

**Board Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015
SD GFP Office – Rapid City**

ROLL CALL:

In attendance: President Bill Kluck, Vice-President Gary Deering, Regional Vice-Presidents Vaughn Meyer and Randy Volmer, David Niemi, Mark Tubbs, TW Schalesky, Chuck O'Connor, Mark DeVries, Fick Fox, Kenny Fox

Excused: Marvin Jessen, Mike Maher, Chris Harvey, Wayne Nelson, Shane Kolb, Larry Nelson, Bob Fortune

Absent: Dan Holloway, Marvin Jobgen, Scott Edoff, Matt Kammerer, Sandy Buffington, David Fuoss, Brett Stirling, Bob Mack, Bob Johnson

AGENDA: Randy Volmer made a motion, seconded by Vaughn Meyer, to adopt the agenda with the addition of a Check-off discussion. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Silvia presented the financial statements and answered questions. Specifically, the copy machine in the office broke in September and parts are no longer available for the old machine. Silvia requested bids from several companies regarding a new machine and reported that at the direction of the President and Vice-President, a used machine had been purchased from A&B Business in Rapid City. Rick Fox made a motion, seconded by Dave Niemi to approve the financial reports. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Ag and Natural Resources – Chairman David Niemi reported on recent developments with Keystone XL pipeline being rejected and what this might mean for landowners. He also discussed the challenges being faced by varying maps and public records of which county roads had been closed and which were still open for public use. He also discussed some questions that these maps raised regarding walk-in hunting.
- Animal Health – no report
- Animal ID – no report
- Brand and Theft Committee – the brand board has decided to delay discussions on any proposed fee increases. Silvia and Jim Murphy attended the last meeting.
- Education/Taxation/Legislation – Chairman Chance Davis deferred to Jeremiah Murphy's report later in the agenda
- Federal Lands – Chairman Mark Tubbs reported on several issues he's working on in regard to forest service roads and grazing. Tubbs requested that Stockgrowers issue a letter and press release thanking Senator Mike Rounds for his recent support of limiting conservation easements on private property. The recent legal battle of the Hammond family in the northwest were discussed. Kenny Fox made a motion, seconded by Scott

Edoff requesting Silvia to research this and write a letter to SD's congressional delegates, Perkins County Sheriff, and follow with a press release to draw attention to the disproportionate response against the Hammonds versus the Forest Service employees responsible for the Pautre Fire in Perkins County in 2013. Motion carried.

- Marketing Committee – Vaughn Meyer discussed Country of Origin Labeling. At this time the WTO ruling is expected on December 7 to determine what, if any, tariffs will be levied.
- Membership – Chairman Gary Deering - membership numbers are down, and everyone is asked to help recruit members back. Silvia and Lisa did a mailing to all “past due” members and we’re getting a good response from that.
- Property Rights – no report
- Trade Committee – TPP continues to move forward, however, it is unclear if they have enough votes at this time. We’ll continue to monitor.
- Wildlife Management Committee – Chairman Mark DeVries reported that SD GFP will initiate a statewide deer management plan and stakeholder taskforce. Stockgrowers is requested to seat someone for this taskforce. Mark volunteered to serve in this capacity and asked for input of other members that would be interested in also participating. Silvia was requested to mail the Sportsmen’s atlas to all board members.
- Lobbyist Report – Jeremiah Murphy gave a full report of topics he anticipates for the 2016 Legislative session which begins on Tuesday, January 12. Topics discussed were
 - Property Tax taskforce – legislation on this will likely include actual use to allow land that has been in grass for at least 30 years to be taxed as such, request \$175,000 to review soil surveys and study possible formula, and further discussion on getting away from cash rents as an assessment tool.
 - Zoning – there will likely be legislation of some sort to change the approval process for zoning permits on confined animal feeding operations. The direction this usually takes is to make siting of facilities easier but often takes away local control. Stockgrowers will watch this topic.
 - County Government funding study – recommended giving counties local sales taxing authority. And may result in some attempts to remove sales tax exemptions for agriculture. SDSGA is monitoring this closely.
 - Fencing across navigable waters – current law is being challenged in a few counties and specific situations where landowners are required to provide gates across water. Again, we’re monitoring.
 - Family Farm Act – There is a growing push to potentially repeal this act as it is considered to be outdated and no longer relevant. We’re not sure what will be considered as legislation but we’re watching it. Question was raised: does this contain South Dakota’s mandatory price reporting law? Silvia and Jeremiah will research this.
 - Animal Disease and Research Diagnostic Lab – SDSU is requesting funding to modernize and build a lab to keep us on top of testing and diagnosis. They are requesting \$1.6 million to start the studies and building details. More details will likely still come forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark DeVries made a motion, seconded by Scott Edoff to approve the new members as printed in the magazine and required by by-laws. Motion carried.

- Real Estate – The upstairs floor of the Stockgrowers office is for rent and is being advertised. Rick Fox made a motion, seconded by Mark Tubbs, to amend the budget to remove the anticipated income of \$7200 from the rent upstairs. Motion carried. Discussion was also held regarding the future of the building – the real estate agency received an offer to purchase the building. The board was not interested in this but did discuss maintenance and other considerations.
- Matt Ehlman presented to the board regarding a new organization called “East of 5th” which is forming to help represent businesses and property owners located in the area of downtown Rapid City that lies east of 5th street along Main Street and Saint Joseph to the School of Mines campus. They requested the use of images of the Stockgrowers sign for their promotional efforts. Motion by Mark Tubbs, seconded by Mark DeVries, to allow East of 5th the use of the Stockgrowers sign for their artwork, and to pay the \$60 annual membership to the organization. Motion carried.
- Black Hills Stockshow 2016 – January 29 to February 6, 2016 – board members and members are asked to volunteer at the booth. The Kubota will also be on display to sell raffle tickets.
- Quarterly Board meeting – January 19 in Pierre – Legislative reception will follow at the AmericInn in Ft Pierre. All members and legislators are invited and welcome to attend.

Seeing no further business, President Bill Kluck declared the meeting was adjourned.