

06/10/01 / Approved
02/01/01

**Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
38th Annual Meeting
February 3, 2000
Tan-Tar-A Lodge, Osage Beach, MO**

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Fischer at 3:35 p.m. Secretary Kenda Flores announced that a quorum was present. Steve asked everyone to sign in. (It was later established from the sign-in sheets that there were 101 in attendance).

Introductions

Two former AFS parent society presidents were in attendance, Joe Dillard and Lee Redmond. Past MOAFS presidents were asked to stand. The current president of the North Central Division (NCD), Pam Haverland was in attendance.

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

Acceptance of previous annual meeting's minutes

A copy of the minutes from the 37th annual meeting were available to all annual meeting attendees and Secretary Kenda Flores asked for any last minute comments, corrections or additions. Spence Turner made a motion that the minutes of the February 2, 1999 meeting be accepted and Jeff Koppelman seconded his motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

James Civiello presented the financial report. He gave a summary of the accounts. He started with the General Account- 70. This includes all the operating expenses for the Chapter as a whole—purchases, reimbursements. The beginning balance was \$13,401.36. Income of \$6,602.74 included dues and donations. Dividends and transfers totaled \$338.08. Items such as postage, MNRC engravings, tri-fold display and plaques came from this account. Becoming an Outdoor Woman received several fly rod and reel combinations from the monies in this account. The ending balance is \$9,551.48. The next account is the Organizational Account-00. This account is to maintain our status as an organization with the Conservation Employees Credit Union and a minimum balance of \$25 must be maintained. No checks can be written directly from this account. The balance is \$48.74. The Midwest investment involved taking \$5,484.56 from the mutual fund, depositing it in the 71 Account and reinvesting half into a 6 month CD and half into a T. Rowe Price index 500 investment fund. The CD matures in April. The SSTF Account-02; \$11,104 was transferred to the 02 Account. This account is used to fund activities and expenses approved by the Student Support Committee. \$14,000 is kept in a 1 year CD, dividends are then transferred to the Student Support Account. It matures in January. James deposited \$1,055.71 into the Student Support Account. SSTF Account total is \$34,143.18 as of December 31. This year we have a new account for the AFS 2000 Account. Ending balance as of December is \$6,597.45. James said this concluded the 1999 Treasurer's report. Al Buchanan made a motion to accept the financial report with changes as noted and Spence Turner seconded his motion. The motion passed.

NCD Report

Pam Haverland is this year's President of the North Central Division. She said that it was an honor to serve that office. She said it was an honor to have come from Missouri Chapter. Pam introduced herself as a statistician, fisheries biometrician and an administrator. She works for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Columbia Environmental Research Center. She started her career 21 years ago as a fisheries biometrician for the Department of Conservation due to Jim Fry, Ron Dent, Dan Witter, and Joe Dillard. Pam gleaned her knowledge about fisheries from on the job experience. The NCD represents 12 states, 4 provinces and 2 territories. It was formed in 1954 in St. Louis. The first official meeting was held in Lansing, Michigan in 1956 and was composed of more than just fisheries biologists; it was a diverse group. AFS allows for diversity within the membership also. Where are we going in the North Central Division? What does Pam have for her goals as President:

- 1) Update the strategic plan of the North Central Division
- 2) Update and expand the NCD Web Page
- 3) Identify and conduct more Continuing Education courses

Pam talked about the MOAFS Chapter. She began as the Publicity committee chair, then the Arrangements committee, and then finally as Chapter President with the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. We tackle tough issues such as gravel mining, lead mining, and channel dredging. We also plan and host the best meetings. She encouraged everyone to attend the 130th Annual Meeting in St. Louis. From a Parent Society perspective they hope to launch a new Web site soon; track strategic planning of the Divisions and then plans for the state chapters. Pam said that the Missouri Chapter is fortunate for having Joe Dillard and Lee Redmond as past Presidents of the Parent Society. Pam ended by saying she would see everyone in St. Louis.

Committee Reports

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

Nominations

Chris Vitello thanked the president-elect and treasury candidates for their willingness to run. He announced that Mike Roell is president-elect and Greg Pitchford is the new Treasurer.

Awards

Pam Haverland announced that The Award of Excellence had been presented to Dick Duchrow on Tuesday because he knew that he would be unable to attend this meeting. Pam presented Letters of Recognition to Mick Hawkins, Donnie Wren, and Travis Moore. Mick Hawkins received recognition for his work in creating and protecting wetlands in Chariton County. Donnie Wren played an instrumental role in the development of the Boone Femme Watershed Partnership and served as the Partnership's steering committee chair. He worked with county, state and federal agencies to implement many conservation practices on his farm. Travis Moore received a Letter of Recognition for his work in organizing the student job fair that is now a continuing part of the MNRC and for his efforts to make students an integral part of the 130th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society. The Citizen's Awards were announced although they were to be presented at the banquet. The awards will be presented to Mayor Gaylon Watson, the City of Piedmont, and to the McKenzie Creek Steering Committee (Tom

Abrams, Anthony Eaton, Dennis Kime, Fred Handy, Terry Lutes, Eli Twidwell, Bob Lewis, Aaron Rayfield, Tom Draper, and Willie Julian) to acknowledge their vision and persistence in Piedmont's efforts to "flood-proof" the McKenzie Creek floodway.

MNRC Steering Committee

Bridgette Canaday supplied the cookies for the MOAFS Annual Meeting in the year 2000, now a VERY popular tradition at our MOAFS meetings. Brian Canaday brought up the changes for the meeting this year. The Steering Committee decided to provide a free cup for early registrants with a new conference logo. The new "easy to read" schedule brochure is another change and a welcome improvement from previous years. Brian had asked that the Society logos remain on the front of the brochure, but he compromised instead by having a section that lists sponsoring societies and used the society logos as a watermark on the chapter narrative pages. Seven hundred people pre-registered for the conference, and at last count there were 1,000 attendees. More people will arrive and register before the banquet. Last year the final attendance total was 1,100. Brian expects us to exceed that figure this year. There have been no problems this year. MOAFS is the host society sponsor for 2002. Brian encouraged everyone that has volunteered to help him with the 2002 meeting to remain in charge of those committees. Brian will publish the dates for the 2001 meeting and the 2002 meeting in the next newsletter. Brian had on a really cool denim shirt with the AFS logo. He said the secretary in his office had volunteered to embroider those shirts for anyone that wanted one. There had been some discussion about changing the dates due to a conflict with the Agricultural Conference at the University of Missouri. Robin Tillitt asked about the availability of the ice rink next year for broom ball. Brian advised Robin to stay off the ice herself, but explained that the remodeling at Tan-Tar-A should be completed in time for the conference next year and that should include the ice rink facility.

Web Page

Kevin Sullivan announced that Mike Bayless and Dave Mayers had been recruited for the Web Page committee. There is a new survey online for members to respond. Kevin is trying to figure out how many students are accessing the Web Page and if they have used the job information that is available. Kevin encourage everyone to get online and use the resources of the Web page.

130th Annual Meeting

Ron Dent reported that the Adam's Mark and Marriott hotels in St. Louis are the sites for the meeting in downtown St. Louis across from the Arch. There will be 20 symposia, 14 concurrent sessions each day; 1200-1400 people are expected to register for the meeting. Ron predicts about 200-250 papers and 150 posters will be presented. Registration costs for AFS members are \$285, \$385 for non-AFS members, student AFS members \$75, and spouses \$75. Fund-raising efforts have brought in \$12,500 in cash, Ameren UE donated \$10,000 of that amount. MOAFS Chapter donated \$1,000. In-kind service donations have been made by Southwestern Bell (\$5,000 for cell phones), the St. Louis Zoo donated facilities for the Monday night social worth \$20,000. Some of the activities will include the Welcoming Social that includes a fish fry at Kiener plaza and students will guide tours to the Arch. The registration material will be posted on the Web Page in February or March. You may register online. Student volunteers will be paid \$8/hour. They must sign up in advance for a variety of jobs at different times. Hotel room

rates for students are \$79 at the Adam's Mark and \$109 and \$95 at the Marriott. MOAFS Chapter should receive \$10/registrant from members registration fees. We have a fund-raising goal of \$40,000. We get 10% of anything over \$40,000. MOAFS should also receive 15% of the excess funds after expenses. The Chapter receives a free booth to sell items. Mike Roell is in charge of the fund-raising for the Chapter at the Annual Meeting. There are five Continuing Education Workshops scheduled. Volunteers are still needed for the 24 subcommittees. Eight foreign countries will be represented. Topics at the meeting range from eels to CAFOs to the Black Bass Symposium.

Watershed Ad Hoc Committee

Mike Bayless reported that the final draft of the Watershed poster is ready to go to the Rivers and Streams Committee. There are a limited number of copies that will be printed.

Student Support

Dan Beckman announced that the Best Masters Thesis Award for 2000 went to Frank Riusech from Southwest Missouri State (Frank was not present) for his genetic work on mussels. The title of his thesis was "Genetic and Live History Characteristics of *Venustaconcha ellipsiformis* and *Venustaconcha pleasi* in the Ozark Plateau Region." His advisor was Dr. Christopher Barnhart.

Finance Committee

Bill Turner presented the proposed 2000 budget. There were two general categories: general operations and the student support account. The General Operations Account had debits of \$5,110 for expenses. Postage, newsletters costs and \$600 for travel to the NCD came out of the general account last year. If we go to the electronic version of the newsletter, we won't have those expenses. Bill estimated that it would cost about \$1,000 for start-up and printing of the watershed poster. The silent auction and raffle brought in \$1,106. Projected income from the 130th Annual Meeting is \$9,500. General Operations Account ending balance is \$12,860. There will be no silent auction at the 130th Annual Meeting so as not to compete with the Skinner Fund. The Student Support Fund had expenses of \$1600. The projected income for that fund is \$6,728. There was a motion to accept the proposed budget by Chris Vitello. Ron Dent seconded the motion and the proposed budget passed.

SSTF Program

The MOAFS EXCOM proposed a new investment strategy for the Student Support Trust Fund money. This proposal was printed in the December issue of *The Redd* and the membership was given the opportunity to comment. Steve Fischer gave a brief explanation of the changes in strategy for the student money. He acknowledged Bill Turner, Trish Yasger, and Dan Beckman. A motion was made by Mike Smith to accept the new plan for the SSTF. John Fantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Resolutions

Lisa Sowa had received three resolutions. She said the resolutions would be posted on the Web Page next week. She requested all comments be e-mailed to her.

1) Chip Mill Resolution- the intent of the resolution was to focus effort on the issues. Lisa read the resolution to the group. A discussion ensued about the wording and changes to the resolution. A motion was made by Brian Todd to accept the resolution with changes as noted. Dave Galat seconded the motion and the motion was passed. The chip mill resolution and an accompanying letter from MOAFS Chapter President Bill Turner will be mailed to the Governor Mel Carnahan, Lt. Governor Roger Wilson, and the Chip Mill Committee.

2) A resolution concerning the sediment removal and channelization of the lower St. Francois River by the Memphis Corps of Engineers (COE), Dunklin County was proposed by Mark Boone. The lower St. Francois River is filling with sediment due to previous channelization. The COE plans to channelize six miles of reach. The proposed resolution noted that the channelization would cause increased water velocities and sedimentation downstream. The Chapter urged the Memphis COE to further analyze the situation and look at other alternatives to channelization of the reach and drainage of the wetland. AFS Members began discussion of the resolution. Ron Dent felt that the resolution did not firmly state what should be done; the wording was too wishy washy. He said we needed to clearly spell out the alternatives. Linda Vogt stated that the DNR limited the scope of the project because they felt the COE has not looked at all the alternatives. Mark Boone said that the channel is filling in completely. Sediment cannot be removed, but channelization is not the solution to the problem. Linda Vogt said the certification has been appealed by the COE. MDNR wants support for the certification to combat the political pressure from the other side. Dave Neuswanger suggested that we trust the newly elected Chapter President, Bill Turner to draft a letter to the COE. Dave said he thought it would carry the same weight as a resolution. He then decided to make this a motion. Chris Vitello seconded the motion. Ron Dent pointed out that we had to deal with the resolution as a point of order first. Norm Stucky made a motion to table the resolution. Paul Cieslewicz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the majority; the single opposition vote was Lisa Sowa. Dave Neuswanger made a motion to have MOAFS President Bill Turner draft a letter to the COE. Chris Vitello seconded the motion and the motion passed.

3) A second resolution was proposed by Mark Boone concerning the New Madrid/St. John's Bayou Project and the Memphis Corps of Engineers. The intent of this resolution opposes a proposal by the COE to close a 1,500 foot gap between two levees that will affect a functional floodplain of several thousand acres. They want to add a dewatering pump station to keep the area drained. Twenty miles of channelization are planned by the COE. Representative Jo Ann Emerson is involved with the project. Mark Boone requested the MOAFS to comment either by letter or resolution. Chris Vitello made a motion to table the resolution. Mark Euldhaber seconded the motion. Tim Banek made a motion to have MOAFS President Bill Turner draft a letter to the COE. Robin Tillitt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Steve Fischer mentioned that because we changed some of the accounts and took action on some of the money for investments, Phil Pitts graciously assented to audit the books for the Chapter.

Steve asked the students in attendance at the meeting to stand. He then handed out a book to each student.

New Business

Fishing Tournament- Bill Anderson announced that this is the 3rd year for the tournament. Last year the winner caught 8 fish/30 lbs. There were 5 boats from the AFS membership. The Student Support Bass Tournament will be April 22 on Table Rock Lake this year. Bill has collected \$2,000 in cash donations and Bass Pro will donate another boat. There will be a raffle in St. Louis to pay to fish in the tournament and pair with one of the Pro-Flight Anglers. Bill requested help outside the Springfield area for fund-raising. He will take lists of names and phone numbers of people if you are shy and do not want to solicit the donations yourself. He suggested asking the banking institutions for donations. He would like to see us make \$10,000/year on this tournament. The Forsythe Bass Club is the main support group. Bill said he had a supply of flyers; please pick them up and circulate them to publicize the tournament. Chris Vitello wanted a poster to announce the event and asked for assistance with the design and layout of the poster. Kevin Richards volunteered Jake Allman to help with the poster. John Fantz volunteered to post the information on the Web Page.

Natural Resources Conservation Camp- Chris Kennedy described the purposes and functions of the camp. He said the camp encourages the involvement of all nationalities. It is a 3 year camp for 20 students that attend for 2 weeks. Chris introduced Erin and Monique. This was their 3rd year to participate in the camp. They described why they thought the camp was beneficial. It introduces minorities to Natural Resource issues and job opportunities. They compiled resumes and have obtained interviews for college at Lincoln and the University of Missouri, Columbia.

MOAFS 1999 Highlights

Steve Fischer presented James Civiello with a plaque as outgoing Treasurer. He also gave Robin Tillitt her award for *The Redd* as the Best Newsletter from the NCD. Steve presented all the committee chairs to the attending members. The chairs received a round of applause. Steve said that he was honored to represent the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and that he had two words of wisdom before he gave up the gavel. He said advocacy drives the Chapter. He urged everyone to get involved with advocacy; get involved and participate with the Chapter.

Steve presented the gavel to incoming President Bill Turner. Bill asked everyone to get involved with the State Chapter.

A motion was made by Rich Wehnes to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jim Czarneski.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Kenda Flores

MOAFS Secretary