

SOUTH DAKOTA SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND BOARD  
ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
JULY 14, 2021

Board Members Present by Zoom/Teleconference: Jim Faulstich, Curt Korzan, DeLon Mork, Tami Nelson, Larry Ness, Sal Roseland, and Jim Scull. Ex Officios: Russell Olson, GFP Commissioner and Kevin Robling, GFP Department Secretary.

Board Advisors Present by Zoom/Teleconference: Paul Lepisto, Izaak Walton League of America, Matt Morlock, Pheasants Forever and Senator Wiik.

GFP Staff Present by Zoom/Teleconference: Tom Kirschenmann, GFP Wildlife Director and Lisa Weyer Executive Director.

**CALL TO ORDER AND CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Scull called the meeting of the South Dakota Second Century Habitat Fund board to order at 9:01am MT/10:01am CT and a quorum was present. No declarations or conflict of interest were heard. Changes to the agenda were as follows: Weyer requested to move the Development Director Recruitment Contract and Job Description to later in the meeting as Robling wants to be a part of that conversation. Weyer added under Working Lands Habitat Program discussion on signage.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2021 MEETING**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Marketing/Fundraising Committee (Roseland)*

Development Director Recruitment Contract and Job Description  
Provided in Packet

Robling explained the contract and stated could pay up to \$30,000 in finder fees.  
Looking for support to move forward with a contract with Bird Dog Recruitment.

Stated Kim believes would take three weeks to a month to find a candidate.

Robling believes need to pay no less than \$100,000 per year. Also believes we need to offer a bonus package for benefits of possibly \$20,000.

Weyer stated that Kim believes we need to have something in there for a benefit package. Weyer recommend that we do a price range for salary so that gives them a little flexibility to work with Kim. Weyer recommends \$100,000 – \$150,000 for flexibility but wouldn't put that on the job description. The GFP Department will contribute \$50,000. Weyer stated has looked through the financials and we do have the money for this and expect we will gain money through our auction fundraising efforts.

Discussion took place on the ability to pay a commission on top of the salary. This could be a percentage or a flat rate such as if raise \$1 million get \$10,000 or if raise \$2 million get \$20,000.

Robling stated need to have in the job description travel reimbursement and meal reimbursement. Need to give an operating budget and asked what the board is willing to do.

Roseland moved to approve the Development Director Recruitment Contract and Job Description as presented with \$100,000 - \$150,000 base salary range plus \$20,000 benefit package and pay a commission (rate to be determined); seconded by Robling and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Robling will reach out to Kim at Bird Dog to see what she recommends for travel/marketing budget and commission. Weyer will bring back to the board for an approval by email vote to finalize.

*Can-Am Raffle Ticket Sales and Event Participation (Weyer)*

Weyer stated the latest update as of July 13, 2021 is \$119,811 sold in raffle ticket sales. Roseland informed that as of last night have added another \$4,000 because of a Hunt for Habitat email blast, giving a total of \$123,811. Roseland stated small ads on Facebook have increased the sales.

*Auction Items for Governor's Pheasant Hunt – proceeds to SCHF*

Was brought up before about the board doing a gala but not possible to get that done this year.

We are teaming up with the Governor's Pheasant Hunt this year so suggesting we have five to seven items to auction off with all the money going to the Second Century Habitat Fund. If we can raise enough money off these auction items maybe we can continue to do that instead of the gala. In the Governor hunt invite will put an insert of three of the bigger auction items. For those on the invitation list that can't make it we will do phone bids for auction items.

Items received:

- 1) Buffalo Hunt on Ted Turner Ranch with the Governor
- 2) Four-person bear hunt in Canada that the Governor picked out. Value of the hunt is \$30,000
- 3) Indian motorcycle and will be signed by the Governor and sealed on the bike. Governor plans to ride it at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- 4) Picture of Governor Noem and President Trump at Mt Rushmore last year from the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. The picture will be signed by President Trump and Noem.

Other possible auction items:

Have some gun packages options.

Another possible item would be having Adam Oswald a painter from SD do a painting and finish at the Governors hunt and have that signed by the Governor.

Only have 20 minutes for the auction. The board will need to find an auctioneer.

*Show 4 videos we have in our library created by Paulsen (Weyer)*

Weyer showed the four videos to the board. Stated they have been shared on social media.

*Habitat Programs Committee (Faulstich)*

Proposal of 3 programs supported by SCHF  
These were discussed with the Governor at the luncheon.

*Working Lands Habitat Program*  
Hopefully if funds available would like to extend the contracts when they are expiring.

*CREP (Faulstich)*  
Proposal is to build incentive into CRP program, does require access to hunting.  
Priority areas that GFP is looking at is the Big Sioux Watershed. Talked about setting goals higher than that possibly statewide. Do fundraising on behalf of CREP program. This must be approved through USDA.

Looking at the location of the Big Sioux watershed and explained why this would be a good location. Stated GFP estimates if we could enroll 25,000 acres in that watershed the non-federal match or state match would be approximately \$22 million dollars over 10-15-year period. Would be approximately \$1.5 million on an annual basis.

Kirschenmann stated they have not submitted a proposal yet.

*Woody Habitat Program*  
Got support within the committee for this program. Discussion on what form and degree we wanted to support this program.

Kirschenmann updated the board about the Woody Habitat Program.  
In the last five years have averaged expenditures of a little under \$285,000 a year.  
Stated of the things GFP is going to do is add eight more private habitat biologists across the state for a total of twelve. Our goal is to double the Woody Habitat Program.

Stated right now for the program GFP provides 75% cost share for the Woody Habitat project and have a maximum of \$10,000 for planting. These can be reviewed and adjustments made. Like to see eight rows or wider and a minimum of one acre in size.

As these programs are finalized, the board will act on approval and designate dollar amounts for funding.

*More visible as an organization (Weyer)*  
Three options of signage that was showed to the board  
Weyer does not have a cost yet. Looking at a quantity of about 200 total.  
Faulstich stated the prison has their sign making shop and it's affordable.

Roseland moved to approve option two with the changes of adding the website and deleting the word hunting as presented and voting through email for approval on cost for printing; seconded by Mork and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

*Working Lands Habitat Program (Weyer)*  
Currently at 6,075 acres  
Incentive payments have been \$928,748

Was asked what is paid per acre. Weyer stated West River is \$150 per acre and east river is \$250 per acre.

Scull asked Weyer if she can project what our costs will be like. Can we put a budget together to handle this program?

Weyer stated would need guidance on what we want to pay for renewal.

Faulstich stated if we renew, we should do it at the higher rate.

Stated to increase West River to \$50 more and east river \$100 more.

Mork moved to approve Weyer doing research to get some numbers for latitude in coming up with a price for east river and west river working lands program payments as presented; seconded by Roseland and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Weyer will bring those numbers back to the next Habitat Program Committee meeting and then will put on the agenda for the August meeting.

Kirschenmann stated that GFP will go back as an agency on the programs we just discussed and will put numbers together and get them submitted for the next Habitat Program subcommittee meeting.

### **GFP DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSION UPDATE**

Department Secretary, Kevin Robling

No update

Kirschenmann gave an update to the board about plans to add eight more biologists. As an agency looking at how we can do more for habitat and access as this is the number one priority within the Wildlife Division. Currently have four private lands habitat biologists across the state one in each of our respective administrative regions our plan is to add two more per region so we have a total of twelve. Want to maximize other programs available out there like USDA and other NGOs.

The whole purpose of restructuring and having this focus is to have smaller geographic areas where our biologists are working with more landowners and having more conversation and building more relationships. Going to have a more cohesive effort working with our conservation officers who work with and communicate with landowners or wildlife damage specialist. The intent is to get out and meet with landowners. The GFP Commission is very supportive of this effort. Hoping to have the positions filled by October or November.

Commission Chairman, Russ Olson

Invited the board to join the GFP Commission at the September meeting which is the first week of September in Rapid City to tour the shooting range as part of the pre-commission meeting. Wanted to congratulate the marketing team for all the work that has gone into the Can-Am raffle and all the things that you're doing for habitat fundraising in conjunction with the auction items at Governor's Hunt.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Any other discussion from meeting with Governor?

Discussion was held with the board about the Governor's schedule and how we can coordinate public relations. Roseland stated she has a staffer that he has been working with. The Governor wants to be fully involved and has a lot of ideas and has given the board a lot of direction.

*New Developments (Robling)*

Robling stated the Governor would be interested in doing a fishing trip as well. Next year down the road she mentioned a hunting dog to be auctioned off.

Asked the Governor about the Buffalo Roundup and if willing to let us auction off some items for that and she said she would.

Options for auction items at Buffalo Roundup:

- 1) Custom saddle (Robling knows someone in Hot Springs that makes custom saddles)
- 2) Bullwhips
- 3) Lt. Governor is making a knife so we will have that

**NEXT MEETING**

AUGUST 11, 2021 10AM – NOON CT/9AM – 11:00AM MT VIA ZOOM

**ADJOURN**

Roseland made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Nelson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Scull adjourned the meeting at 10:53am MT/12:53pm CT

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Weyer, Executive Director

Date

Approved by,

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Jim Scull, President

Date