

SOUTH DAKOTA SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND BOARD
PIERRE, SD
IN PERSON/ZOOM MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Board Members Present: Dr. Barry Dunn, Jim Faulstich, Curt Korzan, DeLon Mork, Tami Nelson, Larry Ness and Jim Scull and Gary Jensen GFP Commission Chair. GFP Staff attending: Executive Director Lisa Weyer.

Board Advisors Present: Representative Nancy York, Matt Morlock, Pheasants Forever, Bruce Toay, Ducks Unlimited, Jeff Vander Wilt, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Paul Lepisto, Izaak Walton League.

CALL TO ORDER AND CHANGES TO AGENDA

President Jim Scull called the meeting of the South Dakota Second Century Habitat Fund board to order at 10:15am CT and a quorum was present. No declarations or conflict of interest were heard. Requested by Weyer to add to the agenda State's Veterans Cemetery.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2020 MEETING

Jensen moved to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Dunn and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL & PAYABLES REPORT - WEYER

Handout provided in packet. Weyer explained the financial report and went through payables.

Dunn moved to approve the financial report as presented; seconded by Jensen and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Dunn moved to approve the payables as presented; seconded by Jensen and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GOVERNANCE

Scull nominated Korzan for Secretary/Treasurer to fill position with the departure of Steve Halverson.

Jensen made the motion to cease nominations and moved to elect Korzan for Secretary/Treasurer as presented; seconded by Nelson and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES/OTHER BUSINESS

Fundraising Ideas and Goals:

Korzan stated that he visited with Johnny Morris from Bass Pro/Cabela's on behalf of the SD Upland Outdoor Association and explained the purpose and mission of the organization. Made the request to ask Cabela's to round up purchases with the donation money going to SD Upland Outdoor Association. Stated could also ask on behalf of SCHF, too. Morris is hunting with Korzan in early December so will continue the conversation.

Suggested that we could do the same round up request to Scheels, Runnings and Fleet Farm.

Dunn commented that part of the conversation should be to ask the businesses to

match the round up dollar amounts.

A major part of this conversation was about partnering with others and leveraging dollars and programs to get more seed in the ground.

Vander Wilt suggested that NRCS has programs that SCHF could partner on such as Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) program. Could come together rather than separate efforts. Faulstich recommends SCHF has a follow-up conversation with NRCS as to how we can partner.

Jensen commented that someone needs to lead the efforts of all partners and then develop a plan and prepare a letter to the Governor. Jensen suggested SCHF put in writing what we are thinking and have a meeting with GFP. Weyer will coordinate with Scull and put a small group together to discuss what SCHF wants to do in preparation of asking the Governor.

Toay suggested this topic remain on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss further.

Mork stated that we need funds to do any programs or match any partner programs.

Dunn said that we may need the Governor's assistance to ask Scheels, Cabela's/Bass Pro and other businesses to allow the round up concept and match dollars raised.

Faulstich said we need to set our goals. Jensen said we need to plan for what we are going to do with the money we raise as that helps with fundraising efforts.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Second Century Working Lands Habitat Program – Weyer

- Have only had one new enrollee since the last meeting
- Total acres enrolled now is 4,369
- Remaining acres is 631 of the 5,000-acre goal
- \$655,404.50 in incentive payments sent out
- Seed payments have paid out \$190,786
- Total of \$846,190.97 paid out from Working Lands Program
- \$153,809.03 remaining funds as shown on balance sheet
- Just approved \$14,034.59 payment to Millborn Seeds.
- Fund balance of \$139,774.44 left

Weyer will move the \$113,000 from the Big Horn Sheep Auction to the Working Lands Program as the money is to go towards working lands and getting seed in the ground.

Weyer expects a couple more contracts to be coming in for the Working Lands Program.

Weyer will share the Working Lands enrollment map with Representative York and will follow up with Habitat Advisors to provide a progress report of seed planting of enrolled acres.

Every Acre Counts Program – Weyer

Handout provided in packet with revised goals. Weyer went through the goals and objectives and clarified the distinction of producers signing a Data Sharing Agreement and a contract for enrollment.

Anthony Bly is working on revising the promotional rack card.

Weyer explained that she contacted the SD Banking Association and for a \$750 membership fee can get a list of mailing addresses for all banks in SD. Would like approval to join the Banking Association and send information about SCHF, the Working Lands Habitat Program and the EAC to all ag loan officers in the state.

Faulstich made the motion to approve membership of the SD Banking Association; seconded by Jensen and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Stated the SCHF needs to be a part of the SD Banking Association held in April to promote SCHF.

GFP COMMISSION UPDATE – JENSEN

Jensen reported that the Commission approved the extension of the pheasant season to January 31 and unlimited harvest of pheasants on preserves.

OTHER ITEMS

Report on Habitat Day at State Fair – Weyer

Weyer reported that the Habitat Day (Friday, September 4) went well. Held two panel discussions.

1. The impact of pheasant hunting to the State of SD
2. Why is habitat important and what is GFP, SCHF and other NGO's doing to improve habitat development in SD.

The crowd was down this year due to COVID, but still had an audience of 15-20 people who asked questions.

Keystone XL Pipeline Project Habitat Donation – Weyer

Weyer reported GFP received a request from the Keystone XL Pipeline wanting to make a donation to use on habitat efforts in the northwestern part of the state to benefit sage grouse and other species. \$202,298.00 was received by SCHF on 9/3/2020.

Website Development Update – Weyer

Website development in progress. Have the template and looks good. Have provided content to the website developer. If the board members have not sent your biography and picture get it to Weyer. Hope to have it ready by the middle or end of October.

Weyer gave a report on the progress of the fundraising video. Paulsen has interviewed the Governor and has other interviews scheduled through mid to late September. Weyer will confirm completion date.

States Veterans Cemetery - Weyer

Weyer reported that the State Veterans Cemetery reached out to Matt Morlock to inquire about wanting 45 acres on the east end to be planted to habitat for a "reflecting area". Morlock has spoken to Millborn Seed and they will more than likely discount the seed mix. Full retail of the seed mix would be \$11,000. The Conservation District in Minnehaha County will plant the seed and GFP will manage the habitat area long term.

Morlock will get a map of the area to further discuss at the next meeting.

Toay and Lepisto commented that they would inquire about partnering with SCHF in the cost of seed.

ADJOURN

Ness made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Korzan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Scull adjourned the meeting at 11:42AM CT

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Weyer, Executive Director

Date

Approved by,

Jim Scull, President

Date