

KAS Board Meeting on 17 October 2009
at Cheyenne Bottoms Nature Center

Six board members were in attendance: Eric Trump, Pieter Berendsen, Elmer Finck, Richard Schroder, Hank Guarisco, and Randy Miller. This constitutes a quorum, so the board was able to make decisions for the KAS.

The following is a list of items and decisions made at the board meeting:

1. Brent Thomas is the KAS representative to the KS Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council, which met on March 3, 2009, and passed a resolution in support of experimental reintroductions of the black-footed ferret at appropriate sites in Kansas. This council also instructed KS Department of Wildlife and Parks to take a proactive stance in support of/and to work with landowners who elect to maintain prairie dogs and their colonies. The council also petitioned for the change of status to “threatened” for the lesser prairie chicken.
2. The KAS board realized that the minutes of the last board meeting could not be approved, since no one had a copy.
3. The KAS secretary, Pieter Berendsen, informed us that there were currently 285 members (paid and not paid). The society lost 34 members and gained 3 new ones this past year. Student membership is still a “headache,” because students are given an automatic membership when they register and present papers at the annual meetings, and 95% drop out the following year. Pieter informed us of the unwillingness of the KS Geological Survey to help the society in any way, and assured us that his \$2,000 budget, which was approved by the board via e-mail during the previous few months, was more than adequate. Hank Guarisco, editor of the KAS Bulletin, requested that a notice be placed in the upcoming due notice mailings informing members the Bulletin could be sent to them via e-mail if they wished. Pieter agreed, and asked Hank to write up the notice.
4. KAS treasurer, Larry Skelton, was not in attendance, but reported, “the treasury is sound.” Pieter received \$400 for the endowment fund, and \$325 for another fund, the “Dana” Fund. He mentioned that we have several CDs, roughly equal to \$10,000. We have over \$40,000 in the treasury at present. The cost of one issue of the Transactions is approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000.
5. The board decided that no refunds would be given to members who registered for the 2009 annual meeting at Washburn due to inclement weather conditions, since these conditions constituted an “Act of God,” and the society did not cancel the meeting.
6. After some discussion, the board decided to change the deadline for submission of student grant proposals to February 1, 2010. The winners will be selected before the annual meeting in April. Shaun Schmidt, who was not in attendance, has decided to resign from the student scholarship research committee, so the society needs a new chairperson. Student accountability for the grant money was also discussed. In most cases, it was beneficial to have the check written out to the student and their respective university. We also decided to place a KAS grant number on the check. Their advisors are responsible for checking on student research progress and spending of funds.

7. KAS Transactions editor, Mike Everhart, was not in attendance, but reported that the Fall issue will be very slim, due to a lack of manuscripts. The board also noted that he has switched to the software program, "N-Design," which was purchased for him by the KAS.
8. KAS Bulletin editor, Hank Guarisco, who was in attendance, reported that the Fall newsletter was recently mailed. Several members said they had already received it.
9. Junior KAS coordinator, Amy Strong, who was not in attendance, did not forward any news about the JKAS. The board decided to invite her to a board meeting.
10. KAS representative to the AAAS, Shaun Schmidt, who was not in attendance, did not forward any news to the board.
11. Randy Miller distributed copies of two rough drafts of NSF grant proposals to board members, requesting their comments and recommendations. The board passed a motion to have Randy continue his grant writing work, and agreed to comment on the proposals in a timely manner. The board discussed possible future needs concerning reviewing student grant proposals and how best to deal with administering any grants that the KAS would receive in the future. Randy suggested that Baker University, which charges 15% overhead, administer the grant for the KAS. Hank Guarisco suggested the society itself could possibly administer the grant for less, and that we should explore the possibility of hiring a part-time administrator, preferably a person who has already contributed to society and therefore, is interested in the welfare of the KAS and not just a salary.
12. Elmer Finck, of Fort Hays State University, reported that we need to get a guest speaker for the next annual meeting which is planned for 9-10 April 2010 at Fort Hays State University.
13. Eric Trump indicated that we are still looking for a Vice President, and need two new council members for the KAS board of directors.
14. Pieter Berendsen reminded us that Larry Skelton would like to quit as treasurer soon, and therefore, we need to look for a permanent treasurer as soon as possible.
15. There was some discussion about hiring a business manager. We decided to look into the matter. Pieter reflected on the benefits of having volunteers as KAS officers, since they have a vested interest in the society and are not just interested in the money.

The meeting was adjourned after approximately three hours of discussion.