

MOAFS Annual Meeting
Wednesday February 8nd, 2023
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach, Missouri

Call to order – Quorum reached 86+ in attendance

Introductions and Welcome

Jacob Westhoff called the meeting to order and it was determined there was a quorum. Jacob acknowledged the current committee chairs and the past presidents and officers of MOAFS, the North Central Division (NCD), and the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Discussed survey results and recognized current Executive committee members in attendance.

Committee Reports

Anglers with Disabilities - Mary Scott was not in attendance. No report was given.

Chapter History – Vince T. gave an update, encouraged a new member to step into his place. Joe Dillard encouraged committee chairs to report activities to the historian.

Continuing Education Committee – Brad Farwell gave an update. Brad encouraged students to apply for grants from NCD. Discussion continued and it was asked of the group what thoughts or ideas on possible training or workshops? Spoke about Mo Aquaculture presentation he gave and trying to involve them in our group. Also, encouraging students to pursue private aquaculture opportunities.

Information Technology Committee – Kat Lackman stated we have access to the website now. Lots of updates to the web, etc.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee - Emily Tracy-Smith provided a report. The committee used bill tracking by Stream Teams United and CFM to watch bills related to water resources, aquatic life, or other natural resources within the state. Notable legislation in the current cycle includes bills concerning proposed CAFOS and changes in the use of ONSR lands regarding horses. To stay informed you can watch Join Stream Teams United mailing list: <https://www.streamteamsunited.org/> to receive “This week in #MOWater” and the “Legislative Lookout” Sign-Up for the Conservation Federation of Missouri’s NEW and improved Legislative Action Center <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/#/>

Other advocacy resources include:

Missouri Coalition of the Environment – <https://moenvironment.org/>

Missouri Rural Crisis Center – <https://morural.org/>

Great Rivers Environmental Law Center – <https://greatriverslaw.org/>

Sierra Club of Missouri – <https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri>

Newsletter – The newsletter is on the website and will be included into the summary document for the archives.

Membership – Jenna Stiek provided an update on membership; we currently have 300 active members. She encouraged everyone to pay your dues and update the appropriate information as needed.

MNRC Steering Committee – The members of the steering committee were recognized. This year the conference had over 650 registered. Next year is S.A.F. hosting conference. Blake is stepping away from committee duties, but a person is needed for 2026.

Publicity – Trish not in attendance, Joe M. provided update and the AFS booth auction and raffle expected to bring in over \$1,434. Terri Fike won 50/50 raffle this year.

Rivers and Streams – Tom Boersig provided an update to the group. The committee represented MOAFS at the Clean Water Day at the capital this past year. The 2023 date is April 18th. There was participation in Meramec River cleanup. Held annual meetings in Columbia, it went well.

Student Support Committee

Jen Gironde gave an update on recent happenings. Thank you for help with student subunits.

Poster Update

Eric Rahm gave an update and thanked the many people for help making posters come to life. Jacob, Kat, Bob, Chris, Kyle, Joe and many others. Fish publications book is coming but is still not done. MoAFS allocated \$3k for poster printing, etc. Project stayed on and under budget. We are already 50% on our way to the break-even point. Posters are on sale please encourage sales in your area.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Rice gave an overview of our fiscal situation in 2022. This year was a good year for our accounts no major news to report. We did have some changes on our investment accounts due to the market. Detailed account balances and budgets can be found in the Treasurer's Report.

Finance Committee

Tom Boersig began the discussion and gave an overview of the proposed 2023 budget for discussion. He outlined chapter income and foreseeable expenses in the coming year. There was discussion about student and early professional committee needs. Fish poster sales should help us gain \$1k over the course of the year. Mike made and motion to accept budget as presented, Travis second.

Tom discussed increasing supporting member recognition, support partner organizations, support students and young professionals as we move forward in the next year.

Jen Gironde gave presentation on SSTF budget. Same as last year, there were no questions from the group.

? made a motion to accept, Kat gave second. Motion passed.

Awards (see highlights at end of report)

Jacob and Jen Girondo presented some student awards for those in attendance.

Student Awards

Joe G. Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship – seeks to support up-and-coming aquatics professionals during their undergraduate studies in Missouri

Winner – Tara Snelding

Duffy Memorial (Mid-West Fish & Wildlife Conference) Travel Award – The Missouri Chapter and North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society sponsors a travel grant to the annual North Central Division fisheries meeting in conjunction with the Mid-West Fish & Wildlife Conference. The grant covers up to \$200.00 for travel expenses and registration.

Winner - Anna Raney

Student Achievement Award - recognizes combined excellence in academic achievement and extra-curricular involvement in the fisheries or aquatics field by a student attending a Missouri college or university.

Winner – Hadley Boehm

Student Platform Award

Winner - Hadley Boehm

Poster Award Winners --- It was a tie.

Emily Ellingsworth? Derek Ludwig?

Short update from Student Subgroups in attendance.

Short update on scholarship support.

Jacob then made presentation as he passed the gavel to Tom as our new president. Tom gave a brief acceptance speech before announcing chapter election results:

2023 President Elect – Ben Havens

2023 Secretary – Kat Lackman

Committee Members

2023 President – Tom Boersig

2023 Treasurer – Chris Rice

Outgoing President – Jacob Westhoff

Outgoing Treasurer – Joe McMullen

Outgoing Secretary – Ben Havens

Tom thanked EXCOM and committee members for their continued work with MOAFS.

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

Chapter Awards

John L. Funk Award of Excellence - Originally named the Award of Excellence, it was renamed to honor Slim Funk, the founder of the Missouri Chapter, for his professionalism and commitment to Missouri aquatic resources. The recipient of this award is recognized for their professionalism and their long-term contributions to the aquatic resources of Missouri.

Winner:

The A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award - This award was created to honor A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. for his long-term and outstanding leadership to the Missouri Chapter and Missouri's aquatic resources. The recipient of this award is recognized for their leadership qualities which continue the leadership standards Steve established.

Winner:

Lee Redmond Citizen's Award - This award is given to persons not directly employed in the aquatic field who make a substantial contribution to Missouri's aquatic resource.

Winner:

Letter of Recognition - A letter of recognition is given to an aquatic professional, a citizen, or a group to acknowledge one-time or short-term contributions that may not be covered by the other awards.

MO Natural Resources Conference