

MOTWS Annual Business Meeting (minutes)
Tan-Tar-A Resort – Salon A, Osage Beach, Missouri on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 3:30pm

President, Tony Elliott, called the annual business meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. to allow ample time for those still collecting hard copies of the agenda, previous minutes, and treasurer's report. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Mary Crowell presented the previous meeting minutes and asked if there were any changes. There was no comment from the floor. Motion to approve the minutes came from Ryan Diener and second by Tom Kulowiec.

Treasurer's report was presented by Scott Sudkamp, who provided printouts to members detailing account balances, credits, and expenses which gave an ending balance of \$5492.06 at the close of the 2015 calendar year (report attached). Scott pointed out the oddity in membership credits of \$2031.39 is due to electronic payments. The Primary Share Account at the Credit Union accrued \$0.12 for 2015, enough for a Caribbean cruise. Tony Elliott asked for any discussion of the report and no changes were announced. Motion to approve the report came from Tom Kulowiec and this was seconded by Tim Kavan.

Brandon Butler, the executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), made an appeal to the MOTWS members about the Parks and Soils Sales Tax. The tax is up for vote in 2016. The tax funds the Missouri State Parks and Soil and Water Conservation Districts with a 1/10 of 1% sales tax that sunsets every ten years. At this point, it is not certain if it will be on the Missouri August Primary ballot or apart of the general election ballot in November. Mr. Butler made an appeal that Missouri State Parks are free to get in to, whereas other states, like his home state of Indiana, citizens must pay. The polling has been well, 84% in favor of keeping the sales tax. CFM is working to educate the public on the tax so people vote in favor.

Mr. Butler made a plea for MOTWS members to join CFM's Legislative Action Center. The website lets users know which state legislators are in their district and their stance on current bills, specifically those bills related to conservation. Users can compare CFM's viewpoints on conservation bills against their legislators. There is also a function that produces a letter that the user can send to their legislator. Even though it is a form letter, the quantity speaks volumes. Luke Miller volunteered to show how easy it was to enroll into the Legislative Action Center. MOTWS members who want to enroll should use their personal email addresses, not their government email.

Mr. Butler wrapped up his talk by mentioning the Missouri Collegiate Conservation Alliance. The conservation leadership core has limited numbers, but it is free to signup state wide to receive the digital information to stay informed on conservation and natural resources in Missouri.

Farmer Conservationist Award: As chairman of the committee, Jeff Powelson presented the award. In 1976 the award was established to recognize the contribution made by landowners to manage the rural landscape. Dean Stucker and Eric Neimeyer nominated this year's recipient, Two Guys with a Pond: Tom Smith and John Thompson from central Missouri. John addressed the membership to say he was proud and thankful for the help of those who have helped work on the 900 acre property they purchased in the 1990's.

MU Graduate Student Fellowship Award: Josh Millspaugh gave a brief history on the scholarship. It started in 1984 as a donation from the MOTWS chapter. The award goes to a MU student in the department of fisheries and wildlife sciences. This year's recipient is Julia Guyton, a second year Master's student evaluating fish and amphibian sampling protocol in wetlands. Julia is involved in the MU student chapter of the Wildlife Society and advised by Dr. Lisa Webb and Dr. Craig Paukert.

James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship: Glenn Chambers opened with "it's good to be back amongst friends!" He appreciates the dedication and enthusiasm the Missouri Chapter has brought to this scholarship. His son Jim passed away two months after his PhD, and Glenn created this scholarship in his son's honor. The scholarship is a \$500 stipend for either undergraduate or graduate students. They have awarded the scholarship twenty times, giving \$10,000 to students. There were three applications this year. In alphabetical order, Julia Guyton, studying wetland protocols; Tracy Hale, a Master's student at Central Missouri studying small mammals at turtle springs; and Catherine Lohry, a PhD student at

University of Missouri studying savanna-woodland restoration effects on threatened and endangered species. All applicants were awesome. Glenn thanked Luke Miller, Ryan Diener, and Dan Zekor before announcing Julia Guyton as the recipient. Glenn presented the \$500 check from MOTWS to Ms. Guyton.

Tony Elliott announced that the Carl Morrow Scholarship and the Ed Stegner Scholarship will be awarded and announced at the CFM convention in March. The awards are presented by CFM in cooperation with MOTWS and in the past the winner was announced at MNRC. The reason the winners are not announced at our annual business meeting is due to the application deadline moving to January 31st. The board felt this was not enough time to review applicants prior to MNRC.

Committee Reports

Kevin Hedgpath, chair of the audit committee reported that Scott Sudkamp's treasurer's report was in good order. Motion to accept the audit by Ryan Diener, seconded by Tom Kulowiec.

Luke Miller, co-chair of the Chambers Memorial Scholarship reported on the work he and co-chair Ryan Diener have been working on to breathe new life into the scholarship. They hope for a more applicants to apply. Currently the scholarship funding is supported from the Chamber's family, \$13,000. The account is not growing enough interest to award a \$500 scholarship each year without drawing from the principal. The annual \$500 award was previously given from a friend of the Chamber's family, but they have stopped giving that donation. MOTWS had to draw directly from the fund to give the award two years in a row. The executive board voted to refund the \$1000 that was taken out. He and Ryan plan to raffle an item, likely a gun, at the CFM convention each year. Their goal is to make the fund self-sustaining. In the spring they are planning a sporting clays event. A silent auction item will be dedicated to the Chamber's scholarship at the MOTWS booth at MNRC each year. Glenn Chamber's has agreed to have an art show/sale in St. Louis with the proceeds going to the fund. Glenn chambers presented the accounts balances, currently totaling \$16,478.77. Luke asked for comments from the floor, none were made.

Josh Millspaugh presented the Education and MU Fellowship update. They had five applicants for the fellowship this year. The investment is growing. Diana Hallett has challenged MOTWS to build the fellowship fund by matching up to \$5000. Diana spoke with the Executive Board about broadening from a student award to a travel grant or other us the funds for some other venture.

Shane Kampeter gave the MNRC steering committee report. MOTWS will host in 2019. He made the plea for volunteers to assist on the committees. The Quad society meets four times a year to get MRNC ready. Tony Elliott commented the steering committee is a great opportunity to contribute to the society and the conference. We need to build the committee to have a good conference.

Andrea Schuhmann presented the Professional Development report. She made a plea for volunteers to help with ideas, logistics, and planning for the professional development workshop so that it is relevant. Ideally the workshop will be in July or early August. Tony Elliott added we did not have a workshop this year and he thanked Andrea for stepping up to the challenge of chairing the committee.

Tom Kulowiec gave the update on Resolutions. Last year there were 20-25 pieces of legislation directed at the Missouri Department of Conservation. Some of the heat has come off. MOTWS had drafted correspondence regarding those conservation related bills to the legislators. Tom encouraged everyone to join the CFM's legislative action center because it is easy to use and a good way to stay informed. This year there are only seven pieces of legislation and it has been quiet. Please notify Tom if there is an issue that needs the MOTWS voice and he will work on it.

Student Chapter Reports

Missouri State University: The chapter came to MNRC. They helped with deer spotlight survey and Wilson's Creek Battlefield and helped with a deer camera survey.

Missouri Western: Calvin Waynefield presented their report. They focused on the trilogy of success in academics and professional development. They have had nine guest speakers covering topics of fire, quail, wetlands, CWD and deer aging, and chainsaw safety. The chapter is trying to increase their skill set by volunteering with MDC, DNR, and Squaw Creek NWR at deer check stations, lymph node CWD sampling, dove wing collections, and quail surveys at Pony Express. They have had five work days at Squaw Creek, including a BioBlitz. Their family day has tripled in size. They

assisted with Eagle Days, the largest event at Squaw Creek, by helping with setup and planning. This was their first year to work with DNR at a Discovery Day. They went to Springfield to help at the Wonders of the Ozarks facility to teach kids with an interest in biology. They helped MDC and a local butcher with Share the Harvest and sent 486 pounds of venison to the hungry.

Southeast Missouri State University: not present

University of Central Missouri: Dalton Whittle presented the report and thanked the new advisors for stepping in. The chapter helped with many events including the dove opener at James Reed by collecting wings. They had a Discover Nature event to give kids the opportunity to look at mammal tracks and scat. They helped with deer aging. They attended the Central Plains Mammal and Kansas Herpetological meetings. They participated in Project Green Challenge, focusing on sustainability for living. They helped with the 14th bioblitz where they brought nature to the community. They participated in College for a Day with middle school students. They had Pizza with Professionals where people talked about their career paths. They helped middle and high school students with the Science Olympiad Air Trajectory. They attended the MOTWS student workshop at Columbia Bottoms. Dalton asked if anyone was interested in volunteering at the National Conference in Raleigh, they had a signup box.

University of Missouri – Columbia: Cameron Greene presented their update. The student chapter is trying to focus on professional development. The student chapter participated in the Zoo Alive program daily tours, as well as participating in Wolf Fest tours at Eureka. The students also assisted in deer aging. The chapter has had speakers including graduate students, Missouri Department of Conservation Agents, and Conservation Federation of Missouri's Brandon Butler.

Lincoln University-Wildlife Club (not yet an official wildlife chapter): Miranda Brandt reported that the club started in October with very small numbers. They were able to participate in a deer hunt with the National Guard with veterans. They did a hawk release with the Boys & Girls Club. In the future they hope to do some wetland work and hold a deer hunt. They would like to become a student chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Old Business

Tony Elliott reminded everyone that MOTWS awards two grants each year. The deadline for the spring grant is February 15 and in the summer it is due August 15. This past summer we had three applicants and awarded two grants since we did not have anyone apply for the spring 2015 grant. Ted Seiler reminded students that they could pay for a state chapter membership of \$8 and then apply for a travel grant.

The MOTWS website has transitioned to the Society and has been successful. We still used the old website for online voting this year, but next year voting will be on the new site. TWS has been very responsive and works quickly with our updates.

The MOTWS ListServ has a large distribution list and is an easy way to dispense information and job announcements.

MOTWS is continuing to be a CFM affiliate member. CFM raised the dues for affiliated members by \$30 and the Executive Board approved continuing to pay for the membership.

Tony Elliott gave his final remarks as President. MOTWS had several activities this year. MOTWS submitted comments on the conservation legislation in Missouri. We hosted a Student Workshop at Columbia Bottom with AFS, who helped with electroshocking and trotlines on the Missouri River. We did not have a Professional Development workshop this year. Tony made a plea for volunteers to help chair Andrea Schuhmann and for attendance at the workshop she is planning. Luke Miller and Ryan Diener are working on to make the Chambers Memorial Scholarship self sustaining. Tony reminded everyone that MOTWS is their society and anyone willing to help could consider being on a committee, we especially are looking for people to help on the MNRC and Professional Development Committees. He closed by thanking everyone for the opportunity to be President.

Tony Elliott then announced the election results. Brad Jump was voted President-Elect and Tom Thompson as Treasurer. He then welcomed Ryan Diener as President.

Ryan Diener opened his remarks by thanking Tony Elliott with a round of applause and thanking the Executive Board. He hopes to have a successful year ahead with the upcoming student workshop and professional development workshop. In

terms of a draft budget, it would be ideal to grow membership numbers, which we are in search for a membership committee chair. With our planned events, each should break even. We will have aggressive fundraising for the Chambers Memorial Scholarship including, a gun raffle at the CFM convention with a \$4000 goal, a sporting clays event, an art sale in St. Louis that may be in conjunction with the Ducks Unlimited Banquet. The executive board agrees to reimburse the Chambers Memorial Scholarship for the past two \$500 awards. He also made a plea for any volunteers who would like to help or had connections for the sporting clays event or art sale. He brought up the MU Fellowship that Dr. Millspaugh spoke about previously during the meeting. MOTWS will use the ListServ to ask for donations to match Diana Hallett's contribution. Ryan closed his remarks by noting that the two prints at the MOTWS booth, one for the Chambers Memorial Scholarship and the other for the MU fellowship, will not be given at MNRC, but will be auctioned at the CFM Convention in hopes to raise more funds. The prints were donated by Glenn Chambers and Diana Hallett.

New Business

Tony Elliott spoke about the upcoming Student Workshop. He is planning to hold the event on the Current River and is looking into housing and camping options. Likely the workshop will be held mid-April, but we will have to avoid Central Conclave. The Current River area provides the potential to look at forestry, glade restoration, elk, hellbenders, caves and bats. It could be a varied event. Luke Miller asked if AFS will partner again this year. Tony believes they will since last year was successful. He hopes to continue partnering with them.

Chris Newbold gave the North Central Section update. He will be Section President this year. The Section has monthly conference calls and each state's chapter president may call in, too. They have migrated their website to the Society's page. The only issue is the inability to archive documents so they are using a free online system that MOTWS may want to consider. At the annual members meeting, Josh Millspaugh was given the award of merit. Chris is looking for input from the state chapters on how the Section chapter can provide more services to them. The Section is working on a position statement regarding feral hogs. He has been working with Tom Kulowiec and other states on the Conservation Affairs Network. Section dues have gone up from \$10 to \$20. The Section is really trying to provide more services to the state chapters, possibly through more workshops. The Society has also has a travel grant, their deadline is February 15. The national meeting in 2016 is in Raleigh, NC; in 2017 in Albuquerque, NM; in 2019 the meeting will be joint with AFS in Reno, NV. The Section is trying out a trial membership for wildlife partners that will be free. They have limited benefits including action alerts and the eWildlifer. There has been discussion of possibly moving the journal to an open access online format. Chris closed with a plea for help to be the best President and keep the Section relevant and supportive, he is open to feedback.

John Schulz gave the North Central Section Leadership Workshop update. He hopes the workshop brings value to the membership dues. There is limited enrollment of other institutes. The Section recognizes the need for leadership and collaboration. This workshop will be in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Hope to provide leadership to everyone and offer skills, tools, contacts, and professional growth. He is looking for new leaders and to keep the workshop relevant. The dues will be higher and he is looking for speakers. The workshop will be on Sunday afternoon but are considering a whole day. They will be finalizing topics for Lincoln, NE. Currently they have a 7 member committee and hope to partner with NCLI and build on the talent of TWS.

Tony Elliott gave an update on the Operations Manual Revisions. The Ops Manual has been in draft form and he will try to get it finalized and up to date. Any past Executive Board member is welcome to make suggestions. Ted Seiler asked for valuable input and made a plea for anyone interested in being on the Executive Board. Chris Newbold moved to get the Ops Manual out of draft mode. Joel ___ questioned if the vote was up to the Executive Board. He thought the Bylaws was a vote of the membership and the Ops Manual was the Executive Board. Margie Mitchell said the ops manual was the nitty gritty of monthly duties, in a step by step process. The Executive Board can decide. Any past chair or office can give insight. Tony closed by recognizing Scott Sudkamp and Ted Seiler for their service on the Executive Board.

Ryan Diener asked for any items from the floor. It was brought up that if anyone signs up for the CFM legislative action fund, do not do so with your MDC or government email address, please use your personal information.

Tony Elliott motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff Powelson at 5:25 p.m.



Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Treasurer's Report
February 4th, 2016

Reporting Period: January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Submitted by Scott Sudkamp, MoTWS Treasurer

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance (1/1/2015):	\$4355.62
2015 Net Income	\$1136.44
Ending Balance (12/31/2015):	\$5492.06

Credits

Memberships		\$2031.39
Student Workshop Fees		\$60.00
<u>MNRC Income</u>		\$1786.83
Cash Reimbursement	\$500.00	
Gun Raffle	\$478.80	
Silent Auction	\$803.03	
Donation	\$5.00	
Dividends		\$11.46
Total Income		\$3889.68

