

**Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2013 Midyear Executive Committee Meeting  
20 September 2013**

Excom in attendance: President-Jason Persinger; President Elect-Mike Smith; Past President-Wes Swee; Treasurer-Jennifer Campbell-Allison; Secretary-Dave Michaelson.

Committee Chairs in attendance: Mark Zurbrick; John Fantz; Joe Dillard; Kat Lackman; Clint Hale; Brad Farwell; Andy Turner; Mike Siepker; Mary Scott; Vince Travnichek.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. with introductions and welcome at the Morris Science Building on the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg campus.

**Treasurer's Report--Jennifer Campbell-Allison**

The operations budget planned for an income of \$9,540.00 and expenses of \$10,570, for a net negative \$1,030. As of August 31, 2013, the chapter has accrued \$3,126.37 in income and has made \$1,977.74 in expenditures, for a net \$1,148.63. The remaining income for 2013 is anticipated to come from the 2014 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. Income derived from the 2014 Missouri Natural Resources Conference will be reflected in the 2014 budget.

For this year, \$500.00 for computers and \$250.00 for the student travel award will not be spent.

The Student Support Trust Fund accounts currently total \$102,551.19. Low certificate of deposit interest rates (<1.0%) continue to hinder income generation for the SSTF. The SSTF 2012 income was \$1,460.60 and 2013 expenses are budgeted at \$1,300.00. A total of \$540.00 has been spent, leaving \$760.00 available for the remainder of the year.

The current balance in the AFS Operations checking account is \$565.76, with \$7,685.79 in the AFS Operations savings account for a total of \$8,251.55 in AFS Operations.

Discussion:

- Mike Siepker inquired as to how we notify students when funding is available.
- The A. Stephen Weithman Award will be given in the amount of \$75.00 this year.
- The Duffy Award--we will seek applicants and award \$200.00 to \$250.00. The 2012 award was paid out of AFS Operations; in 2011 the Student Support Trust Fund was used.
- The Fenske Award--a \$500.00 student award for travel to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. AFS matches MoAFS's \$250.00 contribution. The Excom approved this expenditure.

-Additional expenses will include the booth and sponsorship at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference.

-Fundraising options suggested

- Fishing tournament: the Missouri Bass Federation is interested in working with the MoAFS on an event. They already offer scholarships.
- Corporate sponsorship: other state chapters receive funding from corporations such as Exxon.
- Golf tournament.
- Trivia night at the Midwest FWC.
- Suggested contacting Dave Murphy for fundraising ideas.
- Mike Smith is working on some fundraising ideas and suggested that we raffle items with broad appeal such as a flat screen television, a Kindle, sponsor a golf tournament, or a fishing tournament run as a postal match (e.g. see <http://compete.nra.org/nra-postal-matches.aspx>). Some modification/accommodation would be needed to adapt the approach, but could provide a unique tournament with broad participation. Also suggested that we might partner with students and do campus sales.

#### **Anglers with Disabilities--Mary Scott**

-The 12<sup>th</sup> annual "A Day at the Fishing Hole" will be Saturday, September 21.

-Plan to work with Clint Hale and the Wounded Warriors for another Anglers with Disabilities event.

-No new disabled angler equipment needed; batteries for John's Electric Reels will be rebuilt cheaper by the individual.

-Suggested adding a link to the website advertising disabled fishing.

#### **Nominations Committee--Wes Swee**

Nominations are due January 1, 2014. The chapter is looking for President and Treasurer nominees.

#### **Chapter Historian--Joe Dillard**

-Joe will collaborate with Mark Zurbrick on chapter history documentation.

-Noted that there is now no link to Chapter History on the MoAFS website.

-A suggestion was made to produce a hard copy of the chapter's history. Expenses associated with a nice book would cost roughly \$8.00 per copy for a 150-200 page book, although we may be able to get it down to about \$6.00 per copy.

-Will be sending letters out to find information after 1995. Names and addresses of all past offices for personal information on MoAFS from files. The goal is a November or December target.

-Needing more photos for the book

-The book's theme will be "50 Years of MoAFS." Will also include other aquatic-related milestones that have taken place in the State of Missouri.

-For the annual meeting celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, would like to have a laptop computer with a PowerPoint presentation to show the story of MoAFS. Vince Travnichek and Jason Persinger volunteered to help.

-Joe would like records moved to the Missouri State Archives when the book is completed.

-Asking the membership to send Joe any records that are MoAFS related.

### **Continuing Education--Andy Turner**

-Discussed continuing education workshops to be held at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference and the 2014 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference.

-Two workshops: 1)Power Based Standards by Jim Reynolds; and 2)Introduction to Population Modeling/Overview of Data Needs by Jeff Slipke. Both would be half-day workshops.

-Requested that the workshops be held back-to-back in the same room on a morning/afternoon schedule.

-Cost for attendees would be \$65.00/session or \$100.00 for both.

-With 20 attendees, we will break even; any additional attendance will generate funds to go to MoAFS.

-Will need \$1400.00 for Jim Reynolds, including plane ticket and lodging.

-Back up plan: Sunday noon to 6:00 p.m., but would not be able to do both workshops. With this plan, we would choose Jim Reynolds for the Midwest F&W Conference and Jeff Slipke for the MNRC.

-We have requested rooms to accommodate 60 people, but we are expecting 40.

-For the MNRC, suggested a free workshop for students prior to the job fair in which individuals employed in natural resources-type jobs give a short presentation on requirements and availability of jobs in their agency. Maybe do an "Introduction to Job Interviewing" presentation.

-Will need more people to look at resumes and will need separate rooms.

-Mike Smith recommended contacting Rich Meade regarding workshop content.

-Mark Zurbrick recommended contacting other state agencies as they may want to be aware of these possibilities.

-Andy Turner and Brad Farwell are waiting for approval of the workshops from the Midwest F&W Conference Committee to move forward.

-Registration for the Midwest is opened, but papers and workshops have not been approved.

### **Finance Committee--Mike Smith**

-Mike Smith presented a draft of the 2014 MoAFS budget.

- Fisheries Division budgeted for staff to attend both the MNRC and the MFWFC. The Missouri Department of Conservation accounts for 40% of the attendance.

-We need to change the way we raise money and investigate other options.

- We would need to have the membership vote should we change our investment approach.
- We must have a well thought-out direction.
- Form a subcommittee to investigate.
- Vince Travnichek will work with Jennifer Campbell-Allison and Mike Smith to investigate other fund raising options. Each will work independently and hold a conference call in one month so that each will go down a different path. Anyone with any ideas can send them to Jennifer, Jason, Mike, or Vince.

- Some potential investing funds include \$102,000.00. Certificates of deposit = \$25-\$75,000.
- We get requests for funding from other organizations. We will need a line item in the budget for outside funding requests.
- Vince Travnichек suggested that a 7.5% return on \$75,000 be a target.

#### **Information Technology--John Fantz and Kat Lackman**

-John Fantz is installing new software and is rebuilding the web site. The goal is to have a new version of the site before the annual meeting in 2014.

#### **Legislative and Environmental Concerns--Mark Zurbrick**

-Issues related to legislative and environmental concerns with respect to how advocacy is presently handled by the chapter (i.e., letters in writing from the MoAFS President).

-We need to re-examine: 1)Is the chapter going to do advocacy; 2)How should we do advocacy; and 3)How do we want to do advocacy?

-Mark Zurbrick stated that he is no longer comfortable asking the Chapter President to write letters or make statements to the legislature. He suggested that we go back to making resolutions on computer. John Fantz stated that more time is required with the new format and that older people tend not to be as comfortable with computers.

-We should investigate initiating a new policy to protect officers and MoAFS members and to have more separation from agencies such as MDC, DNR, COE, etc.

-Suggested that MoAFS advocate via non-governmental organizations or other avenues to get our opinions out on issues.

-In summary, where are we (MoAFS members) when it comes to advocacy? We need direction.

#### **Discussion:**

-The Chapter President needs guidance and we need to decide on when MoAFS goes to legislative hearings.

-Vince Travnichек suggested looking to the Operations Manual. It was deemed too out-of-date. Joe Dillard is currently trying to update the Operations/Procedures Manual, but needs someone to work with. He will send Jason Persinger information and the two will work together on an update and get it on the MoAFS website.

#### **Membership--Mike Siepker**

-For 2013 our membership includes a total of 167 members. Of those, 45 paid through the Chapter, 53 are lifetime members, and 54 paid through the Parent Society. We currently have 13 students, but that number may change because the revised mailing lists have not been sent out since the beginning of the school year.

-In 2012 our membership included 277 members. Of those, 70 paid through the chapter, 64 paid through the parent society, 53 were lifetime members, and 90 student members paid through their respective subunits.

-Mike Siepker has budgeted \$100.00 for a membership survey. The survey and mailing list is ready to release; it will be sent out sometime after the fisheries field season is finished and members have more time to respond.

### **Missouri Natural Resources Conference Steering Committee--Clint Hale**

-New developments for MNRC

- MNRC has taken over the web site, which previously had been contracted out. There have been over 10,000 hits since the web site went live.
- MNRC has signed with a different registration company and has discontinued business with Activa. Required building the new registration from scratch. Conference attendees will be able to pay through the web site.
- Lutz's BBQ will be catering the MNRC, serving a whole hog on site along with brisket. Drinks will also be changed, but the details are still pending.
- Will likely change the poorly-attended 5k fitness run to a washers tournament. Prizes to the winners may include a Kindle or an iPod Touch.

-Tan-Tar-A has made upgrades since last year.

-Jim Martin of the Berkley Institute and Doug Austen are the confirmed speakers.

-Activa owes \$40,000 to the MNRC in registration reimbursement. The MNRC is working with attorneys in multiple states in an effort to recoup the money owed.

-The 501(c)(3) non-profit status for the MNRC will be completed next year.

-Attendance: it is unknown whether having the Midwest F&W Conference so close to the MNRC will affect attendance. MDC Fisheries Division has agreed to pay for both conferences out of its budget. MNRC committees are meeting with some federal agency personnel as well as DNR-Parks; it is doubtful that Soils will be participating in the MNRC from this point forward due to budget problems. Losing Soils may not result in a substantial loss of attendance because they typically do not send a lot of people to the conference in years they are not hosting.

-There are preparations being made to do some You Tube videos with Jim Morris to help promote the MNRC.

### **Lunch and Meet with Students of University of Central Missouri**

-During a break in the meeting, pizzas were delivered and several graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Central Missouri introduced themselves and had an opportunity to speak to members of the MoAFS. Students discussed their majors and career ambitions.

-Brigid Cepauskas, UCM Student Chapter President, gave an update on the chapter's activities.

- They are planning to participate in a university involvement fair to increase membership and get to know one another.
- The student chapter held its first meeting approximately four weeks ago
- The chapter's first activity was to go fishing as a group to Hazel Hill to get to know one another.
- Future plans include attending a Water Quality Workshop through the Stream Team program.

-Jason Persinger reminded the students of the Student Support Fund, through which they can apply for funding. Travel awards are available, and \$500.00 scholarships are awarded at the MNRC.

-Joe Dillard added that the Conservation Federation of Missouri offers a \$1000.00 scholarship.

#### **Student Support--Jen Girondo**

-Jen Girondo sent a message along that there were no changes to present.

#### **Newsletter--Joe McMullen**

-Joe McMullen sent a message to remind members to get articles to him to be included in the next newsletter.

#### **Publicity--Trish Yasger**

-Nothing to present.

#### **Rivers and Streams Committee--Kyle Winders**

-The MoAFS Rivers and Streams Technical Committee summer meeting was held on July 31, 2013 at the Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City with 40 people in attendance.

-Presenters from the University of Missouri, Columbia and University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg provided updates on their current research related to river and stream resources. Presenters included:

- Brandye Freeland (UCM)--Impacts of invasive crayfish on macroinvertebrates in Ozark streams;
- Jacob Westhoff (U. of Mo.)--(1) A predictive temperature model for a thermally heterogeneous stream system, (2) Movement of riverine smallmouth bass in a thermally heterogeneous stream system;
- Nick Sievert (U. of Mo.)--Vulnerability, distribution, and conservation status of Missouri's stream fish;
- Emily Pherigo (U. of Mo.)--Seasonal fish community in the lower Osage and Gasconade rivers; and
- Alex Prentice (UCM)--Efficacy of orangespotted sunfish (*Lepomis humilis*) as spawning associates of the Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*).

-The business meeting focused on MNRC topic ideas, which included Fish Passage, Ecological Flow, Black River/Taum Sauk Case History; and Invasive Species. A Doodle Poll has been sent out to help choose a topic for the MNRC workshop.

-The MoAFS RSTC currently has 119 members on the committee's email group.

#### **Old Business**

-Midwest F&W Conference--to be a sponsor and get a booth will cost \$1000.00.

-Discussion regarding fundraising through the workshop (a raffle, perhaps).

#### MoAFS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting/Dinner

##### *Commemorative pint glasses discussion*

-It was noted that these types of glasses were sold at the Catfish Conference and they sold out very quickly at \$6.00/glass and \$20.00 for a set of four.

- Jason Persinger provided a copy of a cost list from one vendor. This particular vendor sells in multiples of 72 glasses per case. Must have at least one case for each design.
- Greg Stoner, Scott Faiman, and Amanda Rosenberger provided artistic designs for the glasses and each of the submitted designs was displayed at the meeting using a PowerPoint presentation.
- John Fantz recommended that we should choose one design from each of the artists so that all three (who are all MoAFS members) can be represented.
- Mark Zurbrick suggested that we choose a diversity of animal designs (game fish, non-game fish, and crayfish) to appeal to a wider audience.
- John Fantz pointed out that glasses might not sell as quickly at the Midwest F&W Conference if "MoAFS" is written on them.
- Vince Travnichek suggested that we give the glasses away to everyone at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner at no charge, but add \$5.00 (or some other figure) to the dinner registration. Choose one design for the dinner and give it away.
- Agreed to sell the glasses for \$6.00 each and \$20.00 for four at the Midwest F&W Conference. There will be four designs to choose from (design only, with no words).
- There will be a single design for the commemorative glasses to be given away at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner.
- A total of 17 designs were presented at the meeting from the three artists. Voting at the meeting resulted in the following selections: Greg Stoner's walleye; Scott Faiman's long pincered crayfish and Niangua darter; Amanda Rosenberger's paddlefish.
- It was decided to order 144 glasses of each design to sell at the Midwest F&W Conference.
- The commemorative glass design will have the MoAFS logo with the slogan "Still Hooked After 50 Years 1964-2014" surrounding it. We should be able to order the appropriate number of glasses once MNRC registration is completed.

#### *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting/Dinner Discussion*

- The anniversary meeting/dinner will be put on the MNRC registration form as an option for attendees.
- Vince Travnichek estimated that it will cost \$400.00 to rent the Osage Beach Lions Club, \$400.00 to hire transportation from Tan-Tar-A to the Lions Club and back, roughly \$800.00 for alcoholic beverages (beer and wine). The event should break even with 80 attendees at \$25.00 each.
- There are roughly 35 people who have been members of MoAFS for 25 years or more. We would like to recognize those members with a gift such as a fishing spoon with a logo.
- An effort will be made to invite as many of the past retired MoAFS officers to the dinner.
- A lot of fishing spoons will be purchased that will be used to recognize notable guests and people other than 25-year members.
- There was some discussion regarding more significant gifts that could be given to the 50-year members. It was decided that a \$100.00 donation would be made in the name of Lee Redmond's and Joe Dillard's favorite charities or funds in lieu of a gift.

-A list also will need to be created that includes guests that we want to attend the celebration, but will not be required to pay (e.g. selected directors, distinguished retirees).

-To accommodate the timing of the anniversary celebration, the MoAFS business meeting will be on Wednesday this year before the mixer and the student meeting. During our usual business meeting time slot (Thursday 3-5 p.m.), people will be transported to the anniversary dinner. The dinner should be concluded in time for people to ride shuttles back to Tan-Tar-A to attend the awards banquet. Buses will leave the Lions Club at 7:30 p.m.

#### *2016 AFS Annual Meeting*

-Vince Travnicek reported that the venue for the 2016 AFS meeting has been chosen. The Kansas City Sheraton will provide accommodations for the meeting sometime in August 2016.

-Committee chairs will be selected sometime during this coming winter of 2013-14.

Jason Persinger concluded the meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m. on September 20, 2013.