

**SOUTH DAKOTA PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
BOARD MEETING  
ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

President Karen Gundersen Olson called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm Central Time with the following board members in attendance by zoom/teleconference: Karen Gundersen Olson, Tom Krafska, Kathryn Anderson, Spencer Hawley, Sarah Larson, Kevin Nyberg, Bob Paulson, Jeff Scherschligt, Jim Spies, Jeff Stingley, Pat Wyss and Ex-Officio board member, Kevin Robling, GFP Acting Secretary. GFP Department Staff that attended the meeting by zoom/teleconference included: Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, Paul Coughlin, Wildlife Program Administrator, John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Supervisor, Mike Klosowski, Region One Supervisor and Lisa Weyer, Executive Director.

No housekeeping, no declarations or conflicts of interest. Weyer would like to add to the end of the agenda an update on HB1253 which is appropriations for the Mickelson Trail Connector to Mt. Rushmore.

**REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2021**

Weyer stated that no formal action on minutes will take place today as that will be done at the regular board meeting in March.

Weyer stated that at the January 21<sup>st</sup> special meeting the board approved the support to purchase the property for the \$900,000 with the intent of the Department purchasing back the property plus all related expenses within a time frame of twelve months. Also, in that motion the Foundation wanted the assurance of the GFP Commission to give authority to the Department for the repayment of expenses and land purchase price.

Weyer stated this meeting is to approve the purchase agreement with GFP and to finalize the funding sources.

**RESOLUTION PASSED BY COMMISSION**

Resolution provided in packet

The resolution passed by the GFP Commission on January 29, 2021.

**PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH LANDOWNER AND JIM SCULL**

Purchase agreement provided in packet

The Foundation would be the assignee of Jim Scull on this purchase agreement. Scull put down a \$10,000 deposit on this property towards the purchase price of \$900,000. PWF will need to pay Jim Scull the \$10,000 and the remaining to the landowner. The closing date on the purchase agreement is on or before April 1, 2021.

*Discussion:*

Scherschligt questioned about the subject to approval from Meade County that is on the purchase agreement.

Kanta stated they have visited with Meade County and they have no zoning rules and they were fine with a shooting range on this property. Also for good measure GFP contacted Pennington County and Rapid City officials and they were all ok with it as well. Lastly GFP contacted the Ellsworth Airforce Base and talked to security forces there and they too had no issues with it.

Spies asked about the adjoining landowners and how they feel about the shooting range.

Kanta stated they are working at contacting all adjoining landowners. Have reached out to the landowner to the east and he less than favorable as he has some concerns and they all relate to safety. The landowner to the south is excited about it but wishes it was a little further from his property as about a quarter mile from his property. His concerns were primarily about dust from the road and noise. GFP has visited with him about what can be done for noise and dust issues. He has even asked if he can help lock and unlock the gate once the range gets built. Gentlemen to the east has concerns about garbage. Talked to him about how GFP builds other ranges and how they have rules that they put in place and that the rules are enforceable. Visited with him about vault toilets and removal of garbage. Kanta stated they can address all concerns that he brought up to them.

Anderson asked if the range is going to be staffed on a regular basis.

Kanta stated the answer is no. Will have staff that will go out and conduct maintenance on the property. Plan right now is to look at partners to help GFP to run and maintain the range. Hoping to rely on volunteers.

Question was asked about cameras. Kanta stated no plans as of now but may be something to look at in the future.

Larson asked for confirmation that it will not be used as a shooting range until transferred over to GFP. Kanta stated that is correct.

Kanta stated priority will be to do an appraisal and environmental assessment and then put in for the federal grant so the Department can purchase the property from the Foundation. Until that is done we can't build the range. GFP is not allowed to build that range until they have the grant for the range in their hands.

Spies asked is there an issue with us buying it and then GFP can't do it. Don't want to end up with a piece of property and can't use it.

Robling stated the Resolution that was voted on by the GFP Commission states that the GFP must purchase the property by April 30, 2022.

Anderson asked if there are any native concerns on this land. Robling stated SHPO compliance will need to be done. Coughlin explained how that process.

Larson commented on the purchase agreement it talks about tapping into an existing well at a home.

Robling stated the water source is at that property home. The water would need to be piped from that residence with an easement. The home is to the south which is where one of the owner's son's lives and that is where the well is located. Robling stated Coughlin and Kanta can work with the seller on the water right easement.

Kanta stated Jim Scull envisioned indoor plumbing and restrooms inside of a building so he put that in the agreement with the idea that we would tap into that well.

Kanta stated as it stands right now the plan is to have vault toilets so we wouldn't need water.

Larson asked if water easement isn't able to be obtained is that a problem?  
Robling stated no as they don't need water or the easement to proceed.

Larson asked if there was a lease agreement with the landowner for the next year.

Kanta stated they have been approached by the current landowner for potentially grazing the property.

Anderson asked once PWF owns the land prior to it being purchased by GFP if someone gets hurt what is the liability. Weyer stated this property will be added to our current property liability policy. No shooting on this property while PWF owns this ground.

Hawley asked if the GFP Department is providing all legal services?  
Weyer said she has been working with the GFP Department for assistance.

Stingley questioned what weapons will be allowed to be used at the shooting range.

Kanta explained what firearms would be allowed as well as types of ammunition. Will have rules at the range on types of ammunition and firearms that will be prohibited as they do with other ranges.

Krafka asked why everyone is asking what is going to happen at the range. Stated the Foundation isn't building the range we are just purchasing the land.

Anderson stated that this purchase came up suddenly with no advanced notice and just presented that someone bought this land and now the Foundation needs to follow through. Stated these questions and conversation is helpful.

Larson stated the Foundation cares about their reputation, and it is important to know what the Department is planning.

Robling stated it brings a lot of activity to a quiet area. We will work with landowners as GFP has a reputation as well.

### **PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GFP**

Weyer went through the purchase agreement. Stated that we do not know the additional expenses until we have incurred them, so will need to address those costs closer to the closing date with the Department, but can act on the purchase agreement now, if the Foundation would like.

Larson made a motion to authorize the signing of the purchase agreement with the Department agreeing to purchase the shooting range property from the Foundation with an effective date coinciding with the purchase date of the property closing with Jim Scull and 7 Circle Ranch, which is on or before April 1, 2021, seconded by Hawley, motion carried.

Motion Passed:

10 – Yes

1 – No (Anderson)

### **FUNDING SOURCES/CASH FLOW**

Weyer went through the funding sources that was in the packet.

Funding Sources/Cash Flow

\*Balances as of September 30, 2020 financial statement

- Williams Ranch Fund - \$209,102
  - No expenses
- Outdoor Campus West - \$200,000
  - With authorization by Tom Krafka and the controlling group of the OCW
  - Fund Balance \*224,199
    - Leaving \$24,199 for expenses incurred within one year
    - Expected annual expenses of \$5731 for aquarium maintenance
    - Other OCW expenses will be limited throughout 2021
- Unrestricted Fund - \$400,000
  - Fund Balance \*\$482,557
    - Expenses from October 1, 2020 to date - \$13,561.73
  - Fund Balance - \$468,996 to date

- Leaving \$68,996 for expenses incurred within one year
- Expected annual expenses of \$40,000
  - For accounting services of \$14,400, which do get reimbursed by GFP
  - Sue Brown memorial expenditures of \$14,000
  - Website Development of \$4000
  - Misc. expenses of \$7600 for annual report printing, DO liability insurance, promotional brochures etc.
- BankWest Line of Credit – \$90,898
  - Would utilize line of credit for any additional expenses incurred by closing costs and title insurance etc.

Krafka asked about some funds we were expecting from the GFP Department on Development Director MOU's from previous years. Weyer stated there is two fiscal years of \$50,000 which we have not received payment on yet. She has provided information to Acting GFP Department Secretary Robling and GFP Finance Officer Chris Petersen but with Legislative session they haven't had a chance to get back to Weyer. Weyer stated that would be \$100,000 but that is the Development Director fund and that is a separate fund so we wouldn't be using that for this scenario. Hawley disagrees that the \$100,000 is earmarked for Development Director fund.

Krafka make the motion to approve the funding sources as presented, seconded by Scherschligt, motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR CONTRACT**

Contract with Brown Associates LLP for January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021 is provided in packet.

Weyer stated the contract has the same language that has been used in the past. Stated the contract ends on June 30, 2021, so we need to start looking for his replacement.

Paulson stated that the only thing he would add is coordinating the transition of Brown leaving and receiving documentation/database including donor contact information, histories and gifting potential.

Weyer stated through the strategic plan she is working with Brown on documenting some of those things. Believe it would be good to put in the contract as well. Weyer will add that to the contract.

Larson made the motion to approve the Contract for Services between SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation and Brown Associates, LLP with the addition of receiving Brown's database including donor contact information, histories and gifting potential seconded by Anderson, motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

It was noted to have Weyer add the agenda item to the March meeting to discuss replacement of Development Director.

Paulson stated we need some recognition for Brown before he is done the end of June.

Olson stated she would work to get three individuals to help with recognition for Brown. Send Olson and email if you are willing to help with this.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Face to Face, Zoom or Hybrid

2021 Meeting Schedule:

2:00-5:00pm CT/1:00 – 4:00pm MT

Wednesday, March 3

Wednesday, May 5 (GFP Commission)

Wednesday, September 1

Wednesday, December 8 (GFP Commission)

Weyer would like to know if the board wants to keep with zoom meetings or move to doing hybrid meetings allowing some face to face contact.

Several board members will not be able to make the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting so was asked that Weyer do a doodle poll for a time that week that might work better than March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The March meeting will be via zoom only.

Anderson asked if we have someone with GFP Commission coming to the PWF Meetings.

Weyer stated received confirmation that the Vice Chair Commissioner Doug Sharp will be the representative on our board.

### **OTHER**

Weyer gave an update on HB1253 which is an appropriations bill for \$15 million funding of the Mickelson Trail connector to Mt. Rushmore.

Wyss stated can't comment or vote on this as his business did a feasibility study for this project.

### **ADJOURN**

Gundersen Olson adjourned the meeting at 4:09pm central time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Weyer, Executive Director

Date

Approved by,

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Karen Gundersen Olson, President

Date