

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

**MISSOURI NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE—VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

Attendees

Eric Rahm, President	Craig Fuller	Rory Mott
Andy Turner, Past President	Craig Paukert	Emily Tracy-Smith
Kyle Winders, President- Elect	Dave Michaelson	Brandon Brooke
Joe McMullen, Treasurer	Duane Chapman	Tom Boersig
Brandon Baumhoer, Secretary	Doug Novinger	
Jen Girondo	Elisa Edge	
Matt Matheney	Hunter Weidenborner	
Blake Stephens	Jacob Westhoff	
Mary Culler	Austin Mueller	
Brian Waldrop	Ben Havens	
Trish Yasger	Travis Moore	
Joe Chilton	Jennifer Campbell	
Alex Prentice	Dan Metcalf	
Kiah Wright	Samantha Holcomb	
Angie Corson	Mary Scott	
Michael Moore	Jeff Williams	
John Brant	Kat Lackman	
Caleb Knerr	Chris Brooke	
Sherry Fischer	Michael Allen	
Jenna Stiek	Katrina Knott	
Paul Blanchard	Mark Zurbrick	
Chris Riggert	Nathan Recktenwald	
Chris Rice	Bill Brant	
Laura Ruman	Vince Travnichek	
Clint Hale	Jodi Whittier	
Amy Meier	Kathi Moore	
	April Sevy	

Introductions and Welcome

Eric Rahm called the meeting to order at 1433h and it was determined there was a quorum. Eric acknowledged the current committee chairs and the past presidents and officers of MOAFS, the North Central Division (NCD), and the American Fisheries Society (AFS).

Eric briefly spoke about the various struggles 2020 presented MOAFS, and then acknowledged the EXCOM for their continued work during these unusual times. Lastly, Eric announced that any membership contact him if interested in providing comments for the AFS Freshwater Policy relative to climate change.

Anglers with Disabilities Committee

Mary Scott reported that there will be no April event, but she remains hopeful the Rolla lion's club event will take place in September.

Continuing Education Committee

Brad Farwell provided the following report on the continuing education committee:

MOAFS has been involved with the parent society trying to figure out how to have access to online classes, webinars, and a database of prerecorded trainings but nothing has been finalized at this time.

Brad has continued to serve on the North Central AFS continuing education committee and helped with a few online events. Local trainings and webinars have been limited, however, we are open to anyone who has ideas for improvement.

History Committee

Eric Rahm provided the following report:

Thanks to the dedication of MOAFS Lifetime Member, Joe G. Dillard, all of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MOAFS) records for its first 56 years have been transfer to the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) for safe keeping. A whopping 9.5 cubic feet, and 6 computer discs, 1 video cassette! Records of the organization include correspondence, minutes, conference materials, newsletters, reports, manuals, and miscellaneous material.

Information Technology Committee

Kat Lackman provided the following report for the Information Technology Committee:

The MOAFS Constant Contact email system has continued to allow us to more easily update our membership. In 2020, we sent out 46 email notices to the membership. This year we also implemented the use of Google Forms for the election process. This was primarily implemented to avoid the submission restriction on the free version of Survey Monkey.

The Committee would like to make the membership aware that we are in need of updating our web service. Our server has become out dated and is on not a "secured" website (http as opposed to https) and I would like to work with our server contact to update that and I am unsure of the

cost of this at this time. The webserver has basically been the same since it was originally set up and it just recently came to my attention we were “unsecured”. The primary reason for securing website are if you have any type of form data collected from it such as our Membership Form, these forms can be more easily be accessed by hackers and the information entered into them stolen.

Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee

Emily Tracy-Smith provided the following report.

Legislative Session started January 8, 2020 and suspended due to coronavirus March 12, reconvened April 7-8 and suspended again. Adjourned May 15, 2020.

The committee used bill tracking by Stream Teams United and CFM to watch over 100 bills related to water resources, aquatic life, or other natural resources within the state. Most of the bills that made any movement that we were watching were relating to wildlife & conservation, flooding, and the environment. A few notable bills include Missouri House Joint Resolution (HJR 100) by Representative Robert Ross. This bill would damage the Missouri Department of Conservation, because it would change the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), and give legislature power to oversee MDC. MDC was set up in 1936 as an independent, science-based agency constitutionally protected from political meddling – this would let legislators influence regulation and oversight of our state resources. Luckily, nearly 100 people packed the House hearing to stand and represent conservation in Missouri to oppose this resolution. The committee thanks all those that participated, called or emailed their representatives.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, many organizations including the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Missouri Parks Association, Stream Teams United, and Missouri Coalition for the Environment opposed legislation that would force the sale of the newly acquired Eleven Point State Park that has 6 miles of stream frontage on the Eleven Point River, Missouri’s only river with federal Wild and Scenic designation. Proposed legislation (HB 2535) would force the sale of this newly acquired state park which includes 4,200 acres in Oregon County. In late September, 2020 Oregon County judge ruled the state of Missouri must sell 625 acres, which is part of the state park that falls within the Wild and Scenic River easement. Then in October, the Missouri Attorney General filed an appeal to Oregon County judges recent ruling.

Missouri lawmakers began pre-filing legislation on December 1, 2020 for the 2021 legislative session. The session will go from January 6 and end on May 14th. So far 1,539 bills have been reviewed by Stream Teams United, which we use for our review of current legislation. The committee is currently tracking bills related to the environment, water quality, conservation, conservation authority and local authority. In general, because of Covid, most bills are moving slowly through the legislative process. A few bills of note are HB 227, which repeals the prohibition against political subdivisions imposing any ban, fee, or tax on the use of paper or plastic bags. This bill is really about returning authority to local governments to decide regulations. HB 574 and SB 254 restricts the inspection of grounds or facilities used for certain agricultural purposes. The concerns with these bills are related to concentrated agriculture feeding operations (CAFOs) and that it could make it more difficult for local health authorities to inspect CAFOs. HB 54 establishes the "Protection of Missouri Farms and Private Property Act", which specifies that no person or entity shall have standing to sue or intervene in any manner in a

civil action on behalf of nature or the ecosystem. Any plaintiff bringing a civil action must be human and not represent nonhuman entities, it established that nature or the ecosystem does not have standing to bring a civil action. HB 862 modifies the membership of the Clean Water Commission (similar bills to this have been submitted for the last 3-4 years). Currently, at least two members of the Missouri Clean Water Commission must be knowledgeable about the needs of agriculture, industry, or mining, and not more than four members must represent the public. This bill modifies the composition of the Missouri Clean Water Commission so that two members must be knowledgeable about the needs of agriculture, industry, or mining, and four members must represent the public. HJR 38 and HJR 23, titled the “right to hunt and fish” puts hunting and fishing ahead of all other conservation goals. Also, the US Congress SB 500 and HB 1225, to Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act which would provide funding for infrastructure for National Parks, which could include national forests, refuges and BLM lands.

Advocacy resources our committee uses include the Stream Teams United Legislative Lookout. We highly recommend the MOAFS membership to check out <https://www.streamteamsunited.org/2021-legislative-lookout.html>

This is a new software platform that STU is using that is really streamlining keeping up with the progress and movement of bills and up-to-date information. Another way for MOAFS membership to keep up to date is by signing up for the STU weekly newsletter, “This week in #MOwater” see: streamteamsunited.org

We also encourage MOAFS members to sign up for the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) Legislative Action Center: <https://www.confedmo.org/lac/#/>

Through this platform, CFM will send out alerts about any federal or state bills that need immediate action. 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>

We will be watching for action items related to this a new initiative on the Mississippi River: The Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI). Based on the highly successful Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the MRRRI directs EPA to work with federal, tribal, state, and local entities to improve the health of the Mississippi’s water and ecosystems, increase its resilience to natural disasters, and more. The MRRRI would create the framework, focus, and critical coordination needed to reverse the decline of the vitally important Mississippi River. Restoration and resilience projects along the Mississippi River will invest in research and voluntary efforts (non-regulatory), with priorities of concern including; clean water, natural infrastructure and delta restoration, river corridor habitat and invasive species. The CFM, along with the Mississippi River Network, Friends of the Mississippi River, and National Wildlife Federation amongst many others, is playing a role in envisioning and educating people about MRRRI.

MDC proposed regulation changes for more uses of grass carp and common carp, including being used as live bait. The new regulation proposes:

- Remove common carp and grass carp from the definition of invasive fish.

- Reestablish the sport seasons, methods and limits for taking common carp and grass carp, and allow their use as live bait.
- Reestablish the commercial fishing seasons, methods and limits for taking common carp and grass carp in certain streams, and establish restrictions on the use of commercial fishing gear used to catch them.
- Authorize the sale of common carp and grass carp to commercial establishments by contractors participating in an MDC-contracted invasive fish removal project.

Grass carp and common carp are currently listed as invasive fish species in Missouri, along with bighead, black and silver carp. These invasive species pose threats to Missouri aquatic ecosystems by outcompeting native species and damaging water quality and habitat, according to MDC. The proposed regulation changes would not apply to bighead and silver carp.

March 2-31 is the Public Comment Period. MDC will then review all comments received and present a final proposal for a final vote by the Conservation Commission during its May 21 public meeting. See article here: <https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-proposes-regulation-changes-more-uses-grass-carp-and-common-carp-including-live-bait>

We will review the proposed regulation in detail once released, and evaluate what the potential impacts might be and submit a comment letter on behalf of MOAFS during the public comment period. For more information, or if you wish to be involved in this conversation, please contact: tracysmithe@missouri.edu

Save the date for Clean Water Day at the Capitol, Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at the south lawn of the Missouri State Capitol Building. Hosted by Stream Teams United.

Ways to stay informed:

- Update your MOAFS membership information to receive important advocacy issue alerts: <http://moafs.org/membership-update-form.html>
- 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/#/>

Newsletter Committee

Emily Tracy-Smith recognized Dan Metcalf for his continued involvement with the newsletter. She also reported the newsletter publication was slowed by covid-19, but has recently been posted on the MOAFS website. Emily also mentioned, the committee will begin producing one newsletter a year capturing everything the society has accomplished for that year.

Membership Committee

Jenna Stiek provided the following statistics on membership.

- 18 members have not paid dues
- One new lifetime member, now 58 total lifetime memberships
- 32 MOAFS members have not paid parent society dues

MNRC Steering Committee

Blake Stephens provided the following report:

2021 Conference: The conference theme this year, “*Natural Resource Conservation in a 5G World*” is very appropriate for the first ever virtual MNRC. Navigating this format has provided both unique opportunities and challenges, and the committee is grateful to those that have chosen to “gather” virtually with us this year. Hopefully many of the conference attendees have taken advantage of networking opportunities through the live poster and exhibit sessions over the last two days. We know this format is not ideal, but hope meaningful communication and collaboration has continued to happen through this year’s conference. The last day of the conference (tomorrow) provides an opportunity to hear from conservation leaders across the state in a panel discussion, listen in on another concurrent session of contributed paper presentations (including a session with a fisheries focus), and participate in the student job fair and career expo. Please make the most out of the remaining opportunities that the conference offers and engage in these events.

As of January 28th, at 8:30am, total registration for the conference was 420 attendees. Total registration/attendance is down from the last 3 years where registration numbers were between 750 and 825, but lower numbers (and lower revenue) were expected for this year.

2022 Conference: MOAFS is the hosting society for the 2022 MNRC and a full team of MOAFS members is ready to steward conference planning activities for next year. Tentative plans are to host an in-person conference again at Tan-Tar-A resort, but the planning committee will continue to consult state and federal guidelines to inform decision-making.

The theme for the 2022 conference is “*Contagious Conservation*”. This broad theme provides room for a plethora of technical fish, forest, wildlife and soil conservation topics as well as those focusing on promoting involvement in and appreciation for conservation-related activities. It is a timely theme as the global pandemic has impacted each of our lives including our research and work. If you are interested in helping the 2022 committee, please reach out to myself or one of the other committee members listed below.

The MNRC Steering Committee contact list can be found in Attachment 1.

Publicity Committee

No report at this time.

Rivers and Streams Committee

Tom Boersig provided the following report:

- Plans for the R&S Committee to participate with CFM’s Conservation Day at the Capitol, April 1 2020, had to be postponed as a result of the COVID pandemic.
- Coronavirus concerns halted efforts to put on the joint MOAFS/Wildlife Society student colloquium this fall, as well as an R&S Committee meeting.
- The Parent Society hosted a virtual stream cleanup in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, efforts were made to work with student Subunits to participate, but university COVID restrictions made planning difficult.
- But there were some silver linings:

- The Fish Community Response to Stream Flow Alterations in Missouri Streams-Final Report came out in July. It's the culmination of a five-year project designed to understand community responses to stream flow alteration.
 - Focused on the Grand River (NWMO) and Spring-Elk River (SWMO), due to proposed water development projects within both watersheds, the project provides important insight into how to protect the state's stream resources.
 - Highlights the need for additional work investigating flow-ecology relationships in Missouri streams.
 - I'd like to thank everyone involved- MDC Fisheries and Resource Science personnel, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit staff, and MU School of Natural Resources professionals for the hard work and professionalism they demonstrated in putting this together.
- Stream Teams United hosted a virtual stream advocacy workshop on January 28th, 2021. Thank you for putting this out.

Looking ahead

- Stream Teams United is organizing a "Clean Water Day" at the Capitol, slated for May 4, 2021. We've been working with Eric Rahm and Emily Tracy-Smith to staff a MOAFS booth, if anyone is interested, please contact me.
- 85th annual Conservation Federation of Missouri Annual Convention, March 1-6th (virtual).
- NCD Rivers and Streams Committee Meeting (details forthcoming)
- AFS Virtual stream cleanup may happen again this year
- Student outreach/workshops in conjunction with TWS/AFS student colloquium during autumn 2021.
- Potential for 2021 Rivers and Streams Committee meeting in late summer or autumn 2021 (COVID pending)

The Pitch

- Rivers and Streams Committee is open to any MOAFS members at any level- student, professional, or citizen.
- If you have any questions, thoughts, ideas, or would like to be added to the Rivers and Streams email list- feel free to contact me at Thomas.Boersig@mdc.mo.gov

Treasurer's Report

Joe McMullen announced that 2020 was a great financial year for MOAFS and the Student Support Trust Fund (SSTF). The general checking account started with \$23,248.19 and ended with \$23,941.76 for a profit of \$693.57 in 2020. The SSTF mutual fund started with 121,038.34 and ended with \$127,450.17 for a profit of \$6,411.83 in 2020. In total, MoAFS started 2020 with \$144,286.53 and ended the year at \$151,391.17 for a profit of \$7,104.64. Detailed account balances and budgets for the Treasurer's Report can be found in Attachment 2.

Finance Committee

Kyle Winders reported that the silent auction had raised \$397.50 during MNRC and bidding would continue until the final day of the conference. Kyle also presented the actual 2020 budget and the proposed 2021 budget. The 2021 proposed budget will be finalized and approved by the EXCOM at a later date, and can be found in attachment 3.

Award Presentation

MOAFS presented a letter of recognition to Mark Zurbrick for his guidance in revamping the SSTF investment strategy. His knowledge and expertise was instrumental in determining the most appropriate way to grow the student trust fund account.

MOAFS presented a letter of recognition to Mary Scott for her leadership in hosting disabled angler fishing events. Mary has provided the opportunity for thousands of disabled children to enjoy the outdoors while fishing. The NCD also presented Mary with the Fisheries Excellence Award to acknowledge her career in the fisheries profession.

The following awards were presented virtually:

- Lee Redmond Citizen's Award- Ron Moffet
- A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award- Travis Moore
- John L. Funk Award of Excellence - Mike Kruse

Student Award Presentations

Jen Girondo began by recognizing all student leaders that were present at the virtual annual meeting.

Jen then announced the recipients for the following awards.

- Student Achievement Award- Kiah Wright
- MNRC Best Student Aquatics Poster Award- Kiah Wright
- Joe G. Dillard Award- Bailey O'Brian
- MNRC Best Student Aquatics Presenter- Michael Moore

Lastly, Jen thanked everyone who has helped out with student support.

New Business

Eric Rahm asked membership if there was any new business to discuss; there was none. Eric encouraged people to join a committee and become more active in MOAFS. Lastly, Eric thanked all officers and committee members for their work throughout the year.

Eric then symbolically "passed" the gavel to incoming president Kyle Winders.

Kyle's first order of business was to thank the outgoing officers for their service Eric Rahm as outgoing President, and Brandon Baumhoer as outgoing Secretary.

Kyle then announced the MOAFS officer election results.

- Secretary- Ben Havens
- President Elect- Jacob Westhoff

- Kyle 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. The meeting adjourned at 1613h.

Attachments

1. MNRC Steering Committee Contacts, Blake Stephens
2. Treasurer Report, Joe McMullen
3. Finance Committee Report, Kyle Winders
4. Student Support Committee Budget, Jen Girondo

MNRC STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering committee chair: Blake Stephens 417-255-9561; blake.stephens@mdc.mo.gov

Treasurer: Kyle Winders 660-646-6122; kyle.winders@mdc.mo.gov

Registration: Nathan Recktenwald 417-255-9561; nathan.recktenwald@mdc.mo.gov

Arrangements: Samantha Holcomb 573-346-2210; samantha.holcomb@mdc.mo.gov

Program: Rick Horton 417-451-4158; rick.horton@mdc.mo.gov

Exhibits/Sponsors: Jeff Williams 417-836-5313; jmwilliams@missouristate.edu

Social: Mike Allen: 417-876-5792; mike.allen@mdc.mo.gov

Visual Aids/Equipment: Eric Rahm 660-530-5782; eric.rahm@mdc.mo.gov

Web: Kat Lackman 573-751-4115; kat.lackman@mdc.mo.gov

Student Job Fair: April Sevy 573-751-4115; april.sevy@mdc.mo.gov

Workshops/Presentations: Doug Novinger 573-815-7901; doug.novinger@mdc.mo.gov

Publicity: John Ackerson 417-255-9561; john.ackerson@mdc.mo.gov

MOAFS 2020 General Checking Account Balance

Accounts	Balance 1 January	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest/ Dividends	Balance 31 December
Savings	\$8,586.85	\$53.25	\$0	\$25.94	\$8,666.04
Checking (Operations)	\$14,563.14	\$4,840.93	\$4,241.88	\$15.21	\$15,177.40
Checking (Special Projects)	\$98.20	\$0	\$0	\$0.12	\$98.32
Total	\$23,248.19	\$4,894.18	\$4,241.88	\$41.27	\$23,941.76

2020 Student Support Trust Fund Balance

Accounts	Balance 1 January	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest/ Dividends	Balance 31 December
Money Market	\$19,559.19	\$21,557.42	\$0	\$110.84	\$41,227.45
Checking	\$5360.75	\$7200.82	\$10,425.82	\$2.21	\$2,137.96
CD (6 Dec 2020)	\$13,031.83	\$0	\$13,213.71	\$181.88	\$0
CD (15 Nov 2021)	\$12,877.91	\$0	\$0	\$193.48	\$13,071.39
CD (3 May 2022)	\$12,826.89	\$0	\$0	\$222.67	\$13,049.56
CD (2 Dec 2023)	\$12,500.00	\$0	\$0	\$211.22	\$12,711.22
Total	\$76,156.57	\$28,758.24	\$23,639.53	\$922.30	\$82,197.58

2020 Account Balances Summary

Accounts	Balance 1 January	Balance 31 December
Chapter	\$23,248.19	\$23,941.76
Student Support Trust Fund (SSTF)	\$121,038.34	\$127,450.17
Total	\$144,286.53	\$151,391.17

MOAFS 2021 Budget

Income	2021 Budget
MNRC Outdoor Adventures Auction	\$0.00
MNRC 2020 Silent Auction	\$150.00
Membership dues	\$300.00
Lifetime Membership dues	\$0.00
Membership dues and rebates from National	\$500.00
Account dividends	\$50.00
Other income (donations)	\$0.00
CFM David Risberg Memorial Affiliate Grant	\$500.00
Total Income	\$1,500.00
Expenses	
MNRC Raffle and Supplies	\$0.00
Anglers with Disabilities - equipment, fish , tackle, etc.	\$500.00
2021 Chapter Awards	\$400.00
Annual Membership Appreciation Event- Operations	\$0.00
A.S. Weithman Best Paper Award contribution	\$75.00
Computer (Web hosting & software update)	\$1,500.00
Conservation Federation membership	\$300.00
Chapter Insurance	\$150.00
Postage, envelopes, stationary, printing, etc.	\$50.00
Missouri Conservation Federation Liaison (travel stipend)	\$250.00
Total Expenses	\$3,225.00
2021 Final	Budget
Income	\$1,500.00
Expenses	\$3,225.00
Net	\$1725.00

SSTF 2021 Budget

2020 Final	
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$3,870.00
Net	\$3,870.00
2021 Expenses	
Student Achievement Award (Grad) + AFS & Subunit Membership	\$530.00
MNRC Student Poster Award (MNRC reg, AFS & stud. unit memb)	\$230.00
MNRC Student Paper Award (MNRC reg, AFS & stud. unit memb)	\$230.00
Duffy Award (for Midwest)	\$0.00
2020 Student Colloquium contribution	\$400.00
J.G. Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate	\$2,530.00
Hutton Scholar Donation	\$250.00
Conference Travel Support	\$500.00
Total Expenses	\$4,670.00
2021 Final	Budget
Income	TBD
Expenses	\$4,670.00
Net	TBD