

**SOUTH DAKOTA PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
BOARD MEETING
ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 21, 2021**

President Karen Gundersen Olson called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm Central Time with the following board members in attendance by zoom/teleconference: Karen Gundersen Olson, Spencer Hawley, Tom Krafka, Sarah Larson, Bill May, Bob Paulson, Jeff Scherschligt, Jim Spies, and Jeff Stingley. Ex Officio board members: Russell Olson, GFP Commissioner and Kevin Robling, GFP Acting Secretary . GFP Department Staff that attended the meeting by zoom/teleconference included: Tom Kirschenmann, GFP Wildlife Division Director, Paul Coughlin, Wildlife Program Administrator, Jon Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, and Lisa Weyer, Executive Director.

No housekeeping, no declarations or conflicts of interest.

SHOOTING RANGE PROPERTY:

This is a high priority project of GFP and the Governor. The land is located east of Rapid City and is about 400 acres. The cost is \$900,000.

Robling Update:

The Department has been looking for a property that fits into the shooting range concept in the Rapid City area. This property was presented toward the end of December when Jim Scull meet with the landowner and the landowner said he would consider selling the 400-acre parcel to Scull or GFP for the shooting range concept. It is located 10 miles north of Cabela's. The Department is requesting the Foundation to assist with a bridge loan by having the Foundation buy the land in fee title and giving GFP twelve months to work through the paperwork of utilizing federal grant dollars to purchase the land back. Any money coming expended by PWF and any interest would be reimbursed.

Kanta Update:

The Department has been trying to develop a firearm range for a couple of years for the Rapid City area. This area where the property is located is close to Piedmont and Sturgis, so we expect to draw people from those areas as well. Trying to draw people out of the Black Hills where there is some littering and property damage going on and bring them to this organized/controlled situation. What we are looking to do with the range is offer a firearm, pistol and shotgun opportunity. We would have ranges from 50 yards all the way to at least 1,000 yards. Would have several different lanes. Vision is to hold several people. The idea right now is to secure this property then to work on grants for funding. Would take more time and money if GFP just purchased it instead of going through the Foundation. The Department would have to do an extensive

appraisal on all 4000 acres owned by the landowner taking a great deal of time and money.

Kanta stated the purchase agreement is written for \$2,250 an acre so the total amount of \$900,000 for the 400 acres. The closing date on the agreement is on or before April 1, 2021. Jim Scull went ahead and signed a purchase agreement in his name with the landowner. Stated the sooner the Foundation purchases it the sooner it allows GFP to start working on steps for getting federal funding.

Scherschligt asked if there was anything to support that this is a going rate of \$2,250 per acre? Also, would you be using all 400 acres for a shooting range or are their plans for the rest of it.

Robling stated they plan to use the entire 400 acres. The valuation of \$2250 might be a little high.

Stingley asked what the GFP Commission said on this specific project. Why the time frame of on or before April 1st.

Robling said this project is so new it hasn't been completely vetted with the Commission. It is on the agenda for the upcoming meeting January 27th and 28th. The idea of establishing a shooting range in Rapid City has always been a priority to the Commission.

Commissioner Olson stated it fits the criteria. Stated he believes this is an excellent opportunity.

Kanta stated the only other opportunity for something like this would be the Rapid City Trap Club. Kanta stated he has talked to them and they know about this opportunity and what GFP is trying to do. Smoking Gun range is by the Flying J as well and is an indoor range.

Hawley stated if we have the cash would prefer to use that and not get money out of the long-term account.

Scherschligt said we could just pledge that and get a little 2 or 3% loan right now if we need to, we don't have to tap those funds as the bank would see they have a security.

Larson said if paying cash out of restricted accounts that makes her nervous and would rather borrow as interest rates are low.

Larson asked how certain are we that all these grants are going to come in? What guarantees do we have that GFP is going to pay us back.

Robling stated we will have to pay cash for it if the PR grant doesn't come through. Have \$8.6 million in our account right now the problem is we don't want to use license dollars to pay for this when there is a 90/10 grant opportunity out there.

Larson stated we can utilize unrestricted funds we don't need in the next 12 months. Then figure out what the terms are to borrow the balance. She would like some reassurance in writing that the Foundation is going to get paid back and the terms of repayment.

Robling stated can work with PWF for documentation of repayment.

Hawley stated when looking at the funds of the Williams Ranch, Unrestricted Fund and Outdoor Campus West we would have enough money. Outdoor Campus West would need their board to approve. With all those funds that would cover this need for right now.

Krafka stated we did not vote to restrict those funds in the Williams Property. We voted to take them out of that account because that account had been dormant.

Weyer stated there was a vote to move the Williams Ranch money to the permanent endowment, but the money has not physically been moved as she has been working with Brad Reinke and Deb Bollinger on some details.

Hawley stated we need to know expenses for the next year from Weyer and that we maybe ask the Commission to vote on this and give us assurance that they guarantee repayment in 12 months.

Larson stated it needs to be in writing with the details of repayment.

Spies asked Commissioner Olson when the next meeting is and if this needs to go on the agenda and does it need public comment. Commissioner Olson stated the meeting is January 27th and 28th. Stated this is on the Commission agenda.

Paulson stated would like to see a purchase of 800 acres instead of 400 acres. Also said don't try to sell this as cleaning up the Black Hills. Very supportive of this project.

Larson asked if Weyer and GFP could work together to come up with something in writing and PWF cash flow so that we know what we have for cash and if we don't have it use our line of credit.

Kirschenmann said GFP would purchase it before the construction and development would occur.

Kirschenmann said could work with Commission and put together a resolution to outline the parameters of GFP Department and Commissioners saying we are going to acquire this property from the Foundation under these parameters and stipulations and then that would be something the Commission would take formal action on.

Larson stated that sounds good.

Kirschenmann stated will work with Weyer and put a resolution together to bring to the GFP Commission.

Stingley asked if the Foundation is the holder of the property and GFP doesn't have it yet are taxes to be paid on a 501c (3).

Larson responded that property taxes would need to be paid. Questioned if this would need to be added to our insurance for the Foundation as well. Hawley responded yes.

Larson stated we should hold off on moving Williams Ranch money to permanent endowment fund.

K. Olson questioned if any board members see any issues with our donors. Larson responded that we are not using any donor restricted funds. Weyer clarified that we are using some funds from the Outdoor Campus West restricted fund.

Outdoor Campus West would need to approve their funding. Krafka stated this would not be a problem of utilizing \$200,000.

Hawley made the motion that we move approval to support the intent and the purchase of the land at the price of \$900,000. With the intent of the Department purchasing back the land at the cost of \$900,000 plus all expenses (interest, property tax etc.) within a timeframe of twelve months. It is the understanding of the Foundation that the Commission will vote on a resolution to give the PWF some assurance of the Department's authority for repayment. PWF will use a portion of the unrestricted funds toward this purchase and if we find that we need to keep some of the unrestricted funds on hand for expenses, then we authorize borrowing from our line of credit. Seconded by Scherschligt, motion carried.

Weyer called the Roll:

Hawley – y

Kafka – y

Larson – y

May – y

Olson – y

Paulson - y

Scherschligt – y

Spies – y

Stingley – no

Motion Passed:

8 - yes

1 - no

Krafka made the motion to undo prior vote from the October 9, 2020 board meeting to move Williams Ranch funds to permanent endowment fund seconded by Hawley, motion carried.

Weyer called the Roll:

Hawley – y

Kafka – y

Larson – y

May – y

Olson – n

Paulson - y

Scherschligt – y

Spies – y

Stingley – y

Motion Passed:

8 - Yes

1- No

Weyer stated needs a picture of board members for annual report. Also, the agenda provides the dates for 2021 future meetings.

Larson would like the board to see the agreement/resolution before it goes to the Commission. Weyer will email to the board when draft is completed.

ADJOURN

Scherschligt made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Spies seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Gundersen Olson adjourned the meeting at 4:01pm Central Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Weyer, Executive Director

Date

Approved by,

Karen Gundersen Olson, President

Date