

**Minutes of the October 23, 2019 NDWF Executive Board Meeting  
Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center  
Jamestown, ND**

President Dave Dewald called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendees included NDWF Directors Dave Dewald, Gene Masse, Terry Allbee, Dave Brandt, John Bradley, Paulette Scherr, Chuck Vasicek and Mike McEnroe, Sarah Hewitt and Jodi \_\_\_ from Audubon Dakota and guest Gary Krapu.

**McEnroe moved that the minutes of the July 13 Ex Bd meeting, as previously mailed out and edited, be approved as presented; motion made and seconded to approve minutes, X-0.**

Allbee presented the Treasurer's report; account amounts provided below:

NDWF General Account: \$ 234,802. Includes \$ ~ \$ 87,000 in Stutsman County Estate, oil royalties and sage grouse pass-through funds, and \$ 24,642 in RAP auction checks made out to NDWF general account (to be transferred to RAP account).

RAP account: Checking account balance is \$ 30,272 with \$ 24,642 from auction still to be credited to RAP. There are four CDs and cash invested with Edward Jones totaling an additional \$ 35,692.

NDWF Gaming Account: \$ 41,475.

Grand Forks County WL Club CD: \$ 8,744 CD with Edward Jones account.

Holm Estate: \$ 3,187,636.

Rothschild Estate: \$ 706,260.

**After discussion, Scherr moved, Vasicek seconded motion to approve financial reports as presented and discussed, (X-0).**

Sarah Hewitt and Jodi Meisch, Audubon Dakota, gave an update on the two NAWCA project grants provided from the Rothschild Estate funds. The two grants, each for \$ 100,000 were transferred and the funds used to acquire 3,503 acres of conservation easements in the Missouri Coteau project, and 2,346 acres of easements in the ND Northern Prairie project area. Senator Cramer is holding the USFWS to acquire only 30-year grassland easement in the State. It was suggested that the NDWF and other conservation groups try to meet with Senator Cramer's staff to discuss support for longer-term easements.

Dewald asked Audubon about partnering on their Urban Wildlife Programs with the NDWF/Lewis and Clark club projects with Parks and Recreation in Bismarck. There appears to be potential to work together on funding and completion of more projects.

**Budget/Finance/Estate Committee:**

Allbee reported that the tax return for the NDWF is being completed. He has received several bids for 1-3- and 5 year audits for the NDWF. Allbee and Bradley will forward these to Committee members for review and comment. With the potential for future NAWCA grants and short times frames to put together partners fund contributions, **McEnroe moved, Vasicek seconded a motion to provide up to \$ 200,000 from Rothschild Estate to partners for conservation easements in potential crane conservation areas. Motion approved.** This will avoid having to do quick email votes on approving financial support for future projects.

Bradley proposed that the Budget/Finance/Estate Committee meet in December to discuss and recommend ideas and/or guidelines for the \$ 87,000 estate received this spring, and to meet with representatives of our two financial firms for reports on the estate funds.

**Fund Raising:**

Dewald reported that there is approximately \$ 800 left from last year's Gaming receipts (Barnes Co.), and that Lewis and Clark WL Club will be transferring \$ 4,000 from their recent raffle to the NDWF for youth projects.

**Scherr moved, Whipp seconded motion to budget approximately \$ 15,000 for grants and youth projects for 2020 (\$ 11,000 from Barnes Co, and the \$ 4,000 from L&C). Motion approved X-0.**

**Education-Grant Committee:**

NTR.

**National Affairs Committee:**

Brandt and Dewald reported.

Annual NWF Convention is June 10-13, 2020 in Monterey, Cal., and Affiliate Executive Directors' Meeting is Jan. 7-8, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. Bradley will plan to attend.

Sen. Hoeven did sign on the CRP-SAFE letter. Rep. Armstrong is opposed to the Recover America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), because it now uses general fund monies instead of off-shore oil receipts.

**Landowner-Sportsmen's Comm:**

Doug Howie (GFD) has retired but has agreed to serve on the Landowner-Sportsmen Council.

Whipp reported that the ND Ag Dept. had a news release on feral swine and that there have been ag sectors public comments on hunters causing road and field damage by off-road driving with the extremely wet conditions across the State. **Whipp moved, seconded by Scherr that NDWF spend up to \$ 500 in advertising on radio and social media to ask that hunters and sportsmen use caution when driving on soft roads and in wet agricultural lands. Motion passed X-0.**

**Program Committee:**

Ex Bd discussed changing format of annual conference to delete Friday afternoon board meeting, hold a late afternoon –early evening social with invited guests, and keynote speaker, fund-raising and social; Saturday a.m. business meeting; Saturday afternoon program session; Saturday banquet to include awards and possible featured speaker (without fund-raiser on Saturday), followed by normal Sunday a.m. Ex Bd meeting and annual election for officers. Planning will follow that general guideline. McEnroe and Bradley will be confirming presenters for Saturday afternoon program.

**RAP Committee:**

Scherr discussed the August RAP auction in Bismarck. Auction went well with adequate volunteers and slightly less income, but about twenty fewer guns than past years. Several administrative Committee issues were discussed.

**Funding Projects:**

Skipper Project: Allbee reported very little movement on developing a Dakota Skipper habitat project.

Partners: Dewald provided a draft \$ 10,000 Conservation Grant Agreement between NDWF, GFD and the ND-DOT on pollinator projects. NDWF would act as the intermediary between to two state agencies to receive and transfer funds for approved pollinator projects along NDDOT rest areas.

Lead-Free Landscapes is an NWF program that provided \$ 4,000 and non-toxic shot shells to NDWF for promotion of promoting lead-free ammunition. NDWF is partnered with the Red River Area Sportsmen Club for their Youth and Women's' events this fall with Lead-free shells and funds. Because the funding from NWF was for lead-free promo activities, no motion needed to fund/partner with these actions.

**Board of Directors: Insurance;**

Allbee has received several insurance policy quotes for errors and omissions coverage for the Executive Board (liability) and event coverage for NDWF and affiliates. Cost for a \$ 1,000,000 policy is approximately \$ 1,200. Approved at Summer Board meeting

**Bylaws:**

Gerou sent out updated bylaws and policies. **McEnroe moved, Vasicek second a motion to support and recommend bylaws and policies as presented by Greg Gerou with changes suggested or made by November 23, 2019, to the members and delegates for approval at the 2020 Annual Convention. Passed X-). Kudos to Greg for all his hard work!!**

**Outreach:**

Bradley reported that only one legislator attended the recent Legislator's Fun Shoot in Bismarck. The Governor's office was also represented. DU and NDWF will likely take over administration of this event from the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.

Directors looked at several potential new logo designs and made suggestions to Bradely for changes.

Following discussion at the July Ex Bd meeting and this meeting, on the “EveryAction” social media communication/platform, **Whipp moved, Scherr seconded motion for NDWF to subscribe to the program for one year at a cost of \$2,205. Motion passed X-0.**

The recommendation was made for NDWF to set up several meetings with Congressional staffs in Bismarck.

### **Interim Trespass/Posting Study:**

Dewald reported that the Committee met for second time on October 22. Slope County volunteered to be one of the 3 counties to try a “pilot program”; the other two will be a central county and an eastern county. Posting either open or closed would be an annual requirement; it will not be once open or closed, no change can be made. The State School Land Dept was opposed to suggestion to post State Trust lands. Dewald brought up difficulty GFD and conservation groups have in acquiring land for conservation uses. GFD reported on number of trespass cases. Ag. Comm. Goehring and Rep. Damschen want pilot counties to be “all lands closed” unless posted open. Sen. Erbele said pilot will be all open unless posted. Representative for States’ Attorneys wanted to discuss posting for non-hunting uses; and Committee said that was not in scope of committee charge. Interim Committee will next meet in January.

Legislators thought there was more support for law to declare all land closed unless posted open for next session.

NWF has a Conservation Intern Program where they will help pay for a 6-month assignment within an affiliate office to work on conservation issues with the Exec Director or Bd of Directors. Provide college credit and experience. Something to consider in future and in light of office space requirements.

Meeting declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Annual Convention in Bismarck, January 3-5, 2020. We may consider a new venue based on the NWF Grassland Symposium at the Bismarck Radisson.