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

**MISSOURI NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE--TAN-TAR-A RESORT
FEBRUARY 5, 2014**

Attendees:

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| Jason Persinger, President | Eric Rahm |
| Wes Swee, Past President | Rajeeva Voleti |
| Mike Smith, President-Elect | Jesse Kelly |
| Jennifer Campbell-Allison, Treasurer | Bob Distefano |
| Dave Michaelson, Secretary | Lynn Schrader |
| Craig Paukert | Marlyn L. Miller |
| Amanda Rosenberger | Kathi Moore |
| Andy Turner | Rich Cook |
| Mike Siepker | Mike Bayless |
| Mark Zurbrick | Greg Stoner |
| Vince Travnichek | Bill Mabee |
| Theresa Davidson | Jake Allman |
| Mike Allen | Pam Lanigan |
| Shane Bush | Sierra Comer |
| Kurt Hentschke | Kelly Whitsett |
| Justin Pride | Travis Moore |
| Nathan Recktenwald | Scott Williams |
| Justin Brandsma | Tim Grace |
| Brad Russell | Bruce Drecktrah |
| Ben Havens | Sherry Fischer |
| Paul Spurgeon | Matt Matheney |
| Clint Hale | Debby Fantz |
| Andy Austin | John Fantz |
| Tom Priesendorf | John Ackerson |
| Kara Tvedt | Mary E. Scott |
| Kenda Flores | Phil Pitts |
| Allen Brandes | Craig Fuller |
| Brian D. Canaday | Zach Morris |
| Mark Van Patten | Hope Dodd |
| Amy Meier | Emily Pherigo |
| Josh Ward | Dave Mayers |
| Brian McKeage | Jennifer Gironde |
| Megan Halford | |
| April Perry | |
| Terri Christal | |
| Darren Thornhill | |
| Josey Ridgway | |
| Nick Sievert | |

Introductions and Welcome:

Dave Michaelson called the meeting to order and determined that we have a quorum.

Jason Persinger recognized past presidents from AFS, North Central Division, and MoAFS.

Dave reported that the 2013 MoAFS Annual Meeting minutes had been posted to the website and that copies were available for review at the meeting. After no call for revisions, Dave asked for a motion to accept the 2013 minutes. A motion was made and seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Anglers with Disabilities

Mary Scott reported that the Anglers with Disabilities Committee held two fishing clinics in 2013. For 2014, two clinics are being planned for April and September. Mary thanked everyone who made these clinics a success.

Chapter Historian

Mark Zurbrick reported that he and Joe Dillard continue to compile information on the chapter's history. Mark encouraged anyone who may have any chapter information, files, or photos (especially) to please send it along to Joe.

Jason Persinger addressed the issue of the Operations Manual. Jason said that the Operations Manual is long overdue for revision, and he will start working with Joe after his duties as president come to an end.

John Fantz mentioned that electronic file compatibility has been a problem over the years. The Operations Manual might be a good venue to publish a protocol to address this issue.

Continuing Education

Brad Farwell said that they had hosted three continuing education workshops in 2013. At the January 2014 Midwest Fish and Wildlife in Kansas City, two workshops were held. Dr. Jim Reynolds presented "Power-Based Standardization in Electrofishing" and Dr. Jeff Slipke presented "Exploring Fish Population Dynamics with Fisheries Analysis and Modeling Simulator (FAMS) Software." At the MNRC, a workshop entitled "Careers, Qualifications, and Interviewing" was held to provide students information on career options and pointers for a successful interview.

Each of these workshops were half-day events and provided \$1,450.00 for the chapter. XX participants attended the three workshops.

Finance

Mike Smith provided an explanation of the budget (attached table). At the time of the meeting, some funding was not included as carry over. Mike reminded members to buy pint glasses (\$6 each and \$20 for a set of four) and raffle tickets, the majority of which had yet to be sold. Expenses include raffle tickets, a proposed calendar raffle (up to \$13,000 outlay), committee expenses, awards, postage, student support, and the cost of pint glasses. Income was still pending and was dependent on the success of selling raffle tickets, and the pending tally for membership dues. The silent auction at the MFWFC made \$315.00.

The chapter had a slight deficit spending in 2013, but if the proposed fund raisers are successful, we should be in good financial standing for 2014.

John Fantz wanted Mike to tell the membership present how many raffle tickets still needed to be sold (answer: roughly 300 of the 400 tickets still haven't sold).

A motion was made to approve the budget and seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Campbell-Allison presented an overview of the Chapter's current finances. Although the budget showed a deficit of \$7,198.75 there is a lot of income and a few expenses pending. See attached Treasurer's Report.

There was a surplus of funds in the Student Support Trust Fund. A total of \$2,100 was deposited into the SSTF from 2013 MNRC raffle ticket sales. It was decided to dedicate these raffle ticket proceeds to the SSTF because interest rates for the past several years have yielded such low dividends.

Information Technology

John Fantz reported that he and Kat Lackman are currently working to rebuild the MoAFS website. The new voting system used in 2013 was well received by those in charge of tallying votes for ExComm officers. A free version of Survey Monkey was used, but this version allows only 100 data points and 99 were used in the most recent election. The chapter will need to consider buying a version, either a \$400/year or \$800/year package. Going with an annual fee is less expensive than buying a year month-to-month.

Mike Siepker suggested that we may be able to pay for only the months in which the program is needed, for example during elections or the forthcoming chapter membership survey.

John said that he would contact the North Central Division for additional guidance.

Membership

Mike Siepker provided the Membership Committee report. At the end of 2013, the MoAFS membership totaled 192, which is down from 278 in 2012. The 278 number included the student subunits, so it is possible that he has not received a complete reporting of members at this time. There were 139 non-student members in 2011, 185 in 2012, and 159 in 2012.

More members paid through AFS in 2013 than in years past.

The chapter presently has 53 lifetime members.

Mike mentioned that in order to successfully implement the membership survey he is working on, the free version of Survey Monkey will be insufficient.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns

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Mark Zurbrick reported that there are 12 bills in the Missouri House and Senate related to aquatic resources (also see the attached report).

- 3 bills related to the right to hunt and fish. Any one of these might pass, but there are a lot of hurdles to overcome.
- 3 bills related to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Management Plan.
- 1 bill to allow full time students to purchase resident hunting and fishing permits.
- 1 bill that would change the make up of the Conservation Commission.
- 2 bills related to waste water discharge permits.
- 1 bill regarding groundwater monitoring.
- 1 bill that would prevent MDC from enforcing blue catfish length limits if the person found in violation is going to use the fish for human consumption. The significant ramification of this bill is that it would threaten the constitutional authority of MDC.

Mark brought up the fact that AFS has an advocacy policy, as does MoAFS, but the chapter's policy is old. The chapter used to advocate via the writing of resolutions through a Resolutions Committee, but in recent years advocacy has fallen to the Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee chair and advocacy letters have gone out under the signature of the chapter president. Mark suggested that the policy needs to be revised such that advocacy is not limited to only the president and ExComm and that Survey Monkey might be a good tool to engage the membership on important issues that would benefit from MoAFS input. Mark asked if an advocacy policy might be something that could be included in the new Operations Manual.

Craig Paukert noted that AFS is presently updating its advocacy policy and that perhaps we could wait until they finalize theirs so that the chapter could use it as a guide.

MNRC Steering Committee

Clint Hale noted that the steering committee had made some changes to the 2014 MNRC. Attendance has been falling in recent years, and the committee is working to try to reverse the trend.

Clint is still working to get the \$40,000 owed to the MNRC by Acteva from a past conference. At one point Acteva offered to pay \$100/month until the balance was paid. The MNRC Steering Committee countered with Acteva signing an admission of guilt and paying \$1000/month. There has been no response yet from Acteva on that counter offer. The MNRC Committee had been working with a private attorney in an attempt to get the issue resolved, but will proceed at this point by working with the state of California's Attorney General. It was noted that Acteva currently owes approximately \$5 million to organizations across the country.

Regarding the MNRC 501(c)(3) status, they have sent the necessary documents to the attorneys three weeks ago. By next year's conference, the MNRC should officially be a non-profit organization.

Student Support

Jen Gironde reported the addition of a fourth student subunit with Southeast Missouri State University's charter being approved.

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The 2014 Student Support budget has approximately \$1,150 in interest, \$720 in rollover funds from 2013, and \$260 in raffle proceeds. A total of \$950 were spent on the awards listed below, which leaves about \$1,200 for the remainder of 2014. Unspent funds will be available for next year's budget.

Jen also outlined communication strategies maintained by the Student Support Committee. The MoAFS student support website is updated periodically, and a Facebook and emailing list is maintained for job announcements, conference reminders, etc.

Student Awards

- 2014 Duffy Travel Award: \$200 from MoAFS with a matching grant from NCD granted to Nick Sievert.
- 2014 Student Achievement Award: \$500 awarded to Ryan Hupfeld.
- \$400 was awarded to UCM to cover the costs of seven students to attend the MNRC.
- Membership dues to AFS and MoAFS will be given as an award to the Best Student Presentation Award winner.
- An additional award funded through the general budget was tied to hosting the Midwest F&W Conference. The Fenske Memorial Award (a \$500 award from a \$250 match to Michigan's \$250) was granted to Emily Pherigo. Emily is the first Missouri student to win this NCD award. In addition two Missouri students—Nick Sievert and Ryan Hupfeld—were selected as finalists for the Fenske Award.
- The Conservation Federation of Missouri Scholarships, as judged by Joe Dillard and Bob Distefano were granted as follows: Valerie Jones won the Ed Stegner Scholarship and Emily Pherigo won the Carl Morrow Scholarship.

Student Subunit Reports

- Missouri State University, Springfield: Zach Morris reported that the MSU subunit has 15 members and has been engaging in about one event per month. These events included taking students out to collect fish; an electrofishing outing is being planned for 2014.
- FASS/University of Missouri, Columbia: Josey Ridgway stated that FASS has been conducting Stream Team biomonitoring on Grindstone Creek in Columbia and a largemouth bass population study on a private pond. They hosted an Asian carp fish fry, and are researching the necessary course requirements for FASS members to become AFS Certified. FASS is planning a fishing tournament and other outreach programs.
- University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg: Brigid Cepauskas reported that the UCM subunit has participated in a bioblitz, a kids' fishing event, and an involvement fair at the UCM campus. The subunit also hosted the MoAFS September ExComm mid-year meeting, assisted in a paddlefish and crappie harvest at Blind Pony Fish Hatchery, hosted a fishing event at Hazel Creek Conservation Area. For the spring they are planning trout and goldfish hatchery tours to compare their respective methods.

Newsletter

Jason Persinger noted that the December newsletter is now available for viewing on the MoAFS web site.

Publicity

Jason Persinger reported that sales of pint glasses and raffle tickets at the Midwest F&W Conference was disappointing, but they will be on sale through the duration of the MNRC.

Rivers and Streams

Eric Rahm reported that the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee hosted an Ecological Flows Workshop at the MNRC. The RSTC is in the planning stages for a meeting to take place in the summer of 2014; announcements will be sent out this spring. A copy of the RSTC report provided at the September ExComm meeting is attached.

Awards

Jason Persinger noted that there were no nominations received for the Citizen's Award this year. There were five Letters of Recognition presented:

- Clint Hale for his work on the MNRC Steering Committee
- The Brook Trout Evaluation Project (Wesley Swee, Ben Havens, Angie Volmert, Jamie Rizo, Jeff Koppelman, Kyle Case, Jenna Stiek, Larry McGalliger, Matthew E. Gompper, Jason Gargus, and Ryan Westcott) for their work in rainbow trout parasite mitigation in hatcheries.
- The Missouri Natural Resources Conference Steering Committee (Clint Hale, Tom Whelan, Andy Cornforth, Kathi Moore, Hope Dodd, Garret Albright, John Ackerson, Paul Spurgeon, Sheldon Mifflin, Kurt Hentschke, Brad Farwell, Rich Cook) for their extraordinary planning efforts for the 2014 MNRC.
- The National Fish Habitat Initiative Project (Mike Allen, Shane Bush, Andy Austin, and Chris Vitello) for their efforts to coordinate cooperative partnerships to fund fisheries habitat improvements in Table Rock Lake and incentive/education programs for landowners in the Table Rock Lake and James River watersheds.
- Southeast Sinkhole Tire Round-Up (April Perry, Brian Waldrop, Mike Reed, Jay Doty, Ben Weibrecht, Landon Perry, Chris Kennedy, Keith Cordell, Dennis Brooks, Bernie Arnold, Jason Crites, Paul Cieslewicz, Ray Henderson, and Dave Knuth) for their work removing approximately 1,000 pounds of waste tires from farms, conservation areas, streams, sinkholes, and ditches in southeast Missouri.

The winners of the A. Steven Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award (James Civiello) and the John L. Funk Award of Excellence (Marlyn Miller) were held until the MNRC awards banquet.

Election Results

Wes Swee provided the election results for President-elect and Treasurer. President-elect went to Amanda Rosenberger and Treasurer went to Hope Dodd.

Old Business

Regarding the Anniversary Banquet, Jason Persinger reminded people that the meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. The first shuttles will leave Tan-Tar-A at 3:15 p.m., and the program should end by 7:00 p.m. so that banquet attendees can get back to the resort in time for the awards banquet.

Vince Travnichek provided an update on the 2016 AFS meeting in Kansas City. The meeting will take place at the Kansas City Sheraton Hotel. Vince encouraged anyone who may be interested in serving on any committees or helping in any other capacity to contact him.

New Business

North Central Division 2014 Update

Vince Travnichek relayed that there is an effort underway to strengthen the relationship among AFS, the divisions, and the chapters. In response to the NCD membership survey, the division will seek to establish online continuing education offerings and enhance member connectedness via social media. There is a plan to review and update NCD bylaws, identify chairs for open committee seats, and determine whether to maintain the Great Lakes and Salmonid Technical Committees.

NCD leadership needs include members to serve on the Archives, Audit, and Continuing Education Committees as well as the Fish Culture, Genetics and Biodiversity, and Reservoirs Technical Committees. If interested in getting involved in AFS leadership, contact NCD President Phil Moy or any other NCD officer.

The Division is also seeking to find ways that AFS chapters and NCD can be more valuable and of greater use to students (e.g. meeting mentors, social media). Toward that goal, Vince has set a goal for himself to visit each of the four Missouri student subunits this year.

Services that the NCD can provide to the chapters include leadership conference calls twice a year, updating email list serves through the national office, and a review of policy statements. The chapters are encouraged to draw upon AFS resources when preparing policy statements, position papers, or issue comments. Copies of these documents should be sent to NCD.

AFS Money Management Options

Vince Travnichek provided this update for Doug Austen. AFS units (chapters, sections, and technical committees) can invest funds with the Bethesda office. This service is not designed for operating funds, but rather for funds such as Midwest F&W Conference proceeds. AFS investments are currently returning better yields than many other options; this past year AFS investments made 22% growth. It was noted that, although this strategy does come with similar risks as any mutual fund investment, AFS is currently managing \$4 million in assets.

Doug Austen, AFS Executive Secretary, is the contact for more information on this service.

Student Support Fundraiser

Andy Turner presented a plan to gain approval from the membership for a short-term fundraiser that would benefit the Student Support Trust Fund. The idea is to sell calendars for \$50 each that represent a 1 in 20 chance of winning a high-quality (\$300-\$800) fly rod or a guided fly fishing trip. It would be billed as a "Prize a Day in December." Under a best case scenario if all 620 calendars are sold, \$13,000 would be spent on 31 prizes. Under this scenario, the SSTF would stand to clear \$18,000, and the proceeds would be used in accordance with the terms of the fund.

The goal behind this fundraiser is to 1) get away from counting on raising money by selling to our own members, and 2) cater to people with an interest in aquatic resources who have more disposable income than most (e.g. fly fishers).

Andy has a verbal agreement with Feather-Craft in St. Louis, who will provide the fly rods to MoAFS at cost.

After presentation of the idea, Andy sought approval from the membership to spend some up-front money for such expenses as a booth at an Arkansas fly fishing clinic, advertisement flyers, and calendars.

Questions and suggestions from the membership after the presentation included:

- Will the \$13,000 all be spent up front? Andy's response was no, that prizes would be bought incrementally as calendars were sold.
- What is the worst case scenario? Response: not breaking even. However, the 12 volunteers on this project need to sell 260 calendars by November 2014 to break even.
- John Fantz recommended forming an official ad hoc committee with members who have verbally committed to participate in the project. These committee members would then be entered into the official record for accountability purposes. Andy responded that this would not be necessary since he has the utmost confidence in his group's ability to succeed in this fundraiser.
- Darren Thornhill put forth a plan that would prevent a statistically-unlikely (but possible) scenario of giving away more money in prizes than what was taken in.
- It was suggested that businesses might be more interested in contributing to the cause if they were listed as sponsors when the scholarships made possible through this effort were awarded.

Discussion ultimately stopped when several members called for a motion to be made and voted on. The motion was made to proceed with this fundraising plan with Darren Thornhill's proposed modifications. The motion was seconded. The "yea" votes outnumbered the "nays."

President's Final Comments

Jason made his closing comments and passed the gavel to Mike Smith.

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Officers

Mike Smith's first act was to present a certificate of appreciation to Jennifer Campbell-Allison as outgoing Treasurer and to Jason Persinger as outgoing President.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded and all in favor.