

Executive Board Meeting minutes
March 3, 2016 8 AM via conference call

Attendees:

Tony Elliot (past president)
Ryan Diener (president)
Brad Jump (president elect)
Charles Anderson (board member)
Mary Crowell (secretary)
Tom Thompson (treasurer)

Ryan opened the meeting at 8:05 AM

Review of the annual business meeting minutes

Review of the executive board meeting minutes from February 4, 2016. Tony Elliott had minor editorial edits and needed the treasurer's report. Tony motioned to approve the minutes, Charles seconded.

Old business

MNRC attendance was down at the business meeting. As a whole, the conference attendance was higher. Next year attendance may be lower because the soil society is hosting. Tony thought the meeting was majority students. Charles thought of discussing with the quad society of alternating years of the conference to gain better attendance. Ryan added that the Quad Society only discussed changing venues. Tony added that if we alternated years then the committee chairs on the quad society would have double the commitment. If we did alternate years we could change the ops manual. The next Quad Society meeting is in the summer. Ryan said there were more people in attendance at the conference than at the meeting that voted. Charles added there was a notable difference in attendance. Tony suggested we get a speaker for the meeting to bring in more attendees. Or we could shorten the meeting because they can be boring if they last a full 2 to 3 hours. Ryan noted that another state chapter was having Shane Mahoney as the keynote speaker, it would be a good idea to get people to come to the meeting. Tony mentioned Wisconsin had a speaker discuss CWD. Ryan closed the conference discussion adding that Shane Kampeter will be calling on folks to help with the upcoming conference when the wildlife society is hosting. If they know anyone that can help Shane, please let him know.

Summary of annual business meeting: Brandon Butler of the Conservation Federation of Missouri spoke about the parks and soils sales tax and the legislative action center. Brad added that it was very informative and that it is easy to enroll in the program so we can all vote on legislative issues. Ryan said they were adding more bills and possibly adding federal bills that relate to conservation. Tony added that the negative attention state parks is getting hopefully will not negatively impact the sales tax vote. Ryan shared that the conservation federation of Missouri had polled Missourians and show that 86% were in favor of the parks and soils sales

tax. MFA and Farm Bureau are behind the bill because of the soil and water conservation districts.

New business

Josh Millspaugh spoke about the MU fellowship fund at the annual business meeting. Diana Hallett is willing to match up to \$5000 of what MOTWS raises for the fellowship fund. Dr. Millspaugh asked Ryan if the exec board had come to a decision on whether or not they were willing to fundraise. Diana is putting together mailings for potential large donors. Tony suggested we contact past winners of the fellowship. Charles added that with the work for the Chambers Memorial scholarship, the chapter is not a fundraising machine. Ryan agreed we are not a fundraising organization. We could simply ask the general membership for a donation through the listserv. Tony said when he and Ryan spoke with Josh Millspaugh prior to the annual business meeting that the scholarship fund was stable and in good shape. Diana's vision to grow the fund was to award money for other projects besides just the scholarship. The MU fellowship is in much better shape than the Chambers so there's not a need from the chapter beyond matching Diana. We will not put money out of general funds for this. Ryan was willing to support this challenge but we should not set a goal or add any special fundraising items. Tony said the money from the art that Diana donated was supposed to go to our general fund or the scholarship, with the impression it will go into the fund. Tony made a motion that the money from the art fundraising will go to the MU fellowship fund, Charles seconded. Ryan will contact Josh and Diana about our decision. Tony requested that Ryan asked Diana for the drafted language to send out to the listserv members for a contribution. Ryan asked if we could approve providing Diana with stamps and envelopes, Tony approved.

Chambers Memorial scholarship:

Luke sent out an email on the Sporting Clays event that will be held outside of Boonville the first weekend in April. If we have 30 people registered we will be good to go. The regular shooters on a Saturday should cover for 30 people needed to raise money. If continued on an annual basis, we will stick with the April weekend so everyone knows the date. Beyond the Sporting Clays event we will be doing a gun raffle and hope to make \$4000 for the scholarship fund. Ryan asked if the executive board was OK using MOTWS funds to purchase the gun instead of pulling money out of the scholarship fund. Tony agreed it was OK for the chapter to front the money for the gun. Ryan plans to buy \$800-\$900 gun, it will not take very long to get the money back. Charles and Brad agreed it would not be a problem.

We've had one applicant for the travel grant, Shelly Colatskie. Tony recused his vote since he is Shelly's supervisor, but he supports her. Brad, Ryan, Charles, and Mary were in favor. Charles motioned to approve Shelly for the travel grant, seconded by Brad. Tony will let Shelly know she is receiving the grant.

The north central section has raised the question of who can be a sponsor for their conference. Last year the NRA was a sponsor and the link took you to a NRA page that told you who to vote or not vote for. The main discussion, can we have sponsors that use the sponsorship as a

political platform. What type of organizations should be allowed to sponsor the conference? Should we let chemical companies or the Humane Society be sponsors? We suggest to NCS that they think about their sponsorships before taking money. Brad asked if that would put us in a bad position. For example like the Conservation Federation of Missouri giving a presentation on the legislative action center at our annual business meeting. Is that too faced? The presentation was used to recruit members for political reasons. Ryan disagreed, there is a difference between supporting legislation versus supporting politicians. Charles asked if we should send a letter to the north central section as a FYI. Ryan added that he is a state rep on the section board so he could say something at their next board meeting. Brad, Tony, and Charles all pointed out the typo in the last sentence on the conference sponsorship letter. Ryan agreed with the direction the letter went. Charles suggested NCS find sponsors that deal with the conference.

Status committee update

Tony said the ad hoc committee is ongoing due to the revision of the bylaws. We need to confirm with Eric and Nate that they are willing to continue to be on the raffles committee. Brad asked if John Vogel was still interested in being on the nominations committee or act as the membership chair. John said he wanted to be involved but he was noncommittal to any chairs. Ryan will follow up with him. Tony said Andrew White is still willing to be on the nominations committee but the bylaws say we need a whole committee not just one chair. It should be a three-person committee. Ryan said we are working on finding more committee members and Tony said it was a struggle to find names. Ryan suggested the problems Andrew White faces are that he is young and does not work for MDC, so if it is possible that others come up with names and submit them to Andrew, he can make the contact. Brad followed up that this is why nominations needs to be a committee and not just a chair.

Spring Student Workshop

Tony said the student workshop was not finalized, looking for April 15 through the 16th. Tony was trying to avoid the student conclave and to avoid youth turkey season. Current River State Park is unavailable because they are housing Americorps. Tony has not followed up on staying at Owl's Bend or Powder Mill, but those campgrounds would have the major advantage of being close to the elk zone. Charles suggested MOFEP housing because the research is down for now, and the housing should be empty. Brad asked if there was a campground at Rocky Falls. Tony was hoping to have Jeff Briggler talk, but suspects he is unavailable. The AFS (American Fisheries Society) will be unable to help support the workshop as that is a free fishing weekend, but Kyle is willing to explore other options. Charles said maybe pull someone from the zoo to talk about hellbenders. Ryan asked if we could do an elk tour, as Peck Ranch is usually closed at that time. Tony will talk to Dave Hasenback about this.

CFM Annual Conference:

MOTWS has two pieces of artwork available, for the MU fellowship and the Chamber's Memorial scholarship. Ryan will be there, possibly presenting awards. Tony is not registered, but assumes he will attend. Luke and Charles may also be there. Ryan will touch base with Makayla or Charlie about presenting scholarships and awards. The conservation day at the

capital is Tuesday April 19, we have a free booth as an affiliate. Charles volunteered to be there, Tony said it would be good to have something interactive at the booth. We need something to engage the public. Ryan suggested bringing research equipment to draw interest. Tony thought we could test a transmitter, and hide it for people to find. Ryan responded that simple may be best, Tony thought perhaps a fur trunk, to which Ryan responded that the Missouri Trappers Association also will be there with a furs trunk.

Charles is meeting the Lincoln University Wildlife Club to discuss becoming a student chapter. If the chapter is interested in any future scholarships, should we put in the bylaws that the scholarship must run itself so that we are not fighting so hard to remain solvent. If they choose a scholarship it should be fully funded from the get-go. Tony thought that was something to consider. Charles said nothing against the Chambers Memorial scholarship but we are putting a lot of effort into it to keep it solvent. Ryan added that CFM has a minimum of \$20,000 to start off a scholarship and probably should be \$30,000. He thinks it's a good idea for an amendment.

Brad was approached by Alan Leary about the chapter sending a letter of support on the feral hog hunting ban while it is open to public comment. Tony thought it would be appropriate; the board can go through Tom Kuloweic as a resolution. A brief letter on who/what MOTWS is and our support of the regulation. Charles will get with Tom Kuloweic and send an email. We will need to send out the email to our personal email addresses.

Tom Thompson has been working with Lisa Woodall at the credit union to add Ryan, himself, and Brad. He is trying to remove Ted, Scott, and Tony from the account. The treasurer's report was approved via email after the conference call ended. Tom confirmed with the board that Chris Newbold was ready to have his check for the travel grant sent to him since we had the notes and receipts.

Next meeting will be held before the student workshop on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 9 AM. Charles motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Brad.