

**SOUTH DAKOTA SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND
BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING
MAY 13, 2020**

Board Members Present by teleconference: Dr. Barry Dunn, Jim Faulstich, Steve Halverson, Tim Kessler, Curt Korzon, DeLon Mork, Larry Ness, Dan Rykhus, Jim Scull and Ex Officio Board Member Kelly Hepler, GFP Department Secretary and Gary Jensen GFP Commission Chair. Others attending by teleconference: House Representative Nancy York, Jason Simmons, Governor's Office and Bruce Toay, Ducks Unlimited. GFP Staff attending by teleconference: Kevin Robling, GFP Deputy Director, Tom Kirschenmann, GFP Division Director and Executive Director Lisa Weyer.

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 10:15 am CT and a quorum was present. No declarations or conflict of interest were heard. Addition to the agenda under other items add Ducks Unlimited Grant Proposal.

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2020 MEETING

Kessler moved to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Halverson and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT & PAYABLES

Weyer explained the financial report and went through payables.

Mork moved to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Hepler and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ness moved to approve payment to Millborn Seeds for Statement total of \$133,231.32 seconded by Kessler and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
HABITAT PARTNER OF THE YEAR/CRITERIA

Jason Simmons from the Governor's office stated the Governor likes the idea of creating an award. Weyer reported that we did get final approval from the Governor on the Crowd Sourcing winners and a Habitat Award was one of them.

The Board reviewed the draft award criteria. Kirschenmann gave an update on past criteria GFP has used for a habitat award.

Faulstich stated we should design this award as a steppingstone to the Leopard award.

Dunn stated there is quite a few differences of this award and the Leopold Award. Kessler stated this should be a significant award to stand by itself. Several board members stated we are the Second Century Habitat, and this is the Second Century of pheasant hunting. This could be a substantial award and could stand on its own.

Recommended to form have a subcommittee to develop further criteria for the award and then submit it to the board. Volunteers for the subcommittee include Curt Korzon as Chairman, Jim Scull, and Jason Simmons. If others are interested in serving, contact Weyer.

VISION STATEMENT

Reviewed the Fund's mission statement, proposed vision statement and the 2020 objectives.

Discussion took place as to if the Second Century Habitat Fund is strictly about pheasant hunting and habitat or if we are to have a broader vision. Question was asked to Simmons if he had visited with the Governor about expanding our mission to include youth hunting. From Simmons perspective really want to get that first million dollars' worth of feed in the ground and acres enrolled and then after that from Simmons perspective believes youth hunting fits into the Governors vision of her Second Century initiative. Stated the board should work on details of what that will look like.

Korzon stated they have started the SD Upland Out Birders Association and the goal for the fall is to put 1,000 youth in the field at no charge as different lodges would donate. Maybe when we have our meeting could mention Second Century Habitat Fund where we could collaborate and work together to get some kids in the field this fall.

Robling spoke on the Department's R3 efforts and stated how trying to get the whole family involved is important and to not just focus on youth.

Dr. Dunn stated our goal was to reverse the trend of loss of habitat. We are trying to build back the habitat base.

Faulstich stated maybe add in something to stop the loss of habitat into our vision statement.

Request was made to add a fifth objective to state active collaboration with NGO's.

Weyer will work on changes and bring it back to the board.

PROPOSED ADVISORS TO THE SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND BOARD

A list of proposed organizations was provided for the Board's review. Upon approval from the Board, Weyer will contact the advisors to inquire about their interest in serving.

Since this board is about habitat and pheasants primarily, the Mule Deer Foundation was removed.

Mork recommend adding the Izaak Walton League as they have been involved in the past. Hepler stated the Izaak Walton is supportive and they would be good as part of the advisory board.

Faulstich moved to approve the following as advisors to the Board: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Izaak Walton League, seconded by Mork and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Weyer and Mork will have website development price quotes soon.

MEETING REQUEST WITH THE GOVERNOR

Weyer is working with Simmons on organizing and scheduling a meeting with the Governor.

GOVERNANCE

Weyer notified Simmons that we will have 4 board members with terms expiring in 2020. The Governor is aware of the term expirations and will get back to us later with her recommendations.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CORPORATE FRIENDS OF HABITAT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Weyer presented a new program that would gain fundraising involvement with corporations. This could get us started with some form of fundraising without a development director.

Faulstich said maybe we need to add an incentive of a pheasant hunt for them. Would be good to get these people out on the land.

Stated maybe having the option of \$500 as more comfortable dollar amount for people.

Korzon stated he would like to offer up this fall to donate a night at the lodge, meals and beverages and the hunt at no expense to anyone. It would have to be in December as booked through most of the season. It would be at no charge to anyone.

Faulstich stated he would offer his operation as well, but it would be at a different level than Korzon.

Possibly have a representative from GFP go on the hunts and have a higher level include an invite to the Governor's pheasant hunt.

Weyer will work with Korzon and Faulstich and revise the levels and bring it back to the board. Also email any comments or suggestions to Weyer.

PROGRAM UPDATES

SECOND CENTURY WORKING LANDS HABITAT PROGRAM

- 61 landowners enrolled.
- 3,980 acres enrolled
- \$597,015 paid out in incentive payments
- \$133,231 expended in seed mix for enrollees
- Roughly \$269,754 left of our \$1 million allocated to the Working Lands Habitat Program

Robling asked, if once we hit the million-dollar mark, do we want to do a direct stop on the solicitation of the program, or do we continue trying to get people enrolled?

Weyer stated she will notify everyone when getting close to spending the million dollars. Suggest halting the program when close to spending all the money until it can be discussed further.

Hepler stated when we come closer to spending the million, we can have a discussion with the board on other funds and how you want to spend them. Weyer can setup a time with board members if getting close to spending the million dollars.

Robling stated will be getting some money from the big horn sheep auction license and 1/3 of that will be coming to Second Century Habitat Board pending Commission approval.

EVERY ACRE COUNTS PROGRAM

Weyer said the program is at a standstill until Precision Ag position is filled. The MOU with Pheasants Forever has been signed by Scull and will be sent to Matt Morlock.

GFP COMMISSION UPDATE - JENSEN

Commission meetings are being held by teleconference and it is working fine.

OTHER ITEMS:

DUCKS UNLIMITED GRANT PROPOSAL – BRUCE TOAY

Toay gave an overview of the grant they are submitting to advance soil health and biodiversity in the Prairie Pothole Region. The proposal aims to leverage contributions from private and public partners to assist producers looking to adopt soil health practices on cropland, restore/retain working grasslands, improving livestock grazing capacity, and maintaining the ecological integrity of seasonal wetlands. DU is looking for in-kind partner contributions to the overall program. The working lands program could be considered an in-kind contribution to the overall program.

Toay said he hopes to have a start date in the fall of 2020. It would be any working lands project that occurs after that in eastern SD.

Weyer said we would have to figure out what our next step as a board is with the Working Lands Habitat Program. Most of the \$1 million is already expended and therefore would not qualify as an in-kind contribution for this grant.

Faulstich moved to approve if it stays within the guidelines that we don't have to put any cash outlay into the RCPP seconded by Rykhuis and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Weyer will work with Toay on this to finalize something by the end of May.

NEXT MEETING – AFTER MEETING WITH GOVERNOR

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23rd and the question is if we want to hold the meeting in June or wait until we can meet with the Governor. If the meeting with the Governor is not held before June 23rd, Weyer will postpone the meeting.

Faulstich would like a face to face meeting with the Governor. Weyer stated we might have to do a video conference.

Weyer said she can work with Simmons and try to figure out some dates and coordinate with board members to schedule a meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Scull adjourned the meeting at 12:11 PM CT

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Weyer, Executive Director

Date

Approved by,

Jim Scull, President

Date