

MISSOURI CHAPTER, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
18th ANNUAL MEETING

February 15, 1980

(Minutes of Business Meeting)

- Location: 208 Brady Commons, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
- President Michaelson: Called the meeting to order. Approximately 50 people were in attendance and a quorum of 20 members was present. President Michaelson then called for a reading of the minutes of the 17th annual business meeting.
- Secretary: Gary Novinger read the minutes. Motion was made by Don Kangas and seconded by Charlie Suppes that the minutes be approved as read. The motion carried.
- President Michaelson: Asked for the Treasurer's report.
- Treasurer: Bill Taylor stated that the chapter had a checkbook balance on February 20, 1979 of \$531.04. Income included dues (\$222.50), banquet profit (\$11.37) and the NCD-AFS allocation for the FFA Convention booth and electricity (\$100.00) for a total of \$333.87. Expenses for the year included 1979 framing of awards (\$41.10), postage (\$30.00), FFA display booth (\$80.00), electricity for FFA display booth (\$20.50), past presidents' certificates (\$26.50), and 1980 framing of awards (\$39.15) for a total of \$237.25. Checkbook balance on February 12, 1980 was \$627.66. As of the time of the business meeting, 68 members had paid chapter dues adding \$170.00 to the treasury.
- Dr. Anderson: Asked if the Executive Committee had not seen fit to contribute money to the D-J Expansion effort.
- President Michaelson: Stated that this subject would be addressed later.
- President Michaelson: Asked for additions or corrections; there were none. George Fleener moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Jim Whitley seconded, and the motion carried.
- President Michaelson: Called on Charlie Suppes, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

- Mr. Suppes: Reported that the committee consisted of himself, Dick Anderson, Dick Schoettger, and Jim Kahrs, and that he thanked them for their efforts. Charlie stated that the committee met on January 7, 1980, and nominated David Foster and Frank Leteux for President-Elect, Rich Wehnes and Everett Robinson-Wilson for Secretary, and Mike Colvin and Jim Czarnezki for Treasurer.
- President Michaelson: Asked for other nominations from the floor. There were none. Steve Alcorn moved that the nominations cease. Bob Legler seconded, and the motion carried. Ballots were passed out, voting commenced and results were to be announced later in the meeting.
- President Michaelson: Called on Mike Colvin, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee.
- Mr. Colvin: Said the committee had taken no action this year, since the parent society and the North Central Division approved our changes last year. There was no discussion.
- President Michaelson: Called on Joe Dillard, who was reporting for Sonny Mayer, Chairman of the Awards Committee.
- Mr. Dillard: Stated that the awards committee, comprised of Art Witt, Dick Schoettger, Sonny Mayer and himself, met on December 13, 1979. The committee voted unanimously to give the Missouri Chapter, American Fisheries Society Award of Excellence for 1980 to George Fleener for developing techniques to study river use that not only saved rivers from environmental degradation, but that resulted in a system of evaluating river use that is now used by many agencies nationwide. A second award, the Missouri Chapter, AFS Letter of Recognition, was presented for the first time at the business meeting. The award, given to those persons whose efforts deserve recognition not normally covered by the award of excellence, was presented to Bill Dieffenbach for his red-tape cutting efforts in claiming Missouri River islands for the Missouri Department of Conservation. The awards committee also discussed the types of awards and the absence of criteria, and suggested that three types of awards be considered in the future - awards of excellence for professionals in fisheries, awards of excellence for citizens, and letters of recognition for accomplishments not normally covered by other awards. The awards of excellence will continue to be in the

form of framed prints, and the letters or recognition will also be framed. Joe suggested that the next awards committee, to assist in awards selection efforts, should poll the membership in the newsletter regarding their feelings, collate the results, and present guidelines and criteria during the 1981 business meeting.

President Michaelson: Thanked the awards committee for their efforts, and stated that it is good to question the guidelines. He then called on Rich Wehnes, Chairman of the EIS Review Committee.

Mr. Wehnes: Stated that the committee, comprised of himself, received three reports, but commented on two of them - the Springfield City Utilities water intake project on the James River and a bridge relocation over the Mississippi at Quincy, Illinois. The committee did not comment on a small flood control project in downtown Kansas City because there was no fishery resource there.

President Michaelson: Commented that this year, for some reason, was the lightest (in terms of number of EIS's received) that he's seen in a long time. Stan then asked Rich Wehnes to report on the North Central Division meeting held in Champaign, Illinois in December.

Mr. Wehnes: Stated that, in view of the worsening weather, he'd make the report short. At the meeting in Champaign, Arden Trandahl was installed as President, Don Duerre was retained as Secretary-Treasurer, and Herb Lawler was elected President-Elect. The North Central Division continues to be financially solvent, with a balance on hand as of December 1, 1979 of \$9,124.54. Projected income was \$9,275 and projected expenses was approximately \$14,000, leaving a projected balance at the end of 1980 of \$4,399.54. After much discussion, the Division again allocated \$100 to the Missouri Chapter for the FFA Convention booth. Carl Sullivan had summarized the efforts to date on the D-J Expansion Bill, and had appealed to all AFS members to send a handwritten letter to their senators and representatives. The next meeting is planned for Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

President Michaelson: Spoke at the request of Ken Minter, Chairman, Resolutions Committee, who had to leave because of the worsening weather. No resolutions were received this year, so none were presented to the membership. President Michaelson called for any resolutions from the floor, and there were none.

- President Michaelson: Called on Spence Turner, Chairman of the Membership Committee.
- Mr. Turner: Stated that, although student membership is in flux, chapter membership has been stable over the last several years. This year's paid membership of 68 is somewhat puzzling, although there are a few who have not yet paid their dues.
- President Michaelson: Asked incoming president Jack Jones to ask whoever he appoints to the membership committee to contact those people who did not renew their membership this year. It could be that 20-some souls may have stayed home due to sickness, the weather, etc.
- President Michaelson: Introduced the D-J Expansion discussion by commenting that it is hard for Missouri Department of Conservation employees to get too involved in the effort, because of Design for Conservation and their adequately funded situation right now. The Department is certainly supportive, for our sister states are hurting. Sully has asked for help at the state level, so Stan asked Don Kangas to serve as our state coordinator for the D-J Expansion effort. Don is familiar with the Missouri Chapter, with conservation activities in this state, and vitally interested in the bill.
- Dr. Kangas: Stated that we need to support other states, and our approach is one of altruism. Don has already written 40 letters - 25 letters to congressmen in neighboring states asking for support for our sister organizations, and 15 letters to individuals in organizations around Missouri asking them to contact their membership. Dr. Kangas then encouraged the chapter membership to write their representatives.
- Mr. Fry: Asked if Missouri's congressmen have shown any indication that they would support this bill.
- Dr. Kangas: Indicated that we have not had a commitment one way or another from any of them.
- Mr. Turner: Stated that the lack of funds is very serious in many states (California was cited as an example). How can we as individuals help, Don?
- Dr. Kangas: Suggested writing a paragraph or a page letter to your representative saying, "I'm a taxpayer, and I support D-J Expansion, etc., etc. The more citizen contact the legislators have, the better.

- Dr. Anderson: Stated that Sully told him that there is a need to get more representatives added as a cosponsor.
- President Michaelson: Suggested that there are two things the chapter can do. First, members can write letters as individuals to their congressmen. Second, we need to get the Missouri Conservation Federation (whose board several months ago decided not to get involved because of the 1/8% conservation tax) to change their position.
- Dr. Kangas: Said that he has written to three board members, and there are indications that they may be changing their position.
- President Michaelson: Stated that Charlie Davidson is supportive, and he's a key person. He knows the right people we could talk to as individuals. But there is a need to get something going soon.
- Mr. Turner: Asked if the Federation itself has taken no stand.
- President Michaelson: Mentioned that the board dictates policy and decided not to take a position. A recommendation needs to come through one of their committees and be approved.
- Mr. Turner: Suggested that we might work through one of the committees to get the board to consider supporting D-J Expansion.
- Dr. Kangas: Stated that Charlie Davidson helped with the letter he sent, and has encouraged contact with Federation members.
- President Michaelson: Urged Spence and Don to get together and try to work something out. Since this ended the committee reports, President Michaelson began old business.
- President Michaelson: Pointed out in the newsletter that feedback from our resolutions brought a good response. He also introduced the D-J Expansion donation topic by stating that the Executive Committee chose not to send money to the D-J effort, since they saw no "crying need" for funds. However, a recent AFS Diary thanked the Kansas Chapter for their donation of \$50.00, saying that it was "much needed". President Michaelson recommended that the new Executive Committee consider sending a donation, and then called for discussion.
- Mr. Dillard: Suggested that Sully be contacted first, to see how bad the need is.

- Mr. Turner: Asked what the money is used for.
- President Michaelson: Suggested asking Sully.
- Mr. Dillard: Stated that the funds probably were used for typing, postage, letters, legislative coffees - wherever AFS funds cannot be used.
- Mr. Funk: Said that the effort cannot use AFS funds because it is a non-profit organization, and D-J Expansion is a lobbying organization.
- President Michaelson: Asked if that would present a problem for us? It's doubtful that it would, since other states have donated already, but it's a question worth asking.
- Dr. Kangas: Suggested that Jack Jones get a legal opinion.
- President Michaelson: Said that should be unnecessary, since Sully should know how legal the donation is.
- Dr. Anderson: Thought that organizations like ours could contribute a certain percent or dollar amount without jeopardizing their status.
- President Michaelson: Asked that, unless there was a motion to the contrary, the Executive Committee check with Sully to determine the need, the use and the legality of such a donation, and based on this information, consider a donation. There were no motions or further comments.
- President Michaelson: Brought up another item of old business, which was the bylaws, which were approved, and Stan stated that somewhere in the President's pile, there are letters from NCD and the parent society that indicate that. President Michaelson then asked if there were any other items of old business.
- Secretary Novinger: Thought we should consider the topic of the FFA Convention and our future interest in maintaining a career booth, since we have not discussed it for several years. We need to consider if we want to continue it.
- President Michaelson: Stated that the job opportunities are pretty limited now, so it's tough to justify a career booth. But it's also an opportunity to discuss conservation in general, and perhaps this could become the primary slant. FFA nationally gives a conservation award, and in the past one nominee's accomplishment was killing 57 hawks. Here is an opportunity to educate! We might want to reconsider our approach.

- Dr. Anderson: Asked if we would be duplicating the efforts of The Wildlife Society, Fish and Wildlife Service or EPA?
- President Michaelson: Thought not.
- Mr. Ryck: Thought the entire thing was a waste of time because of the minimal contact the booth has on passers-by. Frank believed the type of information on land use might be better presented by SCS or Fish and Wildlife Service. It wasn't the job of Missouri Chapter, AFS.
- President Michaelson: Stated that if people walk by, there may be a good reason for it. He suggested that the attractiveness of the booth might be improved to increase interest.
- Mr. Funk: Stated that when the chapter began the booth originally, it was a unique opportunity to contact young people. The type of contact is up to us. It would be a mistake to let it drop and die.
- Mr. Czarnecki: Disagreed with Mr. Ryck. A lot depends on attitude of person in booth. The booth could address environmental ethics, etc. Jim felt there was no overlap with other societies.
- Mr. Vasey: Thought there may be an opportunity for a joint share effort with The Wildlife Society, where ethics are stressed, not jobs.
- Mr. Dent: Suggested using a broad based slide series or film to better educate the convention attendees. The booth needs to stimulate. We should improve the booth - make it an attractive display.
- Mr. Funk: Asked if we have ever tried an aquarium?
- President Michaelson: Said not recently. We tried once with some paddlefish. It was very effective - made for a lot of work for those tending the booth. But it also was a problem keeping fish alive.
- Dr. Belshe: Suggested that you might stop them. What do they take with them? Do they know what AFS is? Do they understand what the goals of AFS are? Are there people other than the Department of Conservation that work there?
- President Michaelson: Admitted that M.D.C. has manned the booth to a large degree, but they haven't "taken over" because they wanted to. There have been opportunities for other AFS members to help man the booth, and the invitation is still extended. It's tough talking about AFS goals - it's hard enough to read them. But you can talk to a

kid on why his fish died, or whatever. And a dialogue like that has to be good.

Dr. Belshe: Didn't disagree, but stated that, if this is to be an AFS function, we have to decide whether we're going to finance it, because the day may come when the NCD won't allocate the money. We need to establish goals for the booth. From an educational standpoint though, these young people are at an age where they're open to suggestions, and we may have an input.

Dr. Kangas: Suggested that we back the booth, with some slight changes. Don proposed that 1). money be allocated to change the booth, and 2). a committee be drawn up to dress up the booth, give it a different view, and to use the money.

President Michaelson: Stated that it seemed appropriate that the new executive committee consider this proposal to appoint a committee and allocate an amount of money to upgrade the display.

Mr. Ryck: Didn't want to seem negative, but stated that M.D.C. is trying to educate through increased programs. It's better than a booth.

President Michaelson: But it's a national affair, and it's an opportunity to reach kids that are beyond M.D.C.'s education and service programs.

Dr. Belshe: Stated that, if it's national, fine. But let's get some input from the parent society. And if that means going to Sully, then let's go to Sully to get national input.

President Michaelson: Said that we used to let the parent society contribute by their sending a shabby display board, but we since decided we could put something together that was much better.

Mr. Funk: Suggested that it might not hurt to tell Sully how much time and money the Missouri Chapter contributes every year.

President Michaelson: Wanted to end the discussion. Stan suggested that the Executive Committee handle it, unless there are motions to the contrary. None were presented.

President Michaelson: Announced the results of the election. With 38 ballots cast, the President-Elect will be David Foster, the Secretary will be Richard Wehnes, and the Treasurer will be Jim Czarnecki. Stan asked the new officers to come forward and be recognized.

- President Michaelson: Asked Art Witt and Slim Funk to come forward and accept past president certificates.
- President Michaelson: Remarked about the positive comments about the conference this year, and attributed this to the hard work of Jack Jones. With that, President Michaelson turned the presidency over to Jack Jones.
- President Jones: Thanked Stan for all of the work he has done for the chapter. Jack stated that it was late and that the meeting should be adjourned, but he wanted to reassure Membership Chairman Spence Turner that 68 members is not a final list. He cited three people who had not paid as yet - Joe Dillard, Fred Vasey and Jack Jones.

Meeting adjourned by edict.

Richard E. Wehnes
Secretary