

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The mission of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is to provide a forum for discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals; to enable its membership to pursue conservation natural resources; and to inform the public on ecologically wise uses of natural resources in support of a conservation ethic.

OCTOBER 1996

CHAPTER SUBMITS BID TO HOST 1999 TWS MEETING

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (NDCTWS) Executive Board voted to submit a bid to host the 1999 TWS Annual Conference. Several factors were considered in making the decision including: 1) Host chapter responsibilities and time line; 2) Number of potential volunteers; 3) Facility requirements versus capacity of the Bismarck Civic Center; 4) Agency and conservation organization support; 5) Convention and Visitor Bureau's commitments; 6) Information from previous and current host Chapter's; and 7) Information from ND Game & Fish Department's experience in hosting the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency and Outdoor Writers' meetings. The Executive Board decided that hosting the 1999 TWS Annual Meeting would be a great opportunity for the following reasons: 1) it would bring attention to Northern Great Plains natural resource issues; 2) the NDCTWS would receive a cash rebate of up to \$10,000; and 3) it would be an opportunity for more NDCTWS members to attend a TWS annual meeting.

The Wildlife Society Council received two bids to host the 1999 Annual Meeting, one from the NDCTWS (Bismarck location) and one from the Texas Chapter of TWS (Corpus Christi location). The Council met October 1 and 2, 1996 at the TWS Annual Meeting in Cincinnati to discuss the bids. They did not make a decision, but indicated a preference for Corpus Christi because they felt it would be a better destination location. However, they felt they needed additional information on the two sites before making a final decision. Sandra Staples-Bortner, TWS Program Director, plans to make site visits to both Bismarck and Corpus Christi to gather the additional information. We will try our best to promote Bismarck for the 1999 meeting site. A big thank you to Nancy Dietz, Mike Olson, and Kevin Johnson for assistance with the bid package.

Karen Kreil, President



NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER TWS - 1996

Executive Board Officers: Karen Kreil
Mike Olson Nancy Dietz Harris Hoistad
Bill Bicknell Steve Dyke Kevin Johnson
Rick Nelson

President Portfolio: Karen Kreil
Secretary/Treasurer: Nancy Dietz
Newsletter: Tammy Fairbanks *
ND Action Group: Scott Peterson
Historian: Chris Grondahl *
CMPS Rep: Jerry Heiser *
Student Chapter Adv: Rick Nelson *
Wetland Trust Adv: Harris Hoistad

Past President Portfolio: Rick Nelson
Arrangements 1997 Mtg: vacant
Audit: Larry Lysne *
Membership: Kevin Johnson
Program 1997 Mtg: Greg Hiemenz, Mike Ell
Nominations: Rick Nelson

President Elect Portfolio: Mike Olson
Planning: Vacant
Bylaws: Gary Rankin *
Fundraising: Kevin Willis
Legislative: Kevin Johnson, Nancy Dietz
Awards: Mike Olson

Portfolio A: Bill Bicknell
Wetland Resources: Bill Bicknell
Sec 404 Subcommittee: Alexis Duxbury,
Mike Ell, Mike Olson
Fishery Resources: Eric Pearson
Environmental Contaminants: Rick Nelson *
Youth Ed/Habitat Contest: Jack Lalor

Portfolio B: Harris Hoistad
Western Lands: Bill Jensen *
Forest Resources: John Schulz *
Devils Lake Basin: Roger Hollevoet *
Education/Info: Kristine Askerooth

Portfolio C: Steve Dyke
Water Projects: Mike McEnroe *
Prairie Resources: Bill Jensen *
Prairie Chicken: Paul Van Ningen

Portfolio D: Kevin Johnson
Land Use: Kevin Willis
CRP Subcommittee: Arnold Kruse *
Endangered Species: vacant
Law Enforcement: Paul Freeman *
Wildlife Damage & Control: Louis Huffmann *

* no report submitted

**NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 1996**

The Executive Board meeting of the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 10:12 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 1996. The meeting was attended by Board members: Rick Nelson, Karen Kreil, Mike Olson, Kevin Johnson, Bill Bicknell, Steve Dyke, Harris Hoistad, and Secretary Dietz. Scott Petersen was also in attendance.

The June 21, 1996 meeting minutes as published in the August 1996 newsletter were unanimously approved.

President's Portfolio

Secretary/Treasurer - The Secretary/Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$14,224.99 as the August 26, 1996 statement. The Smith Barney certificate of deposit has \$6,520.85 which includes the money market portion that is \$320.27.

North Dakota Action Group - The ND Action Group met on April 24, in Bismarck. Project reports were submitted and discussed in detail at that meeting. Three major action group projects were ranked for North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funding. Those projects included the Chase Lake Prairie Project, Devils Lake Basin Project, and the Northern Coteau Project. Bob Meeks, Ken Sambor, and Mike McEnroe met to rank these NDAG projects prior to submitting them to the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) Board for NAWCA grant funding. The NDAG ranked these projects 1) Chase Lake Prairie Project, 2) Devils Lake Project, and 3) Northern Coteau Project.

The PPJV Board then met and ranked these and nine other individual projects from five different states within the PPJV. The PPJV Council, at their July meeting, recommended the Chase Lake Prairie Project for NAWCA grand funding. In the interim, the Devils Lake Project and Northern Coteau Project will remain active and will be reconsidered for funding in December.

The NDAG also hosted the PPJV Board meeting which was held in Jamestown in early September. Ken Sambor, NDAG Director, indicated that this was a very productive meeting. At this PPJV meeting, the NDAG hosted a poster session to showcase the North American Waterfowl Management Plan NAWMP projects here in North Dakota. The NDAG also expressed an interest in hosting a similar poster session at the NDCTWS annual meeting which would demonstrate major progress with the NAWMP.

Over the past several years, the activities of the NDAG have resulted in about 5.5 million dollars of NAWCA project matching dollars, about 11 million dollars have been spent on projects here in North Dakota. Approximately 150,000 acres of waterfowl habitat improvements have been made as a direct result of NDAG involvement.

Wetland Trust Advisor - Harris discussed the Grassland Easement Program and the meeting with the Governor. He also discussed the status of the letter to the Governor and the letter of support from landowner. Harris recommended to wait until after the elections to pursue the Chapters support of the program, and the Board will follow Harris's recommendations. The Trust's executive director is also trying to set up meetings between Trust board members and groups that may have interest in the Grassland Easement Program, and explain the purpose of the program.

Past President's Portfolio

Arrangements: 1997 Annual Meeting - The initial arrangements have been made at the Seven Seas in Mandan from February 12 to 14, 1997. Bill Bicknell volunteered to help with arrangements.

Membership - Johnson has a list of materials that are provided by TWS, they are: membership brochures, TWS brochure, and student guides. Should the Chapter need any of these materials Johnson can order them. Johnson also has the 1996 TWS membership directory. The following new members were unanimously approved by the Board, they are: Jim Ringelman or Bradley Johnson, and Kurt Waterstradt. The Chapter has a grand total of 282 members in good standing, of those 64 are life members, 14 are students, 2 are benefactors. Sixty-five memberships have expired in 1995, and these members will be sent renewal information. Johnson also provided the Board with a Chapter membership list.

Program: 1997 Annual Meeting - The committee has openings yet in the program. If you have a paper to give please submit those immediately. The committee needs to set a goal for a draft program in December 1996 that will be published in the January 1997 newsletter. There has been a request for a poster session about North Dakota Action Group projects.

Nominations - The nominations will need to be ready by December so that biographical information and photos can be published in the January 1997 newsletter.

President-Elect Portfolio

Fund Raising - The Fund Raising Committee will have raffle tickets available in the November newsletter.

Legislative - Johnson reported about the letter to the League of Women Voters regarding helping to sponsor a debate. Johnson was informed that the League of Women Voters conducts forums not debates. However, the forum in Fargo is for Cass County candidates only, and they do not have a forum for statewide candidates. The League of

Women Voters is meeting in late September in Fargo. If they decide at that meeting to have a forum for statewide candidates they will have the Chapters questions that already have been submitted. Johnson also submitted debate question to the Bismarck Tribune who is sponsoring debates in Bismarck. Also the committee will now not need the \$500 it had budgeted to help with 1996 debates, the committee will put that towards the 1997 budget needs. The committee also plans to met in the next few weeks.

Awards - Olson has received some award nominations, and will continue to accept nominations until the November Board meeting. He is also seeking nominations for the North Dakota Award.

Portfolio A

Wetland Resources - Bicknell discussed the adhoc committee that met in June to discuss the direction of the Wetlands Trust. The results of the meeting were summarized in the last newsletter. The adhoc committee will met again in October or November, and plans to continue to discuss the issues. Bicknell has received some feedback from the first meeting. The feedback was that the meeting's focus was too much on long-term protection and there should be more focus on short-term protection.

Section 404 Subcommittee

Bicknell talked with John Peters about the State Assumption of Section 404 Program. Peters thought the effort was dead, at this time. The State Water Commission has draft rules in place and ready to submit to EPA when funds become available. At this time, there is no money from the federal government for state operated programs.

Fishery Resources - The committee has been waiting to review the Maple River Dam EIS. A working draft was released for Corps review only. However, the Corps had problems with the working draft and they haven't heard anything about the EIS since that time.

Youth Education/Habitat Contest - Bicknell reported that they have received information from the contestants, and they are now evaluating the plots. They will have awards in November.

Portfolio B

Education/Information - Hoistad reported that North Dakota's entry finished in the top 15 in the National Contest among 50,000 entries nationwide. Askerooth requested that the Board consider funding for the Jr Duck Stamp contest again next year.

Portfolio C

Prairie Chicken - During the April Board meeting when this issue was discussed extensively, one action item was to set up a fall meeting of stakeholders in the Sheyenne Grasslands Prairie Chicken issue. At that time the committee wanted to wait until Svdersky's literature review was completed. This report is now finished. With the report completed, it is hoped that the Forest Service will use this as a reference for future management decisions. Greg Link believed the Svdersky report was well done and met the needs it was intended to serve. There has been no progress on fall meeting which was intended to be a facilitated meeting that would come up with a consensus management plan.

Portfolio D

Land Use

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Provisions

Interim final regulations for Swampbuster and Sodbuster were released September 6. An interim final rule means that the regulations are in force but subject to change in the final rule. USDA is accepting comments on these provisions until November 5, 1996.

I am preparing comments for the Chapter regarding the wetland conservation provisions. Since I was on the regulations-writing team in Washington and may be biased toward my own work, I want to have Dave Dewald and Dan Limmer review my comments before Karen signs it. A draft of what I have so far is attached. There are a very few glitches, but overall I believe the new Swampbuster will protect the resource better than we ever thought possible before they passed the bill.

I have asked Dave Dewald to coordinate a Chapter response to the HEL conservation provisions as a separate letter, since these comments will be split up in Washington anyway.

Conservation Reserve Program

Different rules have been promulgated that basically split CRP into 2 programs - the continuous signup and the long-term policy.

Continuous Signup - Called Signup 14, it began September 4 and will be available indefinitely. Eligible acres will be automatically accepted for certain practices that treat what's considered to be highly sensitive lands such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, wellhead protection areas. There was some confusion among wildlife professional whether or not cropped wetlands were automatically acceptable in Signup 14 as shallow water areas for wildlife, but they are only acceptable if restored.

Long-Term Policy - Proposed rules were released September 23, with comments accepted up until November 7, 1996. This is the big enchilada- with over 33 million acres at stake. Early press reports are touting the erodibility index eligibility criteria will preclude 40% of Dakotas' and 67% of Minnesota's current CRP for being rebid. What you're not hearing is that we can probably maintain eligibility for most acreage in the PPR by declaring it a conservation priority area.

Our Northern Great Plains Working Group is closely coordinating with Washington contacts and will be meeting on this issue September 25. We will prepare comments for the Chapter before the November 7 deadline. The rules are written very generally with requests for comments on major issues, and it appears that we have fairly good opportunities to shape CRP to fit ND resource needs.

Wetland Reserve Program

USDA somehow snuck the comment period past everyone, including NDCTWS and NWF, to name two, and the final rule was released August 14. We appear to have greater opportunity for signing 30-year WRP easement in ND than before. USDA will be able to offer more money on more lands than the previous signups, so we expect a little more interest from landowners in the future.

EQIP, WHIP, Etc.

The State Technical Committee, which next meets on September 26, is finalizing recommendations for geographical priority area and natural resource priority concerns for EQIP, which is a retooled mix of Great Plains/ACP/WQIP programs. Expect a good amount of EQIP funds to go into livestock ag. waste systems. We've heard very little on WHIP so far, but expect this new wildlife program will pump some major (\$100Ks) dollars into ND resources over the next 7 years.

Old Business

Draft Life Membership Investment Objectives

Dietz provided the Board with draft Life Membership Fund investment objectives. The Board quickly reviewed the draft and provided some initial revisions. The Board members will provide Dietz with additional revisions in the next two weeks. The draft will be published in the November newsletter, and a final investment objectives will be voted on by the Board at its meeting in November 1996.

State School Land Issue - Olson, Kreil, and Johnson had meetings individually with all five members of State Land Board. The meetings focused on the land sale policy that related to land as an asset management class, and what that means for potential school lands that are for sale. Olson

believes that the Land Board members now understand the importance of moving slowly on this issue. Two of the Land Board members were receptive to the idea of alternative language to the land sale policy adopted in December 1995. During the meetings the Chapter representatives also noted that they were uncomfortable with the process, since we don't know what that process is.

SB 1459 (Livestock Grazing Act/Public Rangelands Reform Act) - Olson reported that since our last meeting the Senate had passed SB 1459, and this bill stalled in the House. Now a compromise bill has come from Congressman Bollert, and is the new version of SB 1459. This version hasn't changed much about the impacts to wildlife. It is anticipated that the bill will come to the floor during this session. Another rumor is that Congressman Bingaman has offered a compromise bill in the Senate.

Alexis Duxbury prepared a copy of the most recent information on this bill for the Board. Alexis is working closely with Tom Franklin, TWS, on this bill.

Nelson and Olson met with Senator Dorgan about the mineral exchange with Meridian Oil and the Forest Service. The legislation has not introduced because Dorgan claims there is too much local opposition from county commissioners to the proposal. The Board discussed preparing a draft letter about the mineral exchange intended for the media. The draft letter should be faxed to Dorgan for comment prior to sending to the media.

Public Relations for Contribution to Devils Lake Basin NACWA grant - Hoistad reported that the NAWCA grant did not get recommended in this round; however, it will be resubmitted in December 1996. The news release will be developed when the grant is approved.

1999 TWS Annual Meeting Bid Package - Kreil reported that the bid package has been prepared and sent. The bid package contained support letters from a large number and variety of agencies and organizations. She reported that we will be competing with 2 or 3 bids from different Texas locations. The TWS Council will meet on October 1 and 2, and will make a host Chapter selection at that time.

Fund Raising for Lobbyist - Olson obtained quotes about the worth of the North Dakota duck stamp set. However, the bottom has fallen out of print market, and the entire collection is worth about \$1,000 to \$1,200.

Letter to NDCTWS members about Life Memberships - Bicknell noted that an article was placed in the August newsletter. He has prepared a draft request to send to life members, and this will be completed and sent out in the near future.

Draft Criteria and Guidelines for Funding Projects
Johnson has prepared a draft of the funding guidelines, and is working on paring down the draft.

Joint Meeting with Minnesota Chapter of TWS in 1998
Kreil reported that the Minnesota Chapter was interested in a 1998 joint meeting, with a proposed prairie theme and a session on ethics. Kreil will call and propose dates to them for the meeting.

Letters of Support for "Teaming with Wildlife" to Colorado Manufactures - Kreil will request Chris Grondahl to draft this letter.

Ecotourism Workshop Status - Kreil reported that no progress has been made on researching the workshop.

Forest Service Work Group (West River) Meeting
Kreil reported that a tour on the Little Missouri Grasslands was held this summer but Kreil did not attend. The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Oct. 9, 1996, and Kreil will attend.

New Business

Request for NDCTWS to Host 1997 CMPS Annual Meeting - The Chapter has been requested to trade hosting the CMPS meeting with the Colorado Chapter who is assigned to host the 1997 meeting. The Colorado Chapter is hosting the annual TWS conference in 1997. The Board is considering trading with Colorado but needs to determine the availability of facilities for August 1997. Jerry Heiser will be requested to check facility availability.

4-H Wildlife Program Funding Request - The Board denied the funding request, since the program is already supported through the Education and Information Committee.

Ducks Unlimited Membership Renewal - The Board denied a request for funds, believing that the majority of our members are also Ducks Unlimited members.

Charitable Solicitation License Renewal/Annual Report - The Chapter needs to renew its license, and Dietz will prepare the license application form.

Barnes County ECO-ED Camp Funding Request
The Board denied a request for funds.

ND Wetlands Conservation Plan - Mike Ell brought this to the attention of the Board. The plan has had no public input, and there is no action items. The Chapter will request an official copy of the Plan from EPA. Bicknell recommend to contact EPA about the plans process and how to proceed with providing comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 26, 1996 at the ND Game and Fish Office, Bismarck. The next meeting will be partially devoted to developing the 1997 budget, and voting on award recipients.

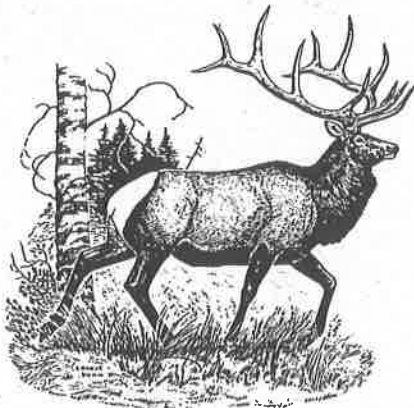
**ND CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 1996**

The Special Executive Board meeting of the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 10:05 a.m. at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office on Thursday, September 5, 1996. The meeting was attended by Board members: Rick Nelson, Karen Kreil, Mike Olson, Steve Dyke, Kevin Johnson, Bill Bicknell, and Harris Hoistad and Secretary Dietz participated via conference call.

The special meeting focus was to determine if the Chapter would submit a bid to host the 1999 TWS annual convention in Bismarck. The Board discussed several issues which included: arrangement chair interest, interest by Chapter members in helping with the conference; facility requirement of TWS; Convention and Visitor Bureau commitment and help; TWS staff assistance; and discussion with the arrangement chairs from the Oregon and Ohio annual meetings; Game and Fish Department experiences with hosting the Outdoor Writers Conference; TWS cash rebate; expectations of annual conference attendees to hunt or fish; and hotel and restaurant needs.

Olson made a motion to submit a bid for the 1999 TWS annual conference and to consider submitting a bid for the conference in 2000. Nelson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Action items included obtaining support letters from agencies and organizations. Determining appointments for arrangement chairs, and preparation of the bid package by the end of September.



DRAFT

*ND CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND
GUIDELINES*

The goal of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (NDCTWS) Life Membership Fund is to provide operating income for the NDCTWS. The NDCTWS's purpose is to provide a forum of discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals and information to the public on ecologically wise uses of natural resources in North Dakota.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society Executive Board is to preserve the underlying real value of the investment portfolio, to generate growth and income of the Life Membership Fund, and to assure the dedicated fund stays even or ahead of inflation over time.

DISTRIBUTED POLICY

The net income shall be distributed back to the Life Membership Fund for annual growth and income or shall be distributed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

INVESTMENT POLICIES

1. The portfolio shall earn a total rate of return (interest and dividend income plus appreciation in equity investments) averaging at least 10% per annum measured over a market cycle or on a moving three-year period.

2. The assets shall be invested in a manner that allows diversification of assets, this will ensure that adverse or unexpected results from a security class will not have an excessive detrimental impact on the entire portfolio.

3. The Fund Raising (or Finance??) Committee shall advise the Executive Board about all investment decisions and shall monitor and report the investments progress to the Executive Board at each annual meeting, or when investment decisions change. The Executive Board shall have the authority to make final investment decisions. The fund consultant will never have discretionary decision making in the management of the portfolio.

4. No monies will be lent to any individual and/or legal entity.

POLICY AND GUIDELINE REVIEW

Annually, the Fund Raising (or Finance??) Committee will review the policies and guidelines in relation to the management of this Fund and said review shall be forwarded to the Executive Board.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**NDCTWS ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12-14, 1997**

Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center
Mandan, North Dakota

**Wildlife Conservation in North Dakota:
Ecosystems at Risk**

This year's annual meeting theme is intended to focus on those ecosystems in North Dakota that are at risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The intention of the program committee is to focus each session on a specific ecosystem in the state. Examples of potential session topics include: wetlands, the Missouri River, grasslands, small rivers and streams, forests, and ecosystem protection for threatened and endangered species. The program committee would also like to have one session to discuss the Chapter's role in preserving and restoring these ecosystems. This session may feature presentations by the Chapter's Board as well as by the membership at large.

In addition to papers presented as part of the annual meeting theme the program committee also encourages students to submit papers describing the results of their research efforts.

For more information on this year's annual meeting or to submit a paper for the meeting please contact Greg Hiemenz (250-4242 x3611 work or 221-2262 home) or Mike Ell (328-5214 work or 223-4237 home).

To request a place on the program, please submit your paper titles to : Program Committee, NDCTWS, P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442. **Titles must be submitted by December 6, 1996.**

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

Many of you have not paid your 1996 dues yet. Check the number in the upper right corner of your mailing label on this newsletter. This number is the year your membership expires. If your membership has lapsed, please fill out the membership application below and send it in with payment (\$10.00) ASAP. THANKS.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

OCCUPATION/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMPLOYER: _____

I am _____ am not _____ a current member of The Wildlife Society.

- Regular.....\$ 10.00 _____
- Life Member.....\$200.00 _____
- Student.....\$ 8.00 _____
- Central Mountains & Plains
Section TWS.....\$ 5.00 _____
- Total Enclosed.....\$ _____

Make checks payable to: "North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society."
Mail to: North Dakota Chapter TWS, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Budget topic for next board meeting - The next board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 26, 1996 at the ND Game and Fish Office, Bismarck. The board will be working on the budget at this meeting. Please submit any budget requests to Karen Kreil by November 18, 1996.

Newsletter deadline - Please get your newsletter items to Tammy by no later than December 11. I would like to get this newsletter in the mail along with the raffle tickets before the Christmas holiday. THANKS!

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are planning to move please notify us of your new address. The Post Office will not forward newsletters to your new address without a correct address label. The Post Office also charges us \$.50 per returned newsletter. Please let us know of your move by calling Kevin Johnson 250-4491(w)/663-3896(h) or filling out the change of address form and sending it to North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE
WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
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