dunn. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschligt-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

Winter explained the need to select a bank by the corporate banking resolution.

Motion by Dunn to designate First National Bank of Pierre. Seconded by Hamilton. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschligt-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

REVIEW DU PROPOSAL FOR MATCHING FUNDS FOR GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE

The group discussed the Ducks Unlimited (DU) proposal for the Governor's Challenge funds. Roberts noted that conservation easements that are being proposed are not acceptable and Hepler cited prevailing concerns with permanent easements. Steve Donovan of DU advised that there is not a current mechanism or alternative to permanent easements. Dunn remarked that if there is no workaround to the permanent easement dilemma, that the state will continue to lose key wetlands.

FUNDRAISING

Scherschligt suggested that the board raise a quarter of the million dollars.

Roberts said Terry Schultz is interested in being on the board of directors and would utilize his seed company to raise funds.

Scherschligt asked the board for ideas on other opportunities to raise funds.

Peterson commented that specific dollars raised can provide leverage to raise additional dollars. Asking for dollars now will be difficult without specifics as to how funds would be used. Scherschligt and Lawrence agreed that specifics would be needed from a marketing perspective.

It was suggested that the board request some large donations now and once secured, the board would identify specific projects for funding to secure additional donations. Winter recommended establishing a subcommittee to identify projects for funding before asking for contributions and they should also work to identify prospects.

Hepler recommended one of the existing subcommittees accomplish this task with the help of GFP staff and NGOs and interested individuals as needed. This meeting could be held by conference call and Scherschligt recommended meeting by the end of October.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH CONSERVATION AND COMMODITY GROUPS-IDENTIFY AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND INTEREST

Board members discussed a variety of potential alliances and current efforts by these groups on issues of mutual concern.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Winter began this discussion noting that recruitment of board members needs to be a continuous effort.

Terry Schultz and Jack Theeler are both interested in joining the board and are on the conference call today. Clint Vaneman was also mentioned as a potential board member.

Motioned by Nicolay to elect Terry Schultz and Jack Theeler to three year terms. Seconded by Lawrence. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschligt-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roberts discussed SB136, a buffer strip bill that Senator Peterson is bringing forward from last year. State agencies have vetted and drafted proposed legislation with good feedback from people who are interested. The qualities of the bill would include simplicity for landowners, and for equalization. Buffer strips could qualify along 11,000 miles of rivers and streams and 575 recreational lakes across the state.

Scherschligt asked whether we are measuring visits to the Habitat Pays website. Hepler noted that we do have metrics for the number of viewers with 3-4 minutes of viewing.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Winter stated the bylaws require meetings be in March and September each year. Winter asked the board when they would like to elect new officers as the fiscal year ends in December and recommended an annual meeting be held in late January or early February. He also stated the need for a summary of accomplishments for annual report.

Scherschligt recommended holding the next meeting in Pierre after the first of the year and prior to the start of legislative session.

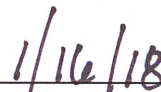
Roberts advised the board that Hepler will replace him as the exofficio board member on behalf of the Governor.

ADJOURN

Peterson moved to adjourn. Second by Halverson. Roll call vote: Hamilton-yes; Halverson-yes; Scherschligt-yes; Dunn-yes; Lawrence-yes; Nicolay-yes; Peterson-yes; Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

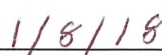
Respectfully submitted,


Rachel Comes, Recording Secretary


Date

Approved by:





Christine Hamilton, President

Date