**MOTWS Annual Business Meeting (minutes)**

**Tan-Tar-A Resort – Salon A, Osage Beach, Missouri on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 3:30pm**

President, Tim Kavan, called the annual business meeting to order at 3:40pm to allow ample time for those still collecting hard copies of information to be seated (copies included in MOTWS historical records). There were approximately 78 people in attendance and a slideshow of photographs from the last twelve months of activities was shown prior to the start of the meeting.

Luke Miller informed everyone that the previous meeting minutes were published in the most recent newsletter and had been reviewed by the Executive Board prior to the meeting. Tim Kavan asked for any discussion of the minutes and no changes were presented. Motion to approve the minutes came from Jeff Demand and this was seconded by Dan Zekor.

Treasurer’s report was then presented by Landry Jones. Recent activity from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference profited $13. Overall the event was successful for the Chapter as a few new memberships were sold, funds were made from a firearm raffle, and outreach was provided to many representing a diverse group of state, federal and private wildlife related organizations. The Chapter purchased the necessary Square technology to run credit cards at events, as this appears to encourage individuals to provide payment and increases their willingness to bid. A motion to approve the enclosed Treasurer’s report came from Tom Kulowiec with a second by Alan Leary and all attending were in agreement.

**Award Presentations**

Farmer Conservationist Award, John and Gary Dolan were recipients of the award presented by Jeff Powelson, committee chair. Jeff provided the group a background of the award and highlighted the fact that most of Missouri’s rural landscape is of private ownership, thus containing most wildlife and/or impacts to wildlife. Scott Roy, local Private Land Conservationist working with the Dolan family, informed MOTWS of the wildlife friendly activities occurring upon the farming operation. Mr. Dolan grew up with interest in quail while maintaining his agriculture livelihood. Soil health important to successful farming and CRP has been vital, so they converted less productive acreage into native prairie. They are aware of the importance fire brings to the health of ecosystems and in summary of their actions, “they do what they do because it is the right thing.”

MU Graduate Student Fellowship Award, a background of the award was presented by Tim Kavan. The award was then presented to Christine Rega, a PhD candidate for her work in urban avian ecology and management. Christine is currently serving as President to the Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Organization at the University of Missouri and received her Master’s degree from the University of Delaware studying forest dwelling birds.

Ed Stegner Award (to be awarded at CFM meeting), Zayne Aldrich, high school senior is the recipient.

Special Recognition was awarded to Margie Mitchell for her countless hours of volunteerism to the Chapter. This extra effort is truly appreciated by all of MOTWS and Margie Mitchell received gifts from the Executive Board which were handcrafted kitchen items: serving tray, salt and pepper shakers and a bottle opener.

**Committee Reports**

Audit Committee, update by Tom Bell, chair. Audit committee met and did not find anything major, so thanked Landry Jones for his detailed service. Motion to approve their findings came from Ted Seiler and seconded by Tom Kulowiec.

James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship, Glenn Chambers informed the Chapter that there is currently $1,091.64 in the account with the Conservation Credit Union. Earnings of $57, so decided not to provide a scholarship this year after giving two awards last year and seems to be a need to rethink which direction we are headed. Glenn and Jeanine Chambers are comfortable with any decision made by MOTWS. Dan Zekor, chair, lead a discussion on what to do to increase student interest to get more applicants. A standard announcement is sent out to advisors of various Missouri schools; applications are accepted with two letters of recommendation. In looking for ways to improve, how might we better announce and open to suggestions by membership. It might be time to look at fundraising to increase the scholarship amount but foremost issue is a need for more applicants. Dr. Mark Ryan informed the group that the current announcement date is just prior to the holiday break in December and this is a very challenging time for students. It was also encouraged to ask the students what works for them and possibly a new task of our Board Member, as he/she acts as student liaison and the possibility of joining multiple student group email lists with MOTWS’ listserv. Dan Zekor volunteered to continue to work on these issues over the next year.

MNRC Steering Committee, Alan Leary, chair, provided everyone an update with their group’s activities. Next year MOTWS will host the MNRC and out of the 13 sub-committees, currently one vacant. Dates for the 2015 MNRC are scheduled to be February 4th-6th and continues to be located at Tan-Tar-A. The theme is “Value of Conservation… Fostering Natural Resources Appreciation through Research, Management, and Outreach.” Two plenary speakers are locked in, Dr. Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology chair with the University of Delaware and author of book “Bringing Nature Home” and Mr. Dave White, a University of Missouri graduate and former chief of the NRCS and he has served on White House task force. Goals of the committee are to keep motivation and everyone is tasked with sharing news of the MNRC with co-workers in office, students, and friends to boost attendance. Lastly, everyone is encouraged to act as a volunteer! Many will be needed to care for some of the smaller details of the conference, for example: moderators, lights, registration, etc.

Professional Development Committee, Jason Sykes introduced himself to everyone as a newly accepted chair. Overall, had great success with our Black Bear workshop and professionals from Arkansas and Oklahoma were able to participate. Initial planning for the summer might be a river systems & riparian restoration workshop and located within the central portion of the state. Tentative dates of June 4-5 or 11-12 and possibility of a float style theme to engage those attending, this might also limit attendance? Members are encouraged to register early to ensure a canoe. Jason Sykes also reminded everyone of the upcoming travel grant application deadline of February 15th. Also for those not receiving information via MOTWS listserv, email Jennifer Mittelhauser so that you can be added.

Membership committee, update provided by Jason Sykes. Created a new Chapter brochure and will be attending the Whitetail Classic in March in hopes of gaining memberships and informing others of MOTWS. Chris McLeland, chair, will be working with the new Treasurer to send out a Welcome Letter to all new members!

Resolution and Public Statements Committee, update on increased activities by Tom Kulowiec, chair. MOTWS Executive Board sent a CWD letter to the Missouri State Legislature expressing support of the MDC role in captive cervid regulation. The Chapter discussed adjusting the current Society’s position statement on lead poisoning to include voluntary restraint among Chapter members. Jeff Demand made a motion to accept the changes and Kevin Hedgpeth seconded, with all attending in approval. Current activity within the Missouri Senate joint resolution 442 and House 57 is looking to establish a committee JCAR, administrative rules under review. This might come to a public vote creating a permanent committee to oversee actions of the many state agencies. MOTWS is in the process of creating a letter for submission, as this committee might limit the MDC input and lack oversight over science based management. More information is posted on the MOTWS website and will be provided to those on the listserv. Individual members were encouraged to submit their own personal letters and two templates are provided via MOTWS’ website. Dave Murphy, executive director of CFM, updated MOTWS with their organization’s involvement with the issue and encouraged MOTWS’ support to gain greater creditability and partnership, as it would be suitable for such challenges and threats upon our Missouri resources. The time to act was now, so comments were provided to the draft letter and Dave Murphy motioned to accept letter with changes and Glenn Chambers seconded, with approval of all attending.

Technology committee, another updated by Tom Kulowiec, chair. Listserv is being managed by Jennifer Mittelhauser and Tim Kavan started a MOTWS Facebook page with nearly 100 likes and both have proved to be a good resource. Website continues but plans are to have the Society update it to a new site, as many other states are moving towards this. Online voting is popular and more easily managed than hard copies. Recent voting over possible Bylaw changes showed about half the voters used the online format.

**Student Chapter Reports**

Missouri Western State University located in Saint Joseph, Missouri was represented by their student president, Ben Olson. Ben is also the secretary for TWS NC Section’s professional development working group. Recently they were honored for a second time as the National Student Chapter of the Year and their professional mentor, Dr. Cary Chevalier, was awarded Student Chapter Advisor of the Year. The students stay busy throughout the year organizing and attending over 20 events. These include workdays, outreach, and other activities to promote individual students to volunteer and develop professionally. Members have logged many hours of volunteer work hours with both the MDC and the USFWS at various locations in Northwest Missouri.

The University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg, Missouri Student Chapter’s achievements were shared by Katie H, president. Their members are busy among 18 activities throughout the year. These events help students explore and gain experience within the wildlife profession through relevant conferences/workshops, field trips and guest speakers. What is most unique about this group is their annual events such as Project WILD and Bio Blitz, soon to be in its 11th year.

Activities of the University of Missouri’s Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Columbia, Missouri were reported by their president, Jason High. They helped the MDC with deer aging work in November, hosted a meat sale fundraiser, and these funds help student members attend conclave and conferences. Their Student Chapter invited guest speakers from a diverse group of wildlife agencies present future job opportunities during meetings. Future plans of attending the MOTWS student workshop and TWS conclave, all in April.

**Old Business**

Tim Kavan informed everyone that historical archiving of Chapter documents is ongoing and that it was decided by Executive Board that there is no need to document everything, just major correspondence.

MOTWS submitted a letter to US Congress in support of multiple wildlife grants and sent to chairmen in September, a copy is provided to members during the meeting and a copy will be sent to MOTWS’ historical records.

Student Chapter promotional video! Need help gaining interest from students, as this is a new idea from TWS and a few other Chapters are currently working with students to develop. Challenge created to promote each Student Chapter. Hopes of presenting during Spring Workshop and Executive Board to judge winner and provide the $100 cash prize.

Spring student workshop planning in the final stages by Jeff Powelson, ad hoc committee chair, will be at Squaw Creek NWR on Friday, April 4th through Sunday, April 6th. MOTWS and Missouri Western State University Student Chapter are hosting the multi-day event with speakers, tours, and workshops.

Tim Kavan gave an annual meeting report after his attendance at the National TWS Conference. John Schulz was recognized as a Fellow for his dedicated career in research, scientific findings, and writings; in addition to, his involvement in developing a TWS position statement on lead toxicosis. Missouri Western State University’s Student Chapter received the 2013 TWS Student Chapter of the Year Award, first time for any of Missouri’s Student chapter, and their advisor, Dr. Cary Chevalier, was awarded the 2013 TWS Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award.

Tim Kavan also provided insight with activities of the North Central Section, as he attended their annual meeting at Midwest F&W Conference. They too discussed the liability insurance issue and felt the same way the MOTWS Executive Board did by choosing not to pursue, as premiums do not outweigh small assets. Tim announced that the TWS Leadership Institute is currently accepting applications. Tim encouraged each of us to be more proactive with those young professionals to ignite interest and involvement at all levels of TWS.

**President’s Final Remarks** Tim Kavan shared similar feelings of those by Rochelle Renken, past president of NC Section, of such an honor of getting to work with everyone. Tim gave praise to his fellow Executive Board members and thanked all the committee chairs. Over the year there were many instances of increased involvement among members and also with students during both MOTWS’ workshops. MOTWS has increased their communication and outreach, which in turn increases memberships and awareness to Missouri resources.

**Election Results:** 70 members voted! President-elect is Anthony Elliott and Treasurer is Scott Sudkamp

**Presidential Authority passed to New President**

Ted Seiler provided a brief introduction and thanked Chris Newbold, Landry Jones, and Jennifer Mittelhauser for their involvement the last few years on the Executive Board/Committees. Ted does not have any large vision on direction the next twelve months, but wants to strive and continue our trend of being more involved and in communication with the rest of the wildlife field. Challenged everyone to be heard and spread the word!

**New Business**

Ted Seiler led a discussion over concerns of the Chapter’s annual budget and possibility of increase membership dues. Normally, the account balance starts the year around $7,000, now down to about $3,000 with fluctuations but a continuing trend downward. This is probably due to the Chapter being more active and doing great things! But to continue these activities, the membership was asked to increase dues to $15 each year. Chris Newbold mentioned that the last dues increase occurred in 2000 which was from $5 to the current $10. General thoughts gathered by those attending supported a raise of $5 and to develop a budget to rethink priorities on Chapter spending and our activities as this is something to be cautious about. Dave Murphy motioned to increase dues to $15 each year and Rochelle Renken seconded with a suggestion of a three prong approach:

1. Story by Dave Murphy, student chapter when Bill Crawford came to talk to students. How to be engaged as wildlife professionals. Important to him in his past/current career, although he did have much to offer but would bring someone with him, as well as, $100 each meeting.
2. Bring a friend and talk up chapter!
3. Raise dues by $5

**Announcements**

CFM giving out free student memberships to CFM (a $15 dollar value) any student is encouraged to sign up downstairs. CFM conference will be March 21-23 at the Capital Plaza at Jefferson City, $10 to attend.

Landry Jones encouraged those who have not yet picked up silent auction items to do so!

Next business meeting would be held at the 2015 MNRC, which will be hosted by the MOTWS. Everyone is encouraged to attend and support the Chapter.

Without any further discussions, Ted Seiler asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Dan Zekor and Glenn Chambers seconded. Ted Seiler then called the annual business meeting to a close at 5:53pm.