

SOUTH DAKOTA SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND BOARD ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE MEETING Annual Meeting February 8th, 2023

Board Members Present by Zoom/Teleconference: Adam Bender, DeLon Mork, Jim Faulstich, Jim Scull, Tami Nelson, Secretary Kevin Robling, Josh Cluff
Board Advisors Present by Zoom/Teleconference: Paul Lepisito, Izaak Walton League,

GFP Staff Present by Zoom/Teleconference:
SCHF Contracted Staff: Brian Bashore, Executive Director, Chase Rose, Bannack Group, Sal Roseland

Guest: Anthony Bly

CALL TO ORDER AND CHANGES TO AGENDA

Adam Bender called the Annual meeting of the South Dakota Second Century Habitat Fund Board of Directors to order at 12:00 pm CT and a quorum was present.

APPROVE MINUTES OF December 14th, 2022 MEETING

Motion made by DeLon Mork moved to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Secretary Robling and the motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations were made for Adam Bender (President) Tami Nelson (Secretary/Treasure) DeLon Mork (Vice President) all nominations were accepted and the board voted unanimously to reinstate the slate of officers for another year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bashore, Reported on the quarterly financials from Casey Peterson. \$1,769,432.72 is the current balance as of today 2/8/2023. \$1,100 from a memorial was contributed to SCHF, and \$4,500 was from the Winter Initiative. The truck/Boat raffle is around 112k, and another 10k check came in as a corporate donor. A loss of (18k) in the endowment fund for 2022 as it's tied to the stock market. Bashore then went over the proposed 2023 budget. Board recommends increasing earning levels to make the goal 2 million. Discussion around Pheasant Fest 2024 sponsorship, decided to hold off until more information is provided from Pheasants Forever. Discussion around our 2024 raffle item.

A motion to approve the 2023 operating budget was made by DeLon Mork and Seconded by Secretary Robling. A motion was carried unanimously and approved by the Board.

GUEST SPEAKER

Anthony Bly provided an update about the Every Acre Counts program and how it has grown and the results of the studies that have been completed.

Development Director (Sal Roseland & Chase Rose of Bannack Group)

Chase, updated the board on his efforts in fundraising for 2022 and what's in the pipeline for 2023. East Dakota Water District came on board to support Big Sioux CREP. Chase believes that all of our partnerships will be annual givings setting up a great baseline for annual budgets. Smithfield is still in the works and we are waiting to hear back from the Sustainability Officer on their giving level to the Big Sioux CREP program. Syngenta has donated 25k again for FY2023 for the Working Lands program.

Sal, spoke to Summit Carbon stating a sizable donation was coming after April but expected something from them sooner on a smaller level. Glacial Lakes, is in the works as they are tied to the pipeline, Watertown group is waiting until after the legislative session to make any decisions.

Chase, touched on the Koch Foundation grant opportunities in February. Chase then went over the declines and explained the next steps moving forward with those opportunities. Chase emphasized the marketing efforts we were doing for the Gala, and Raffles were well above what he see's from other NGOs in this space. Chase also explained how important the stewardship information provided lets him deliver answers to the donor very quickly. Secretary Robling gave the Development directors some names of businesses to reach out to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Habitat Programs Committee (Faulstich)

Jim Faulstich updated the board on the lack of members on the committee and the need to get more individuals involved. Jim brought up a lot of the questions we have been getting from landowners looking to enroll acres into the Working Lands program. Burning acres was discussed and the board decided not to allow burns as a management plan. Jim brought up the need to adjust our seed mixture, which Millborn is working on updating. Discussion around how to allow expired CRP acres to be enrolled into the program. Discussion to pro-rate 5yr contracts to 10yr contracts to those that choose. A motion was made to amend the Working Lands contract from 10 acres minimum to a 5-acre minimum, not to allow burns as a management practice, and to add a line on the contract to allow CRP acres that meet the requirement set by SCHF. The motion was made by Secretary Robling and seconded by Jim Faulstich. A motion was carried and approved by unanimous vote.

Programs

Board discussed the current programs and which ones should be continued. Discussion around the Every Acre Counts program and allocated funds for the program that is still available. Board decided to fold the Every Acre Counts program into the Working Lands program, Big Sioux CREP program marketing efforts are on hold from advice from Secretary Robling, however, fundraising efforts will continue. Winter Storm Initiative is a 1yr campaign. Working Lands Program and very popular and growing and will continue to be our main focus.

Marketing/Fundraising Committee (Bender)

Bender provided an update on the Gala process and where we are at with the possible entertainment. Sal is working with entertainment and we have an agreement in principle but no actual contract yet. We still need a lot of auction items and Bashore is working on the run of the show. Sal provided what he's been doing in regard to lining up the entertainment. Sal stated he is actually seeking other options, plan B and plan C. Sal said he has a private jet lined up and (2) potential 100k title sponsors to help cover the entertainment cost. Sal stated he was 90% confident the entertainment he's been working on will get a contract. Bender tabled the Gala entertainment budget for now until more details are known.

Bender also spoke about some of the companies that he has pitched to the Winter Storm Initiative campaign too. Bender brought up giving away hats as part of the Winter Storm Initiative for every \$50 dollars donated and we have been asked to provide hats again for the Governor's hunt in 2023. Also looking at selling merchandise such as T-shirts and other items through our website.

Executive Director (Bashore)

Bashore updated the board on the annual report and it will be ready by the next board meeting. Bashore recommends establishing a finance committee to review the audit and legacy found account once set up. For now, it can just be the executive committee.

GFP DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSION UPDATE

No update at this time.

OTHER ITEMS

Potential board members, Secretary Robling and Sal have been in contact with the Governor's office and her new staff person that is supposed to be dedicated to this. There are 3 open board positions that need to be filled. There are 3 names currently under consideration.

NEXT MEETING

April 12th, 2023, Zoom Call

Board-approved Bi-monthly meetings to continue into 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

ADJOURN

DeLon Mork made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jim Faulstich seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Adam Bender adjourned the meeting at 3:38 pm CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Bashore, Executive Director Date

Approved by,

Adam Bender, President Date