

MINUTES OF THE MISSOURI CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
Governing Board Winter Meeting
Columbia Environmental Research Center
January 7, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by President Chris Vitello.

Those in attendance were Chris Vitello, Steve Fischer, Jim Fairchild, James Civiello, Warren Valenti, Brian Canaday and Robin Tillitt.

Chris Vitello led discussions on the following items.

Update on President's Activities/Parent Society and NCD Update

Chris represented the Chapter at the NCD meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio in December. Updates concerning Teaming With Wildlife (Conservation and Reinvestment Act) efforts and discussions about the Society's role in advocacy were highlights. The Chapter's 1998 resolution encouraging the Parent Society to continue its advocacy role was adopted by NCD. Jim Fairchild stressed that we must ensure that our role as advocates consistently reflects the best science. Chris distributed copies of the Chapter's 1998 Annual Report to NCD and a summary memo concerning the 1998 NCD meetings, and referenced articles in the most recent issue of *Fisheries*.

Chris led a discussion on professional certification. NCD plans to stress the importance of AFS certification during 1999. The certification process was recently revised by AFS. It now places greater emphasis on continuing education and society participation. It is important that employers and fisheries scientists recognize the value of certification. The Parent Society is contacting fisheries leadership across North America in an effort to increase their awareness of AFS. It is also critical that AFS provide opportunities for members to meet certification standards. Chris will follow-up on this issue at the Annual Meeting and in an upcoming issue of the *Redd*.

The Chapter has been active in the Missouri River Master Manual process, and was recently represented at meetings on this issue by Jake Allman and Danny Brown.

Minutes from October Governing Board Meeting

Chris Vitello presented the minutes from the October Governing Board Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Warren Valenti and seconded by Steve Fischer. The motion passed, and the minutes were accepted without further edits.

Treasurer's Report

James Civiello presented the latest financial report. He will develop an abridged format for use at the Annual Meeting. A discussion was held concerning re-investment of the Student Support Account. It was agreed that \$14,500 would be rolled over into a certificate of deposit at current rates, and approximately \$118 would be transferred to the Student Support share draft account. It was also decided that the Chapter would request its annual rebate from the Parent Society. Chapter membership should be encouraged to pay Chapter dues through the Parent Society to enhance rebate return. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Steve Fischer and seconded by Warren Valenti. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Awards

Pam Haverland was unable to attend. Chris Vitello reported that Pam has received nominations for everything but the Award of Excellence. Past recipients were reviewed. Nominations are due by January 17.

Chapter Historian

Joe Dillard was unable to attend, but contacted Chris to report that there were no new activities for this committee.

Continuing Education

Chris reported that John Besser had resigned as chair of this committee. His contributions to the Chapter were noted. The possibility of sponsoring continuing education via the Internet was also discussed.

Disabled Angler

Ross Dames was unable to attend, but submitted a written report. The Fishing Has No Boundaries program was discussed. Based on these discussions and Ross's recommendations, the Chapter will not pursue participation in this program at this time. The Disabled Angler Committee also received a \$40 memorial contribution from a woman in New Jersey. James Civiello will forward the details concerning this donation to Robin Tillitt for inclusion in the next issue of the *Redd*. She apparently learned of our activities through the Internet via Guidestar and a referral from the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation. The Chapter can become a Guidestar member for a one-time fee of \$25. It was agreed that we should consider posting information concerning our student support and disabled angler efforts. Steve Fischer will follow-up.

Financial

Steve Fisher presented a draft 1999 Chapter budget, related discussions followed, and minor edits were made. Donations for the upcoming raffle/silent auction are coming in, but donations are still needed. Steve will work with Lee Redmond on the sale of books at the MNRC from which the Chapter will receive one-third of the proceeds. A motion to accept the 1999 budget, as amended, was made by Brian Canaday and seconded by Jim Fairchild. The motion passed.

FFA

Jake Allman was unable to attend, but provided a report. Steve Fischer attended the recent FFA convention in Kansas City and reported that attendance seemed down from previous years. Jake will make a motion to eliminate the FFA Committee from the Chapter at the Annual Meeting in February.

Legislative/Environmental Concerns

Jim Fairchild provided an update on his activities. Responses concerning our comments on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and MDNR's Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan were received.

Membership

Warren Valenti reported that the Chapter currently has 200 members. Chris reported that invitations to join the Chapter and attend the Annual Meeting and the MNRC were recently sent to the membership of the Missouri Aquaculture Association. Warren will distribute an unpaid members list to the Governing Board in January. Plans were made to set up a Chapter booth to sign-up members at MDC's upcoming Fisheries Division Training Conference. Steve Fischer will make arrangements for the Chapter display and Warren Valenti will contact MDC to secure space at the registration table.

MNRC Steering Committee

Brian Canaday provided a report. Arrangements are in place for the 1999 MNRC. Brian has all of the sub-committee chairs in place except the Workshop Chair. Brian is considering eliminating the banquet at one or more future MNRCs.

Newsletter

Robin Tillitt discussed the newsletter. Robin will stay on as editor for 1999. Robin was congratulated for the 1998 NCD Best Newsletter Award. The next issue is scheduled for April.

Publicity

Trish Yasger was unable to attend, but provided a draft membership application for review and information concerning a new Chapter display. Any edits on the application will be forwarded to Trish ASAP. Discussions were held concerning a new display. A motion to purchase a display from Nomadic at an approximate cost of \$1550 was made by Brian Canaday and seconded by Warren Valenti. The motion passed. Chris Vitello will contact Trish Yasger to discuss details, and James Civiello will work with Trish to arrange payment.

Resolutions

Mary Palmer was unable to attend, but provided a report. To date, no resolutions have been received. Jim Fairchild suggested that we revisit the Missouri River Master Manual issue to determine if a resolution is in order. Chris Vitello will follow-up with appropriate members.

Rivers and Streams

Dave Mayers was unable to attend, but provided a report. The Rivers and Streams Committee will meet at the MNRC from 5:00 - 6:30 pm on Monday, February 1, 1999. Suzanne Femmer will take over as chair following that meeting. All except one chapter have been drafted for the Stream Conservation Guide. Chris will contact Lynn Schrader to pursue completion of this chapter.

Student Subunit

Curt Gately could not attend, but provided a report. The Student Subunit plans to abandon the mentoring program due to a lack of student interest. Governing Board members in attendance expressed their disappointment. FASS held its "Hook & Cook" get-together in September. FASS should be encouraged to invite non-student members to future "Hook & Cook" events to encourage communication/interaction.

Student Support

Dan Beckman was unable to attend. The Chapter had no nominees for the matching NCD/Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference travel grant. It was agreed that these grants should be pursued more aggressively in the future. Discussions were also held concerning investment performance for Student Support funds and the possibility for providing scholarships in the immediate future. Steve Fischer will discuss investment options with Steve Weithman, and Chris Vitello will ask Dan Beckman to draft a scholarship proposal. This issue will be considered at the Annual Meeting in February.

Web Site

Kara Hash was unable to attend, but provided a report. Kevin Sullivan has agreed to assist Kara with the Web Page, and John Fantz will continue to post the *Redd*. Kara has been considering moving the Chapter web site to the AFS server. We will remain at Geocities for now, but will ask Kara to pursue a web site name change through Geocities and gather more information concerning a potential move to the AFS server. Draft information intended for an aquaculture page on the Chapter web page was also reviewed. Chris Vitello will forward comments to Kara.

Watershed Committee Ad Hoc

John Fantz was unable to attend.

130th Meeting Ad Hoc

Ron Dent was unable to attend, but provided a report. Everything is progressing well on meeting arrangements. However, we are still awaiting a response from Chris Moffitt on the draft MOU. Chris Vitello will contact Bass Pro Shops to arrange a meeting to discuss fund raising.

Old Business

Chris Vitello reported that Bill Anderson is making good progress on the 1999 Student Support Fishing Tournament. It is scheduled for April 17 at Table Rock Lake. Bass Pro Shops will donate another boat, motor and trailer package. Approximately \$1,500 in cash donations have already been received. Volunteers and participants are welcome.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brian Canaday and seconded by Steve Fischer. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted,

Chris Vitello
MOAFS President