

Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, February 7th 2024
Margaritaville Resort, Osage Beach Missouri

- I. **Call to Order** - Quorum reached 88+ in attendance
- II. **Introductions and Welcome** Tom Boersig
- a. Recognition of current Officers and Chairs
 - b. Recognition of past Chapter, Division, and Society Presidents
 - c. Recognition of new members
- III. **Committee Reports**
- a. **Anglers with Disabilities** **Mary Scott**
 - Mary was not in attendance but email a report that the next disabled fishing event will be at Lions Lake in Rolla on May 3rd from 9am-12pm
 - b. **Bylaws** **Tom Boersig**
 - Tom gave an update that himself, Jacob Westhoff, and Joe Dillard are working on updates to the bylaws.
 - c. **Communications** **Emily Tracy-Smith**
 - Emily presented on this “new” committee that will be absorbing some of the current committees to get our chapter communications more on point. The new Communications Committee composition will be Tom Boersig (Committee Chair), President Elect, Committee Chairs for Information and Technology, Membership, and Student Support
 - Additional members needed to serve as liaison for student subunits, gather additional content for social media platforms, and for creating newsletters
 - Goals Newsletter with more frequent distribution (email), building out workloads to committee chairs and others, Consolidate Facebook & Instagram, Research upgrading our MOAFS website
 - Newsletter Subcommittee: Templates in Publisher for all content, so that committee chairs have ability to create and insert photos before submitting for review. Need additional volunteers for creating content, such as: Member spotlight, Highlighting research activities (including Undergraduate and Graduate), Outreach activities. If interested in getting involved, contact Emily at: Emily.TracySmith@mdc.mo.gov
 - Email communications if you are needing an email sent out to membership you can utilize the email [template](#)
 - d. **Continuing Education** **Brad Farwell**

- This year's Career Fair had approximately 150 students in attendance
- Plan to get with Student Sub Units to do resume building and mock interview and hold these in person at the schools.
- Reminder of NCD Travel Award and AFS Professional Development webinars

e. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Brittany Harried

- If you have not had a chance to fill out the DEI survey please do so.
- The Purpose of DEI Committee: To cultivate a Chapter culture that ensures all members feel welcome and respected, recruits and retains membership with underrepresented identities and backgrounds, and works with the Executive Committee to create and advocate for policies and procedures which reflect the diverse composition, experiences, and interests of Chapter members and Missourians. Only with active participation from MOAFS leadership and membership can we enrich our Chapter by identifying and removing historic, institutional, and systemic disparities that have limited our growth towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive fisheries profession.
- What is DEI: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion encompasses strategies, policies, and practices put in place to allow equal access to opportunities for all people regardless of their background, identity or abilities and acts by removing barriers for underrepresented groups to allow them to be successful.
- Brittany also covered preliminary results from the survey

f. Information Technology

Kat Lackman

- No major updates at this time. If anyone is interested in assisting please contact Kat. If you are needing an email sent to the membership please reach out.

g. Chapter Historian

Emily Tracy-Smith/Joe Dillard

- MOAFS has one of the most complete archives of their history as any other AFS chapter
- Archived at the State Historical Society (SHSMO) facility in Columbia, MO
- Including: "Still hooked - Our First 50 Years: 1964-2014" Provide more consistent and timely communication"
- Almost complete collection of MNRC programs
- Tom Boersig will be taking over as Historian

h. Legislative and Environmental Concerns

Mary Culler

- Check out Stream Teams United [Watch List](#) and contact Mary if you have issues to watch.
 - There is a Calendar for Public Hearings and separates out bills on environmental issues.
- Two current bills being watched affecting water resources are HB 1691 and SB 981

- Termed “Bad Waters” bills removes protections from ephemeral streams and groundwater
- Join us for Great Rivers day at the Capital on April 18, 2024
- Topics of Interest
 - Denali wastewater application – Elk and Shoal River watersheds in SW MO, and proposed operation in Randolph County north of Moberly
 - Missouri Prime Beef – application to discharge into the Pomme de Terre River – permit application has been withdrawn....what next?
 - DNR sites of interest website – <https://dnr.mo.gov/water/business-industry-other-entities/water-pollution-control-sites-interest>
 - Pomme de Terre water quality sampling report – released in January
 - Upcoming Advocacy online workshop – late March or early April?
 - Work on plastic use reduction policy - statewide

i. Membership

Jenna Stiek

- Reminder to pay your 2024 Dues

j. MNRC Steering

Mike Allen/April Sevy

- We are two years out from hosing MNRC in 2026 and we have a full list of committee Chairs:

Conference Chairs: Mike Allen and April Sevy

Publicity: Joe McMullen

Treasurer: Brad Farwell

Registration: Kendra Swee

Arrangements: Samantha Clary

Program: Kathi Moore

Exhibits/Sponsors: Wes Swee

Social: Jenna Stiek

Audio Visual: Hunter King

Web: Kat Lackman

Career Expo: Ben Havens

Presentations: Darby Niswonger

Prayer Breakfast: Blake Stephens

- FYI 2025 Soil and Water group cannot fill all chairs because of rules on federal employees. They are still in need of a Publicity, AV and Registration chair

k. Publicity

Joe McMullen

- Silent auction brought in \$988
- Raffle brought in \$170
- Poster sales at the conference \$170
- Total proceeds \$1244

l. Rivers and Streams

Cara Coates

- Cara was not in attendance

m. Student Support

Jen Girondo

- Last year Student Support spent \$4300, donated to the Hutton Scholarship and UCM did a pizza and professionals

IV. Conservation Federation of Missouri Updates

Eric Rahm

- MOAFS is an Affiliate member of CFM and can communicate with CFM and their mission. They work for the public to support things such as the sales taxes and act as advocates for the resources.
 - Look them up and think about becoming a member to elevate your voice and awareness on Natural Resources.

V. MOAFS Poster Sales Updates

Eric Rahm

- Poster sales at MNRC was \$170 which now puts up close to \$1000 in profit over our initial investment.
- The Midwest Fish And Wildlife Conference will be next year and the plan is to have posters for sale there.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Chris Rice

- 2023 Account Overview

	Balance January 1	Balance December 31	Net
General Funds	\$26,068.06	\$30,949.11	+ \$4,881.05
Student Support Trust Fund (SSTF)	\$117,592.11	\$129,709.22	+ \$12,117.11

- General Funds: checking accounts, savings accounts, etc.
 - Revenues are largely from membership dues, poster sales, MNRC silent auction, and donations
- SSTF: an investment portfolio designed to support student awards and scholarships
 - Steady growth during 2023, primarily due to growth in our Vanguard index funds
- General Funds 2023

Account	Balance 1/1	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest	Balance 12/31
Savings	\$22,663.26	\$3,818.80	\$0.00	\$71.20	\$26,553.26
Checking (Operations)	\$3,304.20	\$8,973.00	\$7,984.43	\$2.22	\$4,294.99
Checking (Special projects)	\$100.60	\$3,942.97	\$3,944.85	\$2.14	\$100.86
Total	\$26,068.06				\$30,949.11

- Student Support Trust Fund 2023

Account	Balance 1/1	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest/ Dividends	Balance 12/31
Money Market	\$46,320.10	\$3,500.00	\$4,210.00	\$300.44	\$45,910.54
Checking (Operations)	\$291.87	\$4,210.00	\$4,210.00	\$0.33	\$292.20
Vanguard VTIAX	\$16,815.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$609.92	\$19,206.34
Vanguard VTSAX	\$54,164.65	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$951.64	\$64,300.14
Total	\$117,592.11				\$129,709.22

- In 2021, an updated SSTF Investment Management Plan (SSTFIMP) was approved and is currently being implemented. The plan eliminated CDs and instead used a two-investment vehicle portfolio comprised of a Money Market Savings Account (MM buffer fund) and equities
- This portfolio was, and still is, expected to meet our student support objectives well into the future
- In 2023, there were concerns to begin revising the SSTFIMP to permit reinvestment of “surplus” money from MM buffer fund.
- The SSTFIMP could not predict how CD rates would respond to market turbulence onset by the COVID-19 pandemic
- (rates went from <1% to now 4-5% APY)
- We should decide whether to (a) strive to maximize SSTF profits by utilizing a flexible investment plan or (b) sustain the SSTF at current levels using the SSTFIMP

VII. Finance Committee Report

Ben Havens

- Projected Income

2024 Projected Income	Budget
MNRC 2024 Outdoor Adventures Auction	\$250.00
MNRC 2024 Silent Auction	\$500.00
Membership dues	\$400.00
Lifetime Membership dues	\$0.00
Membership dues and rebates from National AFS	\$500.00
Account dividends	\$0.00
Other income (donations)	\$100.00
Fish Poster Sales**	\$3,000.00
Total Income	\$4,750.00

- Projected Expenses

2024 Projected Expenses	Budget
MNRC Raffle and Supplies	\$50.00
Anglers with Disabilities	\$1,000.00
2024 Chapter Awards	\$400.00
A.S. Weithman Best Paper Award contribution	\$75.00
Annual Membership Appreciation Event- Operations	\$500.00
Conservation Federation membership	\$300.00
Missouri Conservation Federation Liaison (travel stipend)	\$250.00
Midwest F&W Planning Committee*	\$1,500.00
Adobe software subscription	\$420.00
Constant Contact	\$250.00
Chapter Insurance	\$150.00
Postage, envelopes, stationary, printing, etc; Updated MOAFS signage	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$4,945.00

- Projected Expenses

2024 Balance	Budget
Income	\$4,750.00
Expenses	\$4,945.00
Gain/ Loss	(\$195.00)

a. ExCom approved Budget – MOAFS budget approved First Eric Rahm, Second Mike Allen – passed

b. **Student Support Trust Fund Budget**

Jen Girondo

- Same budget as last year of \$4500
 - Achievement Award \$500
 - Best Poster \$200
 - Best Platform \$200
 - Duffy Travel Award \$200
 - Student Colloquium \$400
 - Joe Dillard Award \$2500
 - Hutton \$250
 - Subunit requests \$100
- MOAFS Student Support budget Approved – First Matt Matheney Second Trish Yasger - passed

VIII. Student Subunit updates

- Central Missouri University
- Missouri State University
 - Currently 16 members

- Professional development with professionals speaking at their meetings
 - Visited Blind Pony and Lost Valley
 - Electro Fishing and fly tying course
 - Float with TWS in the Home Coming
 - Would like more speakers and some macro monitoring maybe new Stream Team
- c. University of Missouri
- Sent students to job fair hoping to conduct a tournament with Bass Club and Hatchery tour

IX. New Business from the floor

- Emily – Chair of Rivers and Stream Committee with CFM need more members.
 - Need to be a CFM member
 - Reviews resolutions for the CFM convention if they make it through they are something that CFM supports the topics

X. MOAFS scholarship recipients

Jen Girondo

- a. Joe G. Dillard Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship
Winner: Shin Batz
- b. Duffy Memorial (Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference)
Travel Award
Winner: Levi Umland
- c. Student Achievement Award
Winner: Yonah Bennett
- d. Best Student Presentation at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference
Winner: Tyler Hessler
- e. Best Student Poster at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference
Winner: Afrida Aranya

XI. Letters of Recognition

Tom Boersig

- Fred Graig
- Allen Rost
- Kara Tvedt

XII. Closing Remarks

Tom Boersig

XIII. Election results

Kat Lackman

- a. President-Elect – Emily Tracy-Smith
- b. Treasurer – Cade Lyon

XIV. Installation of new officers

Tom Boersig

XV. Adjourn

NOTES: Award Recipients presented at the Awards Banquet following the business meeting

- John L Funk Award of Excellence – Dr. Mark Wildhaber
- A. Stephen Weithman, Jr. Leadership Award – Eric Rahm
- Lee Redmond Citizen's Award – Chris Geden