

MISSOURI CHAPTER, AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
27th Annual Meeting  
January 19, 1989  
Minutes of the Business Meeting

**LOCATION:** Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri

**OPENING:** President Tom Coon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with 90 members present, the largest attendance in Missouri Chapter history. Secretary Dave Neuswanger acknowledged that a quorum of 20 had been met. President Coon then recognized the following Society members for their outstanding service:

Joe Dillard, President-Elect, American Fisheries Society  
Jack Wingate, President, North Central Division (guest)  
Lee Redmond, President-Elect, North Central Division  
John Funk, Missouri Chapter's First Golden Member (not present)  
Spence Turner, Trout Unlimited's Biologist of the Year  
Rich Wehnes, presented with Past-President's plaque for 1986-87

The Minutes of the 26th Annual Meeting on January 21, 1988 (prepared by Al Buchanan) and the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 1988 (prepared by Mahalia Boyd) were approved unanimously without discussion. President Coon then asked Jack Wingate and Joe Dillard to address the Chapter.

**JACK WINGATE:** Jack brought us up to date on some important topics discussed by the Society EXCOM, committee chairs, and chapter officers at their first-time retreat in Columbus, Ohio in December, 1988. He felt this type of meeting was worth repeating next year and encouraged the Missouri Chapter to have its President attend. Jack shared the following:

The need for more technical and standing committees at the division level was discussed as a way to get more AFS members involved in productive projects. Currently, NCD has three technical committees: 1) Walleye; 2) Genetics, chaired by Jeff Koppelman; and 3) Rivers and Streams, chaired by Bill Turner. A standing committee on Continuing Education is chaired by Charlie Rabeni. Jack pointed out that chapters were earning between \$1,000 and \$2,000 by co-sponsoring technical workshops with NCD, which shares in the work as well as the profit. Jack has appointed a new standing committee on Student Affairs in an effort to get students more involved in AFS; and he encouraged our Chapter to find ways to get more students to our meetings by providing financial assistance and perhaps conducting career-oriented seminars. A new incentive for innovative work at the chapter level is the annual Outstanding Chapter Award; guidelines are being drafted by former Missouri Chapter member Bill Taylor at Michigan State University.

Jack also addressed the issue of chapter dues collection by the Society and subsequent rebates. If the Missouri Chapter agrees to it, AFS members in Missouri will have the option of paying chapter dues along with Society dues, section dues, and journal subscriptions in their annual statement from AFS. The Society will forward chapter dues periodically to the chapter, plus a \$1.00 rebate per chapter member the first year, and a \$2.00 rebate per chapter member the second year and thereafter. The rebate is viewed as an incentive for chapters to promote Society membership by all chapter members -- a controversial issue. Jack pointed out that the Montana Chapter now has 100% membership in AFS because they charged all non-AFS members \$42.00 for chapter dues and sent the money to Bethesda to make them all Society members. The Montana Chapter reported that 5% of their members quit the chapter as a result of this change. The rest are Society members now. Jack reminded us that many of our jobs and programs are funded by Wallop-Breaux dollars -- a direct result of effective Society lobbying.

**JOE DILLARD:** Joe began his address by encouraging member involvement. He reminded us that AFS is the only national organization dedicated to strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science, and conserving fisheries resources. Joe explained the PRO Club incentive for recruiting new members, and then reminded us of the seven functions AFS serves: 1) publications; 2) technical meetings; 3) policy analysis and development; 4) professional development; 5) fisheries science development; 6) political activism; and 7) public relations.

Joe attended the Society EXCOM meeting last September in Toronto. There they approved the Society's first long-range plan. They also identified and prioritized the five most critical habitat issues facing fishery resources in our country. These were, in order of priority: 1) non-point source pollution; 2) acid rain; 3) riparian habitat loss; 4) toxic substances; and 5) wetland loss/instream flow.

Joe informed us of Carl Sullivan's condition; Lee Redmond added that a \$12.50 print had been donated by Al Agnew and was being passed around for signatures before being sent to Sully at the hospital. Joe then brought a few miscellaneous items to our attention. There will be no increase in Society dues to cover the planned chapter rebates. The AFS office now has a computer bulletin board. Joe thanked Pam Haverland and Charlie Rabeni for assisting with his election. He ended his address by re-issuing a challenge set forth by Conservation Commissioner Jeff Churan earlier in the day. Joe encouraged us to work hard with other state conservation organizations in striving to produce positive results while avoiding activity traps along the way.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Chairman Ron Dent raised two issues for discussion. First, Ron proposed the creation of an "associate membership" in the Missouri Chapter for professionals in natural resource disciplines other than fisheries. It was acknowledged that such members probably would not be members of the American Fisheries Society, so they could not vote or hold office in the Missouri Chapter. However, Ron could foresee considerable value in communicating to other resource professionals in Missouri through our newsletter. After minor discussion, the membership indicated their approval of Ron's plan to pursue this new class of membership. Ron and President Coon will approach leaders in other professional societies and associations about the idea and about arranging reciprocal privileges. They plan to report back to Missouri Chapter members via the newsletter.

Second, Ron proposed consideration of Dave Neuswanger's idea to develop a bi-fold or tri-fold display with the theme: "What does the Missouri Chapter of AFS mean to you?" This was proposed as a recruiting device for membership and involvement. The membership indicated their approval for Ron to coordinate the development of such a display with the Chapter EXCOM.

At this point, President Coon explained the Society's offer of an option for members to pay chapter dues through the Society's annual renewal form. This income would be remitted to the chapters, probably quarterly, along with a \$1.00 rebate per member the first year. Bill Dieffenbach moved that the Missouri Chapter permit the Society to collect Chapter dues through the Society's annual renewal form. Dave Mayers seconded the motion. After some clarifying discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ron Dent regained the podium and conducted our maiden raffle for members who had paid their 1989 dues before the business meeting. There were 122 members signed up at the time. Bill Turner won a raccoon print donated by Al Agnew. This raffle may provide future incentive for prompt dues payment by Chapter members.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Dave Foster will conduct a meeting in the next month or so to nominate the next group of officers. Nominations will be announced in the March newsletter, and names will appear on a ballot in the June newsletter.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:** chairman Norm Stucky reported that the committee addressed four issues this year: 1) They wrote several letters regarding ATV legislation; 2) They commented on behalf of the Chapter on the draft EIS regarding mineral leasing on Mark Twain National Forest; 3) They appealed to our congressional delegation to oppose weakening of Swampbuster provisions; and 4) They appealed to the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate damages which are likely to result from increasing barge traffic through Lock and Dam 26.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairperson Mamie Parker introduced four resolutions. All passed unanimously with little discussion and no modification. They were as follows:

1) A resolution recommending that the City of Columbia adopt a wetlands approach to expanded wastewater treatment and refrain from transporting effluent of the present quality to the Missouri River.

2) A resolution recommending that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintain and keep open all recreation use facilities on all Missouri Corps of Engineers impoundments and recreational use harbors on the Mississippi River. (President Coon mentioned that a U.S. Defense Department proposed cutback of 20% on recreation was responsible for the threatened closures. Ken Brummett said the Corps of Engineers at Mark Twain Lake claimed it cost them \$800,000/year to operate the most popular recreation area at the lake, which is now under threat of closure. Kevin Richards said one area slated for closure at Pomme de Terre Lake was just opened five years ago.)

3) A resolution requesting support for appropriation for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan, from both the Missouri Congressional Delegation and Society representatives in testimony before Congress. (Jim Fry asked Norm Stucky what fishery benefits might result from these appropriations. Norm cited as an example one potential project which would create an off-channel impoundment at the mouth of a tributary stream, to serve as a backwater nursery area for fish. Norm emphasized the urgent need to start a project soon in order to avoid losing authorization.)

4) A resolution to express appreciation to the Steering Committee, arrangements Committee, and Program Committee of the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society for hosting a successful 2nd Annual Missouri Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Mamie ended the Resolutions Committee session by recognizing the contributions of committee members Bill Dieffenbach and Greg Pitchford. A copy of each resolution is attached to these minutes.

**RECOGNITIONS:** President Coon recognized the contribution of several Chapter members in helping the Wildlife Society host a successful conference. At the risk of leaving someone out, Tom thanked Dick Duchrow, Kevin Richards, Al Buchanon, Pam Haverland, Joe Dillard, and especially Joe Hunn, who was our representative to the Steering Committee. Joe Hunn solicited feedback on the current arrangements so he could suggest improvements for next year. John Belshe suggested that the Steering Committee arrange for some free rooms for students at our next meeting.

**OFFICER'S TERMS:** President Coon resurrected the issue of officer's terms. He asked the membership for their views regarding a change in the Chapter's By-Laws which would have us revert back to changing officers at our annual business meeting in January. Hearing no opposition to the idea, Tom promised to put the issue on the June newsletter ballot. Official notification of the proposed change in By-Laws will appear in the March newsletter, along with any changes proposed for the creation of an associate membership.

**FFA STANDING COMMITTEE:** Chairman Phil Jeffries thanked Jake Allmon and Kevin Sullivan for their help with our joint exhibit with the Wildlife Society at the FFA national convention in Kansas City.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Charlie Rabeni thanked committee members Donna Menown, Norm Stucky, and Tom Nash for their efforts. He then read two letters of recognition. The first would be sent to Betty Broemmelsiek and Charles Callison of the Citizens Committee for Soil, Water, and State Parks for playing a key role in passage of the 1/10% sales tax in November, 1988. The second would be sent to G. Andy Runge and Joseph P. Bachant for organizing the Missouri Conference on Rivers and Streams in February, 1988. These individuals played key roles in focusing legislative and media attention on problems confronting Missouri's stream resources. The Award of Excellence and Citizens Award were to be presented at the evening banquet. (See Addendum to the Business Meeting.)

**RIVERS AND STREAMS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Bill Turner distributed draft goals and objectives for this new standing committee and acknowledged the help of committee members Dave Foster, Tom Coon, Bill Dieffenbach, Tom Russell, Rich Wehnes, and Steve Weithman. The draft was to be discussed in detail at a breakfast meeting the following day at which all members were invited to participate. (The draft is attached to these Minutes.)

**AQUATIC WORKERS DIRECTORY:** Pam Haverland mentioned that she received only 70 responses to the newsletter request for directory information. She encouraged members to check her list and complete the form if they had not yet done so.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Several fund-raising items were brought up at the last minute. Past-President Steve Eder prepared to take orders for Missouri Chapter ball caps and T-shirts, and he advertized the availability of the last seven sets of Al Agnew note cards (which were promptly sold after the meeting). More note cards would be printed and sold at the Southeastern meeting in St. Louis later this year.

Steve Gough proposed that the Chapter fund the printing of a Missouri Chapter stream awareness bumper sticker which could be sold at bait and tackle shops, sport shows, etc. to generate funds for the Chapter. There was enough interest for Steve to pursue the idea further and report back to the EXCOM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, and a raffle to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

**ADDENDUM TO THE BUSINESS MEETING:**

A joint banquet was held the evening of January 19. The setting was informal and we enjoyed the entertainment of a blue-grass band. The atmosphere promoted interaction among members of all the societies that was greater than we have experienced at more formal banquets in the past.

The AFS-Missouri Chapter's 1988 Award of Excellence was presented to Mr. Jerry Hamilton, Manager of the Department of Conservation's Blind Pony Hatchery in Sweet Springs, MO. Jerry was recognized for long-term innovative service in producing several non-traditional species for Missouri hatcheries such as paddlefish, lake sturgeon, muskellunge, hybrid stripers, and walleye.

The 1988 Citizen's Award was presented to Mr. James P. Jackson of Marthasville, MO in recognition of his life-long efforts to conserve Missouri's stream resources. Mr. Jackson recently published a book about the Meramec River entitled "Passages of a Stream". He has been instrumental in developing the Missouri Conservation Federation's Stream Care Committee.

**COPIES OF MINUTES TO:**

AFS Executive Director, Carl Sullivan  
 AFS President-Elect, Joe Dillard  
 NCD President, Jack Wingate  
 NCD President-Elect, Lee Redmond  
 Missouri Chapter President, Tom Coon  
 Missouri Chapter President-Elect, Steve Weithman  
 Missouri Chapter Treasurer, Mahalia Boyd  
 Missouri Chapter Membership Committee Chairman, Ron Dent