

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

**June 28, 2011**

**RUNGE NATURE CENTER, JEFFERSON CITY, MO**

**Attendees:**

President Travis Moore	Treasurer Jason Persinger	Jennifer Girondo
Secretary Melissa Scheperle	Past President Darren Thornhill	Hope Dodd
Kenda Flores	Andrew Branson	Mike Siepker
John Fantz		

**Introductions and Welcome:**

President Travis Moore welcomed everyone at 10:35am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Travis asked committee members to report:

1. Who are the committee members?
2. Has there been recent activity
3. What are the plans for the year
4. What help do you need
  - a. From Travis
  - b. From others

**Treasurers Report:**

Jason covered the AFS finances. He is trying to implement what we discussed in February. The finances are not as bad as he originally thought. He is still trying to be conservative with money but asked that if someone needs something to just ask.

The treasurer's report covered what we currently have in checking which has increased from the start of the year because income has come in but expenses are not all out.

The students support account is doing ok. The shared certificate on the spreadsheet that does not have numbers associated with it is because Jason hasn't purchased this one yet. Currently, it is still in a money market account because the interest rates are better than the certificate rates. Jason may rethink these down the line since the money market interest rates are generally still better than the certificate rates. We spent the \$500 for the achievement award this year and we still have \$500 to spend out of the trust fund. Next year the projected income is \$1100 and \$600 is already there.

Regarding the budget, AFS brought in under \$2800 income – the goal was \$3000. Some of the miscellaneous income also came in. We had more life memberships come in. Not much is going out right now. We have not paid the Federation membership yet but plan to and the Hooked on Fly Fishing program is not going on anymore so we have that money available.

Jason has the totals from the MNRC for 2011 in what was spent and what was received if anyone wants to see it.

**Past President and Nominations Report:**

Darren has nothing to report yet. He is still thinking about who to contact to run for treasurer and President Elect. He will start working on this in September.

Travis asked what the timing is to have nominations out. Darren said we put those out in December and vote on them in December/January.

Darren said he will need some help when the awards time comes but for now he doesn't need anything.

**Awards Report:**

Kenda wants to have the awards that were to be presented at the 2011 MNRC meeting presented at the 2012 meeting since it didn't occur.

Darren and Kenda both think that all our awards should be presented at the AFS business meeting rather than some at the dessert banquet and some at the business meeting. If they are repeated at the dessert banquet, that is ok. Both happen on Thursday and there wouldn't be a big difference in time.

Darren will present the awards. There was some discussion as to why the Past President gets to present the awards instead of the awards committee chair. The committee chair does all the work and basically hands the information to the Past President. More discussion will be had when the time comes regarding who will present the awards.

John also suggested that the tradition of gavel handing to the new President and plague handing to the past President also be re-worked.

**Anglers with Disabilities Report:**

Mary Scott's report was submitted to Travis ahead of time. She needs help in the form of bodies to get a new annual event going at the trout parks. This will only happen if she gets help. Travis asked if anyone was interested to notify Mary.

Jason asked if we should use the Hooked on Fly Fishing money for the trout parks event.

Travis wants to keep that in reserve. Mary needs bodies more than money. Travis wants to expand these types of activities if we have the money.

Kenda commented that there are others who put on disabled fishing events. Who are those folks? Agents, other MDC events, etc. that we could tie into.

**IT Report:**

**Newsletter /Website**

Joe and Andrew accumulate the material and they both look through it and post.

Andrew says it has been a learning process and he has ideas on how to change the look of the website.

John says Cat Lackman is joining AFS and the IT committee. She is very good at computers/software/etc. The budget is tight and we need to replace the software on the laptops. Software will run about \$350 and we'll need to buy multiple licenses.

The look of the website needs to be changed and John is waiting for Cat to come on because she will rebuild it on her computer. The host hasn't sent us a bill for the website for 3 years. The website was recently down for 48 hours and John spoke to the host contact. He was assured that the host would not send us a bill for multiple years when the issue comes up.

The AFS domain name is due next year (approx. \$70 for 3 years).

Travis asked who he should be sending information to for posting on the site.

John said there isn't a good way to make these decisions but right now if it is something to go out to the email list send to him, information to be posted on the website sent to Andrew.

Travis noted that Joe's Newsletter received an "ATTABOY" from the Division Chief at MDC. The next Newsletter will be in December. We'll have a meeting before then to cover some things for the Newsletter.

John noted that we need to remember to bring a camera to events and take pictures for the newsletter.

#### **Legislative and Environmental Concerns:**

Travis covered Mark's report. See the attached documentation. Travis mentioned that Senator Munzlinger (NE Missouri) has been the main supporter of handfishing and several other bills of interest to MOAFS. Travis is hesitant to talk to him as an AFS President, but is concerned that will see him as representing MDC. Mark has done a really good job at keeping on top of topics that interest AFS.

Darren suggested that trophy cat fishing is growing in popularity and perhaps we are missing an opportunity to enlist the help of these folks.

Travis noted that the Conservation Federation Membership (CFM) helps by gathering support but he doesn't know if there is a catfish group in CFM.

Darren said that Matt Matheney's friend is heavily involved in catfish and used to work for MDC. He will talk to Matt about talking to him for a local contact.

#### **Membership Report:**

Mike reported that approximately 157 members were reported to us from the parent society. Compared to last year, 72 haven't renewed their membership. This is likely due to the MNRC weather issue. A reminder about paying dues was put in the newsletter.

Travis asked for opinions on the Lifetime Membership cost and whether we should increase it like the yearly membership.

Mike thought we should double it as well. Lots of options were discussed including incrementally raising it or raising it all at once. It was decided that the lifetime memberships shouldn't be used as fundraising due to their one time revenue. After much discussion, the lifetime membership will raise to \$200 from

\$100 the day after MNRC 2012. Darren made the motion to accept, Jason seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Yearly dues on January 1, 2012 will raise to \$10 and lifetime membership will be raised to \$200 the day after MNRC 2012.

John wants to see our membership double. Mike is planning on putting out a survey and maybe a subunit could be formed to handle a membership drive.

Travis reiterated that we need to have more people on each committee. Each committee's task is to find another person and ask for help. Maybe a reminder email should be sent to folks that haven't paid their dues this year.

There was general discussion regarding email traffic on whether multiple messages should be in one email or send multiple emails. The general sentiment was to send multiple emails with very specific subject lines.

Mike asked Darren if we applied for the Parent Society Chapter of the Year. Darren said he missed the date. He thought it was in mid-May sometime. John suggested that Joe Dillard should put that together for next year. Darren said we can still apply for the Midwest one if they notify us of the due date.

#### **MNRC Steering Report:**

Travis spoke about the email he sent earlier in the year regarding the MNRC MOU. He is working with Ted Seiler and made his concerns known. Ted talked about adding wording in the operations manual to cover these issues and that the manual needed updating. When Travis talked about Forestry overspending, Ted said that was taken care of in the operations manual. Kenda suggested that the operations manual be put on the MNRC website. Travis said he hasn't seen it yet and will not sign anything without seeing it and it having been updated. Jason said other society members have no idea what is going on.

*Addendum: Ted stopped by to visit with Travis several days after the MOAFS Board meeting and stated that he is still working to update the Operations Manual. He expects something later this summer.*

Hope said she is the program chair for MNRC. Clint has filled all program positions and needs ideas for plenary speakers and others.

#### **Publicity Report**

John is trying to find a new vendor for the t-shirts. Originally they were for publicity and not a money-maker. Now he is thinking maybe they can get the shirts through a different vendor cheaper and maybe make some money from sales. He will post the t-shirt information on the website when a new vendor is found.

#### **Rivers and Streams Report:**

Travis covered Mary Culler's notes (see attached).

#### **Student Support Report:**

Jen said there is currently not a lot of activity and she is just coming off maternity leave. There is \$500 for the scholarship next year and the folks on the selection committee have agreed to stay on the

committee. On the selection committee are Tracy Hill, Mark VanPatten, and Mike Gossett. On the Trust Fund Steering Committee are Mike Siepker, Bob DiStefano, Nate Gosch, Mary Culler and Mike Smith.

Subunits – UMC is up and going and sending folks to MNRC on their own budget. MSU (MSU Fisheries Society) has a problem keeping students engaged. Suggestions included a new faculty advisor or an AFS member to visit in the fall. The faculty advisor may not be changeable depending on how the society bylaws were written. Hope will look into helping the group out. Jen has contacted SEMO, MO Western and others and had no real interest.

Jen forwards AFS information to subunits and sends specific emails to subunits particularly for job opportunities. Should she continue doing this or is there a desire to send these job opps to all AFS members?

John suggested that we could send those out to all AFS members and at the next meeting ask if anyone minds.

Jen asked if others within AFS had a desire to look into money market or interest issues whether that was ok with the Treasurer. Jason and Travis did not have a problem with this. There are access issues and reasons we haven't ventured away from the CU.

**Future Fundraising:**

Host AFS nationally...others?

Jen suggested that student subunits have asked for workshops.

Mike suggested have a smaller conference.

Travis suggested hosting a workshop at MNRC or at the Midwest Conference. This is a good fundraiser usually.

The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference is in 2014. If we want to do a workshop at this event we need to be working on it now. Rich Cook will know who the chair is for this event.

John asked Jen about student representatives attending the AFS meetings. Travis said he didn't send the invite to the students because of short timing. He would like to invite them to the next meeting.

John suggested an early fall meeting to plan MNRC and get students involved. Travis agreed and could potentially set it up at one of the universities. John suggested we could rotate one meeting a year at different schools and this may make a difference in MNRC attendance. Jen asked whether evenings for meetings could be considered. This works better for student attendance. Travis suggested a late afternoon meeting with students invited to attend the second half. Other students from other areas of the state could be invited to ride along to meetings.

Conversation turned back to fundraising and the potential of getting catfish groups not only involved in AFS but in tournament events. John will call Greg Pitchford to discuss. Mike volunteered to talk to the Illinois folks who put together the 100% Bass research tournament each year. John suggested that Mark VanPatten is good at fundraising and it might be beneficial to involve him. Involvement with catfish

groups would not only help on fundraising but also give AFS more political leverage. Greg Stoner was brought up as a contact to work with these folks and tournaments.

A potential option for a catfish tournament would be to partner with the Cameron Knights of Columbus. They donate funds to MOAFS's Disabled Angler Committee every year. St. Joseph is nearby and a popular place for catfish tournaments. Maybe we could partner with an existing tournament and sponsor a second day.

**Continuing Education/Potential Workshops:**

Hope suggested a survey of AFS members for ideas.

Mike said Craig Paukert's wife was putting together a GIS workshop at the parent society meeting.

Travis tasked everyone to go home and talk to others about workshop ideas.

Some ideas thrown out were fish id, statistics, fish stats in excel workshop given at the southern division, aquatic plant id, age & growth, mussel id, applicable laws, crayfish id, etc.

John said continuing education credits were available and is easily set up if we have enough interest.

Travis suggested late September for the next meeting. He will send out an email asking for available dates. On a separate note, Wes went to Arizona on the fishing trip (raffle) and had a really good time. It looks like the chance of doing it again next year was good.

Darren made a motion to end the meeting. Kenda seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm