

Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
37th Annual Meeting
February 2, 1999
Tan-Tar-A Lodge, Osage Beach, MO

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Vitello. Secretary Mike Smith announced that a quorum was present. Chris reminded everyone to pay their dues, if they had not already done so. He also asked everyone to sign in. (It was later established from the sign-in sheets that there were 110 in attendance).

Chris mentioned that former Assistant Director Ed Glasser had undergone surgery for lung cancer and would also begin chemotherapy. A card was circulated through the room. Chris noted that Ed had made a nice contribution to the Chapter from the gifts given at his retirement.

Introductions

Two former AFS parent society presidents were in attendance, Joe Dillard and Lee Redmond. The current president-elect of the North Central Division (NCD), Pam Haverland was in attendance. Past MOAFS presidents were asked to stand. Seven were in attendance. It was noted that there had been a "rash" of retirements during the last year, Joe Dillard, Kim Graham, and Lee Redmond being part of that cohort in attendance.

It was noted that Lee Redmond received the Meritorious Service Award from the parent society. We were pleased that we were able to help send Lee's wife, Marge, to the presentation. Lee expressed his thanks for our help.

Norm Stucky, MDC Fisheries Division Administrator also attended our meeting.

Acceptance of previous annual meeting's minutes

It was noted that our chapter newsletter *The Redd* had published a copy of the minutes from the 36th annual meeting. Bill Anderson made a motion that the minutes of the February 19, 1998 meeting be accepted and Pam Haverland seconded his motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

James Civiello presented the financial report. He answered several questions about the general account which had a year end balance of \$13,377.95. He also noted that the Student Support fund gained over the year while the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Fund lost value. The Bass Tournament proceeds were listed in the general account. It was noted that these funds should be transferred to the Student Support Fund. Chris Vitello noted that the Governing Board had discussed the poor performance of our investments. He also noted we are only slowly moving toward our goal of \$100,000 in the Student Support Fund. He mentioned that we may consider awarding some smaller scholarships in the near term. Chris concluded by praising the service of James Civiello as treasurer. Jim Czarnezki made a motion to accept the financial report with changes as noted and Kevin Richards seconded his motion. The motion passed.

NCD Report

Pam Haverland reported on behalf of Doug Austen, NCD President, who was unable to attend our meeting. Bill Taylor has been promoted to Agriculture Dean at Michigan State. The search continues for the parent society executive director, with interviews scheduled for later in the month. Doug Austen will be our representative. Acting Executive Director Bob Kendall will be retiring. Chris Vitello and Pam Haverland both attended the NCD Retreat at the Midwest meeting. Discussions included integrating the five-year plans of the NCD and parent society. They also discussed how NCD could better coordinate with the chapters. It was suggested that the NCD could work as a two-way conduit between the chapters and the parent society. The new certification program was also discussed. It is thought that the NCD could market the local courses for the chapters. The NCD also thought it would be important for them to sell the certification program to both employees and employers. The next Midwest will be in Chicago. It will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter. Due's rebates have been requested from the parent society. The certification program was discussed in some detail. Pam plans to compile her notes. There will be a lot of record keeping required. The Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC) would count for professional points. Chris Vitello noted that certification may become an important part of a merit raise system if enacted by MDC.

It was noted that Paul Brouha had resigned. He received the Chevron National Award for his advocacy efforts before his departure. Lee Redmond presented a video recognizing Paul for his achievement. He was recognized in the "Professionals" category. Paul has since accepted a high position within the Forest Service.

Bob Kendall will be retiring at the midterm meeting. Pam Haverland will attend.

Committee Reports

Committee Reports were published in a handout presented at the meeting. Verbal reports were given as follows.

Nominations

Jim Czarnecki thanked the president-elect and secretary candidates for their willingness to run. He announced that Bill Turner is president-elect and Kenda Flores is the new secretary.

Awards

Pam Haverland presented Letters of Recognition to William Anderson, Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Marine, and the Forsyth Bass Club for their participation in the fund raising efforts for the Student Support Fund. A Letter of Recognition was also presented to Angie Bucklew for her Kid's Fishing Clinics effort. Gordon Farabee also received a Letter of Recognition for his professional efforts on behalf of Big River issues. Robert Montgomery, a senior writer for *Bassmaster Magazine*, received a letter of recognition for his education efforts on the Clean Water Act and watersheds. The Citizen's Award was not announced at this meeting, but would be at the MNRC banquet.

MNRC Steering Committee

Brian Canaday acknowledged that a lot of work was involved to put together this meeting, though he found it to be satisfying. This type of meeting is not available everywhere. The committee is completed. The Iowa Chapter has asked us to consider a joint meeting in 2001. Brian is considering inviting them to the 2002 MNRC when our society is the host. Joe Dillard suggested we invite a small contingent to visit to see if they would be interested a larger meeting. Brian also announced that you do not have to have a banquet ticket to enjoy the very expensive entertainment, so be sure to come. There has been money left over from the meetings in the past. It could go back to the individual societies, but it has been used as self insurance instead. It takes about \$70,000 to put the meeting together. There was support from the floor to keep putting the surplus into a certificate of deposit for the next meeting. Brian noted that we had negotiated a very low room rate. Students rent these rooms and assume liability for them. We could subsidize students who present papers with some of the interest money. Bridgette Canaday supplied the cookies, now a tradition at our MOAFS meeting.

Finance Committee

Steve Fischer presented the proposed 1999 budget. It is very similar to the previous year. He noted that the silent auction raised \$956 and Lee Redmond's book sales generated \$113 for MOAFS. The raffle total was yet to be reported. Jim Czarnezki asked about the \$500 for the AFS 130th meeting. Steve noted that these expenses would ultimately be reimbursed to the Chapter. Jake Allman made a motion to accept the proposed budget and Bill Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steve also expressed thanks to Trish Yasger, Warren Valenti, and Brian Canaday for their help on the silent auction.

Web Site

Kara Hash requested the Web Site's ad hoc committee be converted to a standing committee. A motion to do so was made by Kara Hash and seconded by Joe Dillard. The motion passed.

FFA Committee

The FFA has been coming to Kansas City for the last 32 years. This past year was its final scheduled meeting in KC. Jake Allman has been on the FFA Committee for the past 13 years and has been the sole member and chair for the last five. It is a unanimous committee decision to disband the FFA Committee until/if it returns to Missouri. Jake Allman made a motion to disband and John MacPherson seconded the motion. The motion passed, though Paul Cieslewicz was noted to be the lone dissenter. Jake also recognized Phil Jeffries for his involvement.

130th Annual Meeting

Ron Dent reported that the governor's promo went well with the unrolling of the banner and the subsequent photo opportunities. Governor Carnahan was gracious. Some of the pictures will likely be included in the fund raising packets to corporations. There was a meeting in November in St. Louis. Adam's Mark and Marriot hotels have signed their contracts. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is under development between MDC, MOAFS, AFS, and the Black Bass Symposium. We are trying to address the meeting's effect on our fund raising. We are asking for

\$15/registration except from students. We will need to sell the meeting both in and out-of-state. A web page is being developed. Also, the budget is nearing completion. We expect to send ten to fifteen people to the 1999 meeting. We have had interest for six symposiums before we even called for them. These include White Bass, Crappie, Black Bass 2000, Urban Fisheries, Big River and a Mussel Symposium. The budget will set registration at or less than \$275. There will be another planning meeting on Wednesday afternoon. Chris Vitello noted that Greg Stoner created the artwork on a scratch board for the poster.

Student Support

Dan Beckman thanked Travis Moore for his efforts putting together the job fair. There were 30 employers, with 130 jobs, for the 120-130 students who participated. Dan also thanked Bill Anderson for his efforts putting the fishing tournament together. Scholarships are planned. Dan also thanked the judges who helped with the student awards. He encouraged more nominations and greater student participation. He noted that there were no applicants for the Midwest Conference Travel Award. He also announced that Christopher Riggert won the Best Undergraduate Student Project Award. Dean Bergstrom won the Best M.S. Thesis Award. There were no applicants for the best Ph.D. Dissertation Award. Alan Martin won the Student Achievement Award. The Best Student Paper Awards for platform and poster presentation are still to be announced.

Resolutions

Mary Palmer was disappointed to announce that there were no resolutions to present at our meeting. She probably was the only one in the room with that sentiment. We responded to a number of items in a timely fashion. We are working on a response on the Missouri River Master Manual. Thanks were expressed to Mary for worrying all year.

Newsletter

Robin Tillitt reported it costs \$1.80 to mail each issue of the newsletter. She recommends we consider E-mail for delivery. We will need to tell Robin to E-mail us. You can also print it off the web page. Lynn Schrader suggested we should assume that we will receive an electronic copy unless we specifically request otherwise.

Miscellaneous

Chris Vitello asked everyone to pay their dues through the parent society as we get an additional rebate from the parent society when we do. Also, we will not send reminders to delinquent members this year.

New Business

Bill Anderson announced that the Student Support Bass Tournament will be April 17 this year. We made \$3,000 last year. There were 71 teams registered at \$100 each. There has been a cash donation made and Bass Pro will donate another boat. Complimentary motel rooms from Kimberling Inn will be given to the first three registrants. The tournament will leave from the Highway 13 Access which has three ramps. Bill expressed thanks to Warren Valenti, Chris

Vitello, and Tim Banek for their help with the tournament. He also noted that cash or other donations are still welcome.

Bass Pro will hold their Conservation Weekend on March 6 and 7. We should plan to man a booth from eight to eight on the first day and ten to four on the second. It is not our type of event, but it is the least we can do, given their financial support to our Chapter. We hope to debut our new display at this event.

Rich Wehnes announced that the Fifth Stream Team Conference will be held on June 11 - 13. Help will be needed at this conference, contact Sherri Fischer at the MDC Central Office to volunteer. All should try to attend.

MOAFS 1998 Highlights and Future Challenges

Chris Vitello thanked the officers for their support and also recognized the committee chairs for their efforts. He noted there were lots of advocacy efforts during the year. We expressed support for the Teaming with Wildlife initiative. We also requested that the Governor create a task force to address Chip Mill issues, which he did. The Society of American Foresters asked about our involvement in this issue, but has since moved on. Letters on nonpoint pollution issues were addressed to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We discussed species of special concern with the EPA who followed with a request for data to support our list. We followed that six hours notice for comment was not sufficient to meet such a request. Our finances are in great shape. The other societies are jealous of our success. We will need to look to the future. The Midwest and NCD are the next big meetings. We also are facing the challenges of down sizing and vacancy management. There is more for each of those left to do. We need to continue to be involved in our professional society. The parent society asked Chris to provide the names of Missouri leadership which are not in the society. He provided them three names, Steve Mahfood, MDNR Jerry Conley, MDC, and John Smith, MDC. We can expect new leadership in the parent society to create new opportunities and change. All are encouraged to gain certification. Certification helps when called upon to testify and it may be important in gaining merit raises.

Chris Vitello had misplaced the gavel. Jim Czarnezki found it for Chris. Chris presented the gavel to incoming President Steve Fischer. Steve's first task was presenting Chris his Past President's Plaque. Steve then made some brief statements about work to be done on the Missouri River Master Manual, a potentially contentious issue. He also asked that everyone help Ron Dent and the rest of the subcommittee involved in planning and preparing for the 130th AFS Meeting. He also reiterated to be sure to keep your societal dues current. It was apparent in the NCD conference telephone call that our society is the envy of the country.

Lee Redmond shared an observation made by a member of the Wildlife Society. Our meetings are much better attended than those of the sister societies. We are doing a good job.

A motion was made by Rich Wehnes to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jim Czarnezki.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.