

**MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

January 31, 2013

ANNUAL MEETING – MNRC – TAN-TAR-A RESORT

Attendees:

Wes Swee, President	Joe G. Dillard	Dave Knuth
Travis Moore, Past-President	Jason Persinger	Shane Bush
Melissa Scheperle, Secretary	Andy Turner	Vince Travnichek
Jennifer Campbell-Allison, Treasurer	Scott Lankford	Dan Metcalf
Justin Brandson	Nathan Recktenwald	Emily Tracy-Smith
Craig Paukert	Jacob Westhoff	Emily Pherigo
Eric Rahm	Allen Brandes	Jodi Whittier
Amanda Rosenberger	Dwane Chapman	Shannon C. Thompson
Lee C. Redmond	Tom Priesendorf	John Fantz
James Civiello	Mark Zurbrich	Bob Temper
Dave Woods	Craig Fuller	Jennifer Girondo
Sarah Peper	Scott Voney	Scott Williams
Dave Michaelson	Bill Mabee	Doug Novinger
Bob DiStefano	Phil Pitts	Tom Whelan
Sheldon Mifflin	Clint Hale	Josh Ward
Paul Spurgeon	Mike Allen	Scott Ryan
Jack Allman	Zach Ford	Rich Cook
Greg Pitchford	Kurt Hentschke	Andy Cornforth
Jake Cowherd	Chris Landstad	Brad Farwell
Ben Havens	Erike Hazelrigg	Ryan Steffens
Terry Gerke	Jordan Smith	Brian McKeage
Andrew Branson	Joe Day	Craig Gemming
Ryan Little	Terri Christal	April Perry
Nat Gillespie	Kelly Whitsett	Chris Riggert
Mary Culler	Blala Stephens	Valerie Hentges
Paul Blanchard	John Ackerson	Kathi Moore
Jason Harris	Hope Dodd	Myranda Clark
Mike Siepker	Brian Canaday	Shannon Kelly
Dave Mayers	Matthew Dolan	Michael Moore
Michelle Dalbey	Amy Meier	Bruce Drecktsah
Mike Roell	Mike Whitacre	Paul Michaletz
Mike Kruse	Joe McMullen	Jason Crites
Kyle Winders	Kenda Flores	Kara Tvedt
Mike Smith	Megan Halford	Chris Vitello
Paul Calvert	Ange Corson	Kat Lackman
Alex Prentice	Mark VanPattan	Matt Matheney
Sherry Fischer	Brandye Freeland	Denise Otto

Introductions and Welcome:

Melissa Scheperle called the meeting to order and determined that we have a quorum.

Wes Swee recognized past presidents from AFS, North Central Division, and MoAFS. Wes recognized Vince Travnichek as the next President of North Central Division.

Wes asked for any revisions to the 2012 meeting minutes. After no response, Vince made a motion to approve the 2012 meeting minutes. After a second was made, all were in favor and none opposed.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report. Less was spent because no new software was purchased. She gave the totals for the end of 2012 (see report). There was some discussion on moving money in some of the CDs that were maturing into money market accounts.

Disabled Angler

Mary Scott summarized the year. There were two events held, one in April and one in September. There were 80 and 60 people in attendance, respectively. Mary thanked all the people who helped out including but not limited to Wes, Ben, Kenda, and Angie.

There are two events scheduled for 2013, April 26th from 9am – noon, and September 21st from 9am – noon. She thanked AFS for T-shirts and supplies. The clients love the T-shirts!

Chapter Historian

Joe Dillard reported that all records are safe.

Wes brought up the MoAFS Handbook that Joe brought to us. The excom is currently in the process of updating it. He thanked Joe for bringing that to our attention.

Continuing Education

Andy Turner said he would take any ideas for the next MNRC and Midwest Conference. Some ideas include human dimensions and fisheries for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and career development and interview workshops for students at MNRC, a fins workshop for MNRC and a publishing for AFS workshop for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference.

Finance

Jason Persinger covered the budget (see table). He explained the additional items for the 50th anniversary events (dinner at MNRC, pins, mugs). Jason also explained why there was \$500 budgeted for the Fenske award when normally there is \$50 – is has been inadvertently left off to accumulate over 4 yrs. MoAFS is making more on the Silent Auction and raffle this year at MNRC.

Chris Vitello asked whether there would be a luncheon for AFS past presidents (parent, division or chapter) at the Midwest conference. This was done in the past, but has recently been left off the agenda. Typically, the organizer would approach the Wildlife Society to have a concurrent luncheon. Jason asked how broad it was traditionally. It was thought to be division only. Jason said he will add \$600 to the budget to cover. The budget was amended, motioned, seconded and all agreed. There were none opposed.

Mike Siepker brought up the additional money MoAFS gets from the parent society when a member pays their membership through the parent society and whether we get more back with the increase in membership rates. Jason didn't know and Mike said he would check on it.

Craig asked about the Fenske line item and Jen answered that the money is for student nominee/award. This money is not for the breakfast but for the scholarship award.

The adjustment to the parent website dues (previously \$5 and now \$10) for the chapter has been corrected. Persons that payed dues through the parent website and only payed \$5 will not be forced to pay the additional \$5.

Dwane made a motion to approve the budget, it was seconded and all were in favor, none opposed.

IT Report

John Fantz reported that Andrew is going to step back from the committee for the time being and Kat Lackman is stepping up. There will be a software upgrade this year and website upgrade.

Wes asked John about a survey from he did for AFS that asked if the chapter uses social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. John said no because it takes too much of a time commitment to keep up with, but that Jen has a Facebook account for the Student Sub-units. Wes said AFS wants to know how they can help MoAFS develop this. He asked for any volunteers to manage this to contact him.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns Report

Mark Zurbrick reported that there are seven bills tied to conservation but only three he is watching closely. These have come up in the past that attack conservation. Mark reiterated that if members are not also members of the Conservation Federation, they should consider it because they are at the forefront of involvement in these issues.

Membership Report

Mike Siepker reminded members that dues need to be paid and that it is \$10. He reported that in 2012 there are 277 members which is an increase. He broke down the membership into how many were lifetime, students and who paid through the parent society. He also broke down the membership into employers. He acknowledged that some people are not receiving the emails and he will work to update the email list and student support lists as well. John Fantz said that 99% of the email issues are filters that put them in the Junk folder.

Wes said that because we are over 270 members, we have the opportunity for one member to sit on the Conservation Federation committee. Mark Zurbrick is going to handle this role.

MNRC Steering Committee

Clint Hale announced committee members for the MNRC steering committee. Members include Tom Whelan, Andy Cornforth, Garret Albright, Sheldon Mifflin, Hope Dodd, John Ackerson, Kathi Moore, Rich Cook, Paul Spurgeon, Brad Farwell, and Kurt Hentschke. They plan to focus on student involvement and smaller schools. They have one plenary speaker nailed down. They are working with the 2015 committee members and plan on using social media and photos for things like a facebook page for the next MNRC page.

The 700 room night mark was fulfilled this year.

Student Support Report

Jen Girondo recognized the different student subunits in attendance. They were MSU, FASS and UCM. Myranda, MSU subunit President, gave of summary of activities they have accomplished in the past year. The subunit sold raffle tickets in front of Bass Pro (Springfield) totaling \$172 for subunit.

Jen explained that 50% of the raffle ticket amounts sold by any subunit was kept by the subunit for participating in the fundraising.

Alex, UCM subunit, summarized the activities they have accomplished in the past year.

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Jen covered the FASS subunit activities since they could not be in attendance.

Jen covered the student support budget. The budget is basically operating on interest from the fund. Jen presented awards. The Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference Duffey Award was given to Landon Pierce, student at MU. The winner of the poster award at MNRC was Shawn Zieger, student at MU. The Carl Morrow scholarship was awarded to Alex Prentice and the Ed Stegner scholarship was awarded to Jackman Eichenroeder.

Newsletter

Joe McMullen reported on status of the Newsletter.

Rivers and Stream Report

Mary Culler reported that there are 90 people on the email list. Kyle Winders is the new chair for a two year term. She recapped the summer meeting and reiterated that the powerpoint presentations on funding sources are available by request. The August meeting is going to focus on watershed initiatives and relating agencies to each other.

Awards/Nominations

President Wes Swee presented Mark VanPatten with a letter of recognition. St. Munchin Parish Knights of Columbus was given the Citizen's Award. A second letter of recognition was given to Steve Eder. The John L. Funk Award of Excellence (Mike Smith) and The A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award (Greg Pitchford) winner's names were held for the awards banquet.

Vince Travnichek gave three award pins from the parent society for 25 years of membership in the parent society. Recipients were Matt Matheney, Chris Vitello and Vince Travnichek. Joe Dillard was given a pin for 50 years in the parent society.

Election Results

Travis Moore gave the election results and had a general discussion on why we have a verification code when we vote to keep non-members from voting.

Secretary went to Dave Michaelson and President Elect to Mike Smith.

Travis discussed other ways to carry out voting and asked for opinions on whether the current system works or not. Only 1/3 of members voted. Wes suggested a log-in page but Kat said that would be difficult. Wes decided to hold discussion for a later date.

Old Business

Jason Persinger discussed the 50th anniversary dinner and logo. He passed around choices for a special one-time logo for the year. He will take any suggestions or ideas. We have a year to get it worked out. The dinner will be next year after the annual meeting and before the awards banquet. He is still looking at where and how much. The logo will also be used on the pint glasses. He asked if there were other items to put the logo on. We would sell them at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as well as MNRC next year. Vince reminded him about the slide show/video of the history of the group during the dinner. Jason asked for ways to honor long-term members. He asked that members send him an email on the logo preference and John will put it on the webpage to look at.

Conservation Federation of Missouri

Dave Murphy thanked MoAFS members for their partnership. He mentioned the convention on February 22nd -24th at Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Someone from MoAFS ranks will be recognized for

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excellent performance. CFM must receive nominations for this award, please nominate people. There are numerous committee meetings at the convention and new members that want to hear why natural resources are important to us.

Publicity

Trish Yasger reported that \$629 was raised on the silent auction items. There have been 42 memberships paid. The raffle tickets were still being sold up to the dessert social.

New Business

Wes brought up the 2016 AFS annual meeting for discussion. Vince started by explaining that when he attended the North Central Division business meeting that no state had made a pitch to host the annual meeting in 2016. The division had picked four cities to have the meeting, 2 out of the 3 were in MO. He thought maybe MoAFS should volunteer. He talked to AFS about holding off on the decision until we had a chance to discuss internally. Vince has discussed the time and personnel issue with MDC management, Chris Vitello and others. Chris thought it was an easy decision, we needed to be involved.

Vince was asked about the benefit. It was not money but the leadership opportunity to host. Two cities were called out, Kansas City and St. Louis. Vince has made contacts in both cities and there are hotels and other resources available for that time of the year in both. No one hotel could house the number of people and resources needed, but both cities had two hotels in close proximity that could make it work. Someone from the Time and Talent committee at AFS was present and said that to have full control over the conference, we needed to put together a bid and submit it to the committee.

Travis said he personally votes for KC because of labor union issues in SL was previously painful. The Midwest is in KC next year and could potentially be beneficial to learn from and the city/hotels would be familiar with the needs/prices/etc. The two hotels in KC are under one owner as opposed to SL.

Brian Cannady asked if we were opposed to work with the KS chapter of AFS in KC and vice versa for SL? No one was opposed to this idea, however, it was decided it wasn't likely feasible due to the inability of state agencies to travel across state lines.

Vince thought the net profit would be anticipated to be between \$13,000 and \$65,000, likely \$20,000 in MO and 20% would go back to the chapter.

Bob advised the excom to consult with Ron Dent, who ran the conference in 2000. It seemed like MoAFS was pushed around a little by AFS and there were some hard feelings.

Craig asked if we decide to host does that put us in a pinch to trigger a bid? Vince thought we only went to the Time and Place committee if we put together a formal bid. He doesn't want to do that, just to make a recommendation. Craig thought AFS will ask us to help even if we don't host. Dwane supported to host.

Vince said we would be agreeing to host and all that comes with that, minus the hotel. AFS handles the hotel contracts. Chris said the Midwest conference is using an event planner. Do we have that option? Vince said yes and that is definitely the way we should go. Chris said the event planner has softened the blow on staff time. John said we used one for some items such as registration in 2000. The planner is not provided by the parent AFS. Bryan Cannaday said he supports hosting and KC.

Vince said we need a steering committee chair(s), this year's has 3 co-chairs if we want to go that route. He, himself, would like to chair, but is now the President elect of North Central Division and doesn't know if he would have time.

Mark made a motion for MoAFS to host the 2016 national AFS meeting. There was a second and all were in favor. None opposed.

Mark made a second motion for the meeting to be held in KC. There was a second and all were in favor, none opposed.

Vince said he would work on details. Additionally, Vince said the goals of the North Central Division is student involvement and therefore he will be visiting each of the subunits in the next 6 months.

Final Comments

President Wes thanked the excom and committee chairs. The chapter is a well-oiled machine and is very influential. Be prepared as he will be calling for future officials. Wes passed the gavel to Jason Persinger.

Jason's first act as President is to give a certificate of appreciation to Melissa Scheperle as outgoing Secretary, a certificate of appreciation to Wes Swee as outgoing President. Jason encouraged each of us to be more involved. The chapter is doing many things with your \$10 membership fee and asked that everyone dedicate time to help out with something.

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn, was seconded and all in favor.