

**MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**ANHEUSER-BUSCH NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING, ROOM 210
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA
16 NOVEMBER 2015**

ATTENDEES:

Amanda Rosenberger, President
Greg Pitchford, President-Elect
Hope Dodd, Treasurer
Dave Michaelson, Secretary
Jen Girondo
Kristen Bouska

Emily Tracy-Smith
Vince Travnichek
Joe G. Dillard
Andy Turner
Mark Zurbrick

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Amanda Rosenberger called the meeting to order at 10:10 and provided an overview of the day's discussion based on the proposed agenda. A motion was made and seconded, and the agenda was approved.

PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT

Greg Pitchford outlined objectives for his term as president: 1) to have a good annual business meeting; 2) to engage the student subunits; 3) to re-engage MOAFS with the North Central Division.

Greg has visited with several of the student subunits and reported that they have had some very frank discussions. Some of the students wondered what MOAFS has to offer them. A recurring concern among students was whether they were receiving a quality education at their respective institution (this concern was voiced at more than one location). Greg plans to visit each student subunit at least once in the upcoming year.

Discussion: Amanda stated that she wants to start an initiative to determine how MOAFS can better engage with students. She has found it disappointing that a University of Missouri (MU) fisheries student can earn a degree in Fisheries without ever taking an aquatics course. She pointed out that this education gap is not unique to MU, and that MOAFS needs to have a role in moving universities toward establishing good curricula. Amanda has been meeting with Mike Kruse to map out a strategy to have Fisheries students come away from their university career with an education that will make them marketable and closer to being certified as fisheries professionals upon graduation. Mike is currently working on an assessment of the state of fisheries education in Missouri with the goal being to lobby legislators and encourage universities to create better programs and support their land grant mission. In the meantime, student support can act as a stop-gap until a sustainable program is in place. Also consider

asking for financial support from the private sector (e.g. Bass Pro) to help fund Missouri's fisheries programs as state funding continues to decline.

The final product of this effort will be a white paper, which will be presented to the membership in February.

Mark Zurbrick asked if this white paper could be sent out to the membership before the annual meeting so that people could have a chance to review it beforehand. Amanda responded that the project is a fact finding mission at this point.

Greg noted that he has earmarked \$500.00 in next year's budget to go toward this project.

Emily Tracy-Smith suggested that an article describing the project go in the next newsletter.

Vince Travnichek suggested having a forum so that students (and anyone who may be interested) could discuss educational issues at Tan-Tar-A on the Wednesday preceding the MNRC, which would coincide with the job fair that evening.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hope Dodd provided a spreadsheet of each of the Conservation Employees Credit Union accounts (Attachment A). The money market will now be used as the Student Support Trust Fund's Buffer Fund in case the dedicated investments do not provide sufficient dividends for scholarships in a given year. Hope pointed out that the large deposits and withdrawals shown in the spreadsheets are merely the accounting maneuvers that were necessary to allocate money for the SSTF funding strategy (for example, the reason for the total student support accounts to go from \$102,266.25 to \$60,074.70 was due to moving money into other investments). The overall 2015 budget will likely realize a slight loss.

At this point, the following discussion regarding the loss occurred.

Discussion: Greg explained that this loss was due to MOAFS's involvement with a Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) paddlefish reward tag lottery project. As part of a paddlefish population study, anglers who caught tagged fish were encouraged to turn in the tags by offering a monetary reward and t-shirt as well as a promise to be entered into a drawing in which winners would be awarded \$500.00. This 5-year program was slated to give away \$1,600.00 each year for a total of \$8,000.00 in prize money. Anglers participated in the program and winners were announced, but MDC's lawyers ultimately said that agency money could not be used for lottery or raffle-type purposes. MDC approached MOAFS to ask whether the Missouri Chapter could help make this project work and save MDC embarrassment from having to renege on these prizes. In return, MDC agreed to help fund MOAFS's angler recruitment program. Greg and Amanda discussed the proposal, studied the bylaws, and presented it to the elected officers. The elected officers approved the measure. Greg has since attempted to discover ways in which MDC could reimburse MOAFS without the transfer of funds having the appearance of impropriety. Unfortunately, as Greg discussed in a letter presented to the EXCOM (Attachment B) there appears to be no feasible way for this reimbursement to occur without the transaction appearing dubious. Further, Greg and his wife discussed the issue when

it was first proposed to MOAFS and agreed that they, as a family, would cover the chapter's costs if a worst case scenario were to occur (i.e. that some event would prevent MDC from reimbursing the chapter). Greg presented a personal check for \$1,675.00 to the chapter to accompany the aforementioned letter so that MOAFS would not incur a loss as a result of assisting with the paddlefish program.

Mark made a motion that Greg's check not be accepted. A great deal of discussion followed regarding whether it is proper for the chapter to accept this check. Greg responded that he wished for the check to be accepted as a charitable donation from his family. Mark also pointed out that he had serious concerns regarding last year's legislative session in which one bill (of several) targeting MDC would forbid the agency from having any involvement with any not-for-profit organization due to the appearance of cronyism. This bill would have applied to MDC's involvement with MOAFS. Mark also stated that the elected MOAFS officers violated the bylaws by conducting a vote on the paddlefish project without bringing the issue to the full EXCOM. He then read a passage from the bylaws in which the "Full EXCOM" is defined. Ultimately Mark's motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mark then made a motion to accept Greg's check only on the condition that it not be allocated to the paddlefish project. This motion was seconded by Dave Michaelson and passed with a show of hands. Because of this motion the 2015 budget will still show a net negative for the year, and the issue will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.

The presentation of the Treasurer's Report then continued:

Mutual fund investments for the SSTF had a disappointing start and lost money. Hope made a motion to proceed with the investment strategy as discussed at the last annual meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

2016 NATIONAL AFS MEETING--KANSAS CITY

Vince provided a status update for the 2016 National AFS Meeting. All of the committees have been established. Monthly meetings will be held between now and the August 2016 meeting. Promotional materials are in place, a logo has been designed, and social ideas are being considered.

Vince presented a budget for the conference. AFS gets 70% of the profits; it was agreed that this year the North Central Division would get 10% and MOAFS would keep 20%. With a conservative estimate of 1,200 attendees, MOAFS can expect approximately \$28,500.00 for hosting the conference.

PROCEDURES MANUAL UPDATE

Joe Dillard presented copies of the MOAFS Handbook for the EXCOM to review. Amanda requested that comments be submitted to her by early January. She suggested that each person review the entire document, but to heavily scrutinize their own section for accuracy.

Joe wanted to make sure that his MOAFS history document gets posted to the website.

Finally, Joe requested that the chapter start looking for a new chapter historian. Amanda suggested (and later acquired) Craig Paukert as the next historian, who will work with Vince, who volunteered to take over historian duties after the Kansas City AFS meeting.

PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT PART II

For the 2016 budget (Attachment C), Greg started with Hope's 2015 budget and added a fairly aggressive (~\$4,000.00) fundraising effort. He will continue to try to get away from the "selling stuff to ourselves" model and has contacted eight people who have agreed to donate hunting and fishing guided trips as well as a guided mountain biking trip. Packages include a duck hunt at Yellow Creek Farms, a snow goose hunt in the Lower Grand, a quail hunt at The Cedars Plantation, a rabbit hunt at Thomas Hill, paddlefishing on the Osage, a gigging trip on an Ozark river, a trophy blue catfishing trip on the Missouri River, a turkey hunt in West Plains, possibly a fly fishing trip with Mark Van Patten, and a mountain biking trip.

Greg would like to open these high-value trips to phone bids and would like to generate in the vicinity of \$2,000.00 by auctioning these. A minimum bid would be required for each prize.

Vince asked whether we could use some of these prizes at the National Meeting. The host society is expected to provide a suite of raffle items that highlight the "local flavor."

For 2016 budget expenses, Greg copied expenses from the 2015 budget, but added two place holders--one for an undergraduate education initiative, and the other for a Missouri Conservation Federation liaison.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget. The motion passed.

PAST PRESIDENT REPORT

Mike Smith provided the following report via email.

Mike has the awards nomination in place and John Fantz sent the message to the membership. The EXCOM is encouraged to make nominations, which are due December 18.

Mike has been struggling to find volunteers willing to run for office. He has one person who has agreed to run for treasurer and is waiting to hear back from two others to fill the ballot. No one has agreed to run for president-elect yet. Mike is open to suggestions for whom else to ask.

ANGLERS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

Mary Scott was unable to attend, but Amanda commented that this committee did an excellent job during the course of the past year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Andy Turner reported that an interviewing workshop will be held on the Wednesday evening prior to the MNRC at Tan-Tar-A. The committee is also working on a human dimensions workshop for the Kansas City meeting. They have also been working with MDC staff to present an electrofishing workshop at the Kansas City meeting. The committee has discussed having MOAFS coordinate with the student subunits to get speakers come to their meetings and talk

about career opportunities and what employers are looking for. They also have been discussing the potential for developing more intensive interviewing skills course(s). Amanda mentioned the booklet entitled *The AFS Guide to Fisheries Employment*, which cost \$15.00 per copy. We may be able to purchase some copies for students.

Andy brought up the fact that the Continuing Education Committee is supposed to have three members, but it currently has only two. The idea of having the third person be an undergraduate or graduate student was brought up.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

John Fantz reported via email that the website and email listserv are both working well. They have no requests for money in the budget for next year.

Discussion: Some of the duties need to be updated on the website (e.g. Jason Persinger is still listed as the Nominating Committee). Chapter Historian information also needs to be posted to the website, and we need a way to better keep tabs on members' contact information. There have been a lot of people not receiving chapter information.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Emily Tracy-Smith, Kristen Bouska, and Daniel Metcalf all were complimented on the exceptional quality of the last newsletter. Items to be included in the next newsletter include an update from Mike Kruse on his educational survey initiative and Joe Dillard's Chapter Historian information.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Mark Zurbrick provided a brief summary of the 2015 legislative session with respect to the bills aimed directly at MDC. Legislators can begin pre-filing bills on December 1; Mark has received no word yet on what is expected with this year's session.

Mark pointed out that the chapter really needs to assess what the Environmental and Legislative Concerns Committee is designed to do. The problem is that the chapter will probably not be able to send a member to a legislative hearing who is an employee of an agency (especially MDC). Legislators have started to ask call "cronyism" on MDC employees who come to advocate or testify on behalf of MOAFS. It would be better to have a retired person do the job, but it is difficult to find the right fit. Mark suggested that it might be best to combine the Environmental and Legislative Concerns Committee chair responsibilities with the Conservation Federation of Missouri liaison position. This person could provide technical information to the CFM, which tends to carry more weight as a lobbying organization. Amanda noted that she inserted language into the handbook to the effect that the Environmental and Legislative Concerns Committee chair can also be a liaison with CFM.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jennifer Campbell reported via email that there are 191 MOAFS members. The email reminder stimulated a small proportion of lapsed members to renew, mostly through AFS. In 2016 Jennifer may try the multiple email reminder tactic used by AFS.

Relatively few members indicated any privacy preference (with respect to authorizing MOAFS to provide contact information to CFM or others). The assumption is “no” unless the member explicitly opted for the “yes” option.

Member benefits: the chapter voted last year to pursue product discounts through Promotive.com. After repeated efforts to check the status of our team application (voicemail/web form) over the past 6 months without a response, Jennifer plans to abandon the effort with Promotive.com. Greg Stoner suggested that Jennifer contact individual companies about using similar group discounts, and she will try this approach. Jennifer is also considering reaching out to colleagues in other professional (conservation and non-conservation) organizations for other member benefit ideas. State employees already get quite a few discount opportunities, so she prefers to offer something different if possible.

Discussion: MOAFS is mostly made up of MDC employees, and the chapter has historically been unable to draw from other fisheries-type agencies (e.g. National Park Service, Corps of Engineers, etc.) Would there be a way to make membership more attractive to these agency people? Does AFS collect information on who employs its members?

MISSOURI NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

John Ackerson provided the following report via email. The Missouri Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is hosting the MNRC February 3-5, 2016 at Tar-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. John is serving as Secretary for this planning team. The theme is "Balancing Economics, Conservation and Adaptive Management in a Changing World." Early bird registration is open until January 8, 2016. There will be five oral presentation sessions along with several workshops. Two of the oral presentation sessions will have a fisheries theme--1-3PM on Thursday and another session Friday morning at 10:15AM.

The 2018 MNRC will be hosted by MOAFS, and all committee assignments are filled. After a thorough review and bid solicitation, it was determined by the four host society Presidents and the four MNRC Steering Chairs to sign a contract with Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach as the host location for 2017 and 2018. A theme, program speakers, and early publicity efforts are planned throughout 2016.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Trish Yasger provided the following report via email. We need to work on ideas for raising money at the MNRC. We can do the silent auction, but we also need another way to raise more money. It is also time to think about fundraising at the AFS meeting in Kansas City this August.

RIVERS AND STREAMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Eric Rahm reported via email that he had nothing to report for the Rivers and Streams Committee.

STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Jen Gironde reported that they had awarded the first \$2,500.00 Future Professional Scholarship (funded by the 2014 fly rod raffle) to Joe Chilton, a senior from Missouri State University. They

had a total of nine applicants with good representation from each of the major universities. This scholarship is offered exclusively to undergraduates.

The Student Achievement Award (\$500 annual scholarship, open to both grad students and undergrads), and the \$200 Duffy Travel Award to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference are open for applications with deadlines of December 1 and 5, respectively.

The Student Support Committee has formalized three-person selection panels for each of the scholarships and travel awards, along with specific ranking criteria and worksheets.

The committee continues to update its Student Support Facebook page, work with Kat Lackman on webpage updates, and send direct emails regarding job opportunities, scholarships, and conference information to the student units.

The committee budgeted some extra funds to get students to the Kansas City AFS meeting next summer, and it is anticipating that there will be some rollover funds from the 2015 budget to direct that way as well. They will also work with meeting organizers to provide work/volunteer opportunities to provide either reduced costs for students who are working and/or payment for services. Other budget items will remain similar to last year.

Discussion: The question was asked how much was available to assist sending students to the Kansas City meeting. Jen responded that the exact funding is still in flux, but there should be some funding available. Jen also pointed out that they would be rather selective in choosing which undergrads would be given assistance for the Kansas City meeting, and that it is likely that most presenters would have their own funding.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Get an update from Eric Rahm regarding activities of Rivers and Streams Committee.
- 2) Write up an Undergraduate Education in Fisheries Initiative Document to send to the Membership one month prior to the annual business meeting.
- 3) Organize Undergraduate Fisheries Program meeting for students and MOAFS members Wednesday before the job fair – try not to interfere with any continuing education workshops.
- 4) Send e-copy of the MOAFS handbook to committee chairs (DONE).
- 5) Bug Kat regarding historical information for the MOAFS website (DONE).
- 6) Ask Craig Paukert to work with Joe regarding transitioning Historian activities for MOAFS (DONE - Vince will work on this after the Kansas City AFS meeting as well). Craig has agreed to help with the transition.
- 7) Find a 3rd Continuing Education chair.
- 8) Get contact information for committee chairs on the MOAFS webpage if it won't get them in hot water.
- 9) Make sure we have a procedure in place to get new MOAFS members on the listserv immediately.
- 10) Have all committee reports and relevant information to the Newsletter Committee by December 10.

- 11) Look into buying lots of copies of *The AFS Guide to Fisheries Employment* to get to the students as a student membership benefit (<https://fisheries.org/shop/x55053xm>).
- 12) Talk to Jennifer regarding strategy for recruiting from non-MDC agencies that may not have as strong a culture for MOAFS membership.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 13:55.

Attachment A
Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report 1/1/2015 - 1/11/2015

Account	Beginning Balance	Withdrawals	Deposits	Dividends	Current Balance	comment
<i>General Fund Accounts:</i>						
Share - Type 00	\$7,094.10	\$200.00	\$1,557.70	\$20.55	\$8,472.35	
Checking - Type 75	\$2,967.75	\$5,531.79	\$3,662.78	\$5.20	\$1,103.94	
Total	\$10,061.85	\$5,731.79	\$5,220.48	\$25.75	\$9,576.29	
<i>Student Support Accounts:</i>						
Money Market 78 (Buffer Fund)	\$77,042.19	\$72,243.63	\$145.00	\$67.47	\$5,011.03	1
Checking - Type 76	\$122.02	\$46,472.40	\$76,043.63	\$39.77	\$29,733.02	2
Share Certificate 1479 (48 mo @ 1.25%)	\$12,578.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$157.97	\$12,736.38	3
Share Certificate 1968 (24 mo @ 0.75%)	\$12,523.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.64	\$12,594.27	4
Total	\$102,266.25	\$118,716.03	\$76,188.63	\$335.85	\$60,074.70	
Special Projects Checking - 77	\$4,554.70	\$4,490.27	\$1,650.00	\$2.33	\$1,716.76	5

comments

- 1 Withdrawal of \$45,000 to checking for Mutual funds; \$25,853.63 to checking to leave \$5000 in Buffer Fund
- 2 Deposit \$45,000 & \$25,853.63 from MM; Deposit \$3800 from 77; Withdrawal \$45,000 for Mutual funds
- 3 Matures May 2018
- 4 Matures Sept 2016
- 5 \$3,800 transferred to SSTF checking; \$690.27 for prizes

MOAFS 2015 Budget		
Income	2015 Budget	2015 Actual
MNRC 2015 Raffle	\$2,000.00	\$145.00
MNRC 2015 Silent Auctions	\$400.00	\$994.86
Fundraiser Fish Pint Glasses (MNRC 2015 & Mussel Symposium)	\$100.00	\$362.84
Membership dues	\$400.00	\$509.92
Lifetime Membership dues	\$0.00	\$200.00
Membership dues and rebates from National	\$500.00	\$712.80
Account dividends	\$30.00	\$25.75
Other income (donations)	\$100.00	\$81.60
Total Income	\$3,530.00	\$3,032.77
Expenses		
MNRC Raffle and Supplies	\$50.00	\$86.48
Anglers with Disabilities - equipment, fish , tackle, etc.	\$1,000.00	\$569.10
2015 Chapter Awards	\$400.00	\$251.75
Fenske award (did not contribute in 2015)	\$0.00	\$0.00
A.S. Weithman Best Paper Award contribution (for 2014 & 2015)	\$50.00	\$150.00
Computer (Web hosting & software update)	\$50.00	
Conservation Federation membership	\$200.00	\$211.00
Chapter Insurance	\$150.00	\$150.00
Postage, envelopes, stationary, printing, etc.	\$50.00	
Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society Contribution	\$500.00	\$500.00
Paddlefish tag reward project - MDC MOU	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
AFS Meeting - Portland Sponsorship	\$500.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$2,950.00	\$3,518.33
2015 Final		
	Budget	Actual
Income	\$3,530.00	\$3,032.77
Expenses	\$2,950.00	\$3,518.33
Net	\$580.00	-\$485.56
Actual Account as of 11/11/2015		
	1/1/2015	11/11/2105
Checking Account	\$2,967.75	\$1,103.94
Savings Account	\$7,094.10	\$8,472.35
Total	\$10,061.85	\$9,576.29
Net Difference		-\$485.56

as of
11/11/15

MOAFS SSTF 2015 Budget		
	2015 Budget	2015 Actual
2014 Income		
Unspent money over the \$100,000 minimum from 2014 budget	\$794.17	\$794.17
Money Market - interest	\$229.30	\$229.30
Share Certificate 1479 (Renewed with \$12,500) Matures 5/5/2018	\$71.39	\$71.39
Share Certificate 1115 - Matured 9/13/2014 Closed	\$587.68	\$587.68
Share Certificate 1968 (\$12,500) - Matures 9/7/2016	\$0.00	\$0.00
Checking 76 interest	\$0.42	\$0.42
Pint glass sales	\$336.00	\$336.00
Fly-rod raffle income (from Special Proj 77 account)	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
Other income/donations	\$0.00	\$145.00
Total Income (As of 11/11/2015)	\$5,818.96	\$5,963.96
2015 Expenses		
MO AFS student achievement award + AFS membership (\$25) x2	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
MNRC Student Poster Award	\$60.00	\$75.00
MNRC Student Paper Award	\$60.00	\$65.00
Specific Request Funding	\$500.00	
Duffy Award (for 2016 Midwest)	\$200.00	
2015 Student Colloquium contribution	\$400.00	\$82.40
Student Achievement Award – Fall edition	\$2,500.00	\$2,530.00
Buffer or rollover	\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses (As of 11/11/2015)	\$5,770.00	\$3,802.40
2015 Final (As of 11/11/2015)	Budget	Actual
Income	\$5,818.96	\$5,963.96
Expenses	\$5,770.00	\$3,802.40
Net	\$48.96	\$2,161.56

not yet awarded

International Index Fund						
Date	Transaction	Amount	Share price	Shares transacted	Shares Owned	Value
3/31/2015			\$26.98		0	\$0.00
4/24/2015	Check purchase	\$11,250.00	\$28.61	393.219	393.219	
6/25/2015	Dividend (0.294)	\$115.61	\$27.80	4.159	397.378	
6/30/2015	2nd quarter balance		\$27.04		397.378	\$10,745.10
9/24/2015	Dividend (0.121)	\$48.08	\$23.59	2.038	399.416	
9/30/2015	3rd quarter balance		\$23.78		399.416	\$9,498.11

Total Stock Market Index Fund						
Date	Transaction	Amount	Share price	Shares transacted	Shares Owned	Value
3/31/2015			\$52.28		0	\$0.00
4/24/2015	Check purchase	\$33,750.00	\$53.46	631.313	631.313	
6/25/2015	Dividend (0.228)	\$143.94	\$53.08	2.712	634.025	
6/30/2015	2nd quarter balance		\$52.10		634.025	\$33,032.70
9/24/2015	Dividend (0.247)	\$156.60	\$48.56	3.225	637.25	
9/30/2015	3rd quarter balance		\$48.07		637.25	\$30,632.61

Attachment B
Letter from Greg Pitchford to the EXCOM

11-16-15

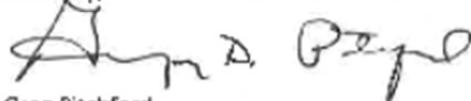
In August, I was approached by some colleagues from MDC who were in a real bind. MDC attorneys determined that the agency did not have the authority to sponsor a lottery. Therefore, the method they had chosen to distribute paddlefish tag return rewards would not be allowed. This determination occurred after the project had been approved. Anglers had already been notified of their awards and were beginning to inquire when they would get their checks. Our members wanted to know if MoAFS could cover the expense and we could look for a way that our organization could be compensated. I saw this as an opportunity for MoAFS to provide real assistance to our members who's professional reputation and research was put in jeopardy due to no fault of their own. I visited with our elected officers and we felt the project fit in with the mission of MoAFs and we had the authority to make a decision on this. I advocated that we fund the request. We voted to approve the request and look for an opportunity to collaborate on the project. I was excited about being able to assist our members and protect the reputation of the profession. I also knew that our members as a whole are risk averse, and without a formal agreement, there was the chance that MoAFS would not be reimbursed. That night I visited with my wife Donna and asked her if I could cover this expense if we could not come up with a way for MoAFS to be reimbursed. She agreed. We were willing to take a risk with our money, but not with the Chapter's. I then let the other officers know that we were willing to provide a no interest loan and ultimately cover the expenditure if we couldn't find an appropriate solution.

After the smoke cleared, I began to look for ways that MDC and MoAFS could collaborate. Lots of good options were discussed. But I could never find a way that provided enough separation that didn't feel like "money laundering". I am confident we could have found a legal way to make this work. However, I started evaluating options in terms of "what would a lawyer say about this" rather than "does this jeopardize the integrity of MoAFS" or "will our members feel shut out of this important conversation". These discussions produced some great opportunities for collaboration that should be explored. But those discussions should take place in a context where there is no chance of it being misconstrued or without the opportunity for all of MoAFS to have their say. The only way I know to make this happen is to take the debt off the table.

Donna and I discussed our commitment again this weekend. We felt that the best way to protect the integrity of everyone was to make a donation to MoAFS for the paddlefish rewards. We have made out a check in the amount of \$1,675. This is to cover the original amount plus any interest or expenses associated with the transaction.

We live in a world that is increasingly complex and is changing rapidly. If fisheries professionals are on the front lines working for change, our members will continue to find themselves in unexpected situations that their state or federal agency can't help them with or may actually put them in. The MoAFS is the only organization that I know of who is in the position to come alongside those professionals when their agencies can't. I hope this situation doesn't make us more risk averse. I hope we can refine our procedures for addressing unexpected crises and opportunities. Our Chapter and TL's members will be blindsided again. Let's be ready to make the most of it on behalf of our members and the resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Pitchford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Greg Pitchford

Attachment C
Proposed 2016 Budget

