

Executive Board Meeting minutes  
October 14, 2016 9:00 AM via conference call

Attendees:

Tony Elliot (past president)  
Ryan Diener (president)  
Brad Jump (president elect)  
Chuck Anderson (board member)  
Mary Crowell (secretary)  
Chris Newbold (North Central Section President)  
Andrew White (elections chair)

Ryan opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and took roll call. Shane and Luke were not able to call in this morning.

Brad moved to approve the August minutes as written, Charles seconded. Tony saw a few typos he will send in.

No treasurer's report this call.

Old Business

Recap of Fall Student Workshop by Tony: Held October 7-9th since the September workshop only had 4 students sign up. Holding it this later weekend lined up with David Hasenbeck having a group from Southeast Missouri State University going on an elk tour. At least 33 students participated. We had good presentations Friday night from David Hasenbeck and Brad Hadley. We didn't get to the conservation careers portion, but did that one on one with students. Students took busses from The Landing to see the elk. The elk put on a good show and everyone was thrilled. We did a habitat management talk and field visits, then headed back to Peck Ranch HQ and the post doc and assistant did telemetry with field demonstrations. Shannon Elhers was not able to come. Saturday afternoon we took the students on the Current River at The Landing and Mike Bayless talked on the gravel bar, then we took a float trip. Caught some fish and Brad did demonstration on data collection for fisheries work. Cooked supper and Mike gave the students a talk on growth and age of fish. Sunday morning did short birding walk, but only 1 student had binoculars. Then they got on the road back to school. Students were happy and thanked all for putting the workshop on. Tony was happy with it. Ryan thought it went well and students enjoyed their time. Brad thought well done and well received.

New Business

MNRC workshops by Ryan: Ryan emailed Tom Treeman the information on our speakers, Christine Nemick's graduate work in UNI tall grass prairie restoration center and Alice Tipton's glade research on fungal distribution impacts on native vegetation growth. MOTWS workshop shaped up well and people will probably enjoy. Getting \$1500 from MNRC fund to help pay for workshop. Shane emailed and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to be on MNRC committee. If we want to start helping push that, Shane welcomes the help.

Call for Audit: Chris Newbold had been awarded the travel grant back in February and turned in receipts. Followed up mid-summer and still did not get funds reimbursed. Chris talked with other folks and realized there was an issue the MOTWS was not making reimbursement payments to anyone. Andrea Schumann had payments from the Professional Development workshop and Luke Miller had outstanding debts. If the exec board wasn't thinking about it, an audit needs to be completed for the state chapter books. Chris brought the audit idea to the board to spur getting outstanding debts paid and fix the situation sooner than later. In his mind, an audit showed MOTWS was not paying bills it owed. This would look bad to the membership, particularly since MOTWS recently raised our dues from expanding. If he was on the board he would be concerned about answering to the membership. He told Ryan to start the process as it was the president's call for a full blown audit and to find out why the bills aren't getting paid. Chris noted he received his reimbursement today. It will be best to present an audit that doesn't show we aren't paying our bills. Ryan would like to call for an audit with board approval to get with Kevin Hedgpeth. Chuck seconded. Chris talked with Kevin, he may talk with Tom. Ryan will get in touch with Kevin and get the audit process underway. Brad thinks we really need to do that before we move on to get clearer conscious before the membership.

North Central Sect Update: Chris told us about the biggest issue being discussed has been raised by the MNTWS chapter in regards to the national chapter. TWS is in partnership with Bayer and TWS is distributing seed packets for the Bayer Bee Health program. MN raised issue with non-indigenous plants are included in the packet with TWS name on it. MN wrote letter to the national chapter, stating they weren't supportive of the seed mix. Chris wanted to make MOTWS aware of the situation. The next issue is that Bayer is the leading manufacturer of Neonicotinoids in the world. Partnership with the national chapter may be seen as a bit of green washing. The partnership may be a sort of public relations cover to detract from things we aren't in support or favor of. TWS may have influence with the partnership, but it concerns the MNTWS chapter. The issue will be raised at the upcoming conference in Raleigh, NC. The national response has been lack luster in his opinion. He is happy to partner with Bayer and they have given TWS a sizeable donation. Chris wanted to just bring up the issue and it will be in Section newsletter later this month. Ryan added he researched the issue and the small packets included non-natives as stated. For 10 acre seeding projects the mix was supposed to be all native species, but it was the exact same mixture as the non-native packets. Chris argued nonnative species, even in urban backyards, is still a bad idea. The National Chapter does have a draft on using native species for management throughout the U.S. Chris thought it would be easy to go to battle with the national chapter since they have a draft statement. The issue of how does the National chapter enter into these partnerships may need to be raised. If issues come up about these partnerships, the agreements have already signed and committed. There is a need for a comment process for subchapters to submit comments.

Nominations for new board members: Andrew White is glad there is going to be a group effort to find nominees. Getting more people to help will be more publicity for positions. Ryan, Tony, and Brad talked about nominees last weekend. Send candidate's information to Andrew and he will get in contact. Then they can email him directly to get biography finished. The biographies must be in the last newsletter before MNRC. The goal is to have them by early December for the

newsletter. Chuck clarified the positions open: board member at large, president elect, and secretary. Tony said the last few years delayed the newsletter because we were trying to get commitments from folks to run. We need to be cognizant of the online voting deadline through the national chapter website. Last year we used our old site, this year it's gone. Mary will email Mariah to see when the deadline is for online voting and get the site set up for online voting.

Awards Nominations: Ryan said there are several awards to be filled. The Chambers Memorial Scholarship information will need to be sent out. Ryan or Luke will send to Chuck to forward to students. Ryan will need to find a new contact for MU fellowship since Josh Millsbaugh left.

CFM Affiliate Dues: Tony received a letter in the mail from CFM that dues were due in September. The framework changed to get complete membership list so Mary get the membership list from the national chapter. We need the total membership, if under 250 basically \$50 plus \$1/member. If over 250, \$500. Tony moved to pay the dues, Brad second. Once we get the list, we will get affiliate dues paid to CFM.

Update on getting newsletter items in to Brad: He needs pictures and write up on the student workshop. He would like to have treasurer's report but it would be nice. He will need biographies for all the positions to be filled. Question: secretary, board member, president elect, and maybe treasurer? Tony will send write up to Brad on student workshop and Chuck will contact students to send in info. Get update from Chris on North Central Section with write up on issue he discussed. Brad to write Professional Development Workshop article.

Chuck under impression he was doing the Runge award again. Tony said yes if he's willing.

Chuck checked the mailbox, it was empty.

The Executive Board has had some issues with not having much/any communication with the treasurer and getting folks reimbursed in a timely manner. We are at the point to consider doing something. Ryan opened the floor to people's thoughts. Chuck asked what recent communication efforts have been made? Ryan last received anything from Tom was the morning of our June call because he had car trouble. Later in June, Ryan learned Chris and Luke had not been paid, so Ryan tried to contact him. Ryan had people stop by the Clinton office without any luck. A couple weeks ago, Ryan called Rochelle Renken as Tom's supervisor. Ryan copied Rochelle and BCC Tony and Brad. Ryan hoped having CCed Rochelle would resolve the situation. We managed to get the checkbook at the student workshop from Mike Bayless as he made contact with Tom at the Clinton office. Ryan made all the outstanding reimbursements when he got back from student workshop. Now we are all caught up on any outstanding bills. Andrea Schumann tried several times before Professional development workshop, as did Ryan, to be able to make payments. Ryan wrote Andrea a personal check to cover her expenses of \$600. He kept her receipts to reimburse himself. Chuck sees the treasurer's actions as unacceptable. We have no official treasurer report and one needs to be in the newsletter. Mary has not posted approved minutes on the webpage since no treasurers' reports sent in or approved. Ways to rectify this situation? Tony thought only guidance was

through ops manual when someone moved out of state. The problem will be communicating with Tom to resign. Brad suggested what if we sent a letter asking to resign with sentence "if no comment in certain time period, resignation effective on certain date." Send by certified mail so we know it's received. Whatever happens with the audit, do we need an interim treasurer? Or let the audit chair do their thing alone? MOTWS needs someone to act as treasurer; Brad and Ryan have signature authority. We need someone to track expenses; problem is we need files as starting place. Tony could start this year's deposits and debits we know about. Ryan has a brand new check book with nothing recorded in the register; we need the rest of the files. Perhaps Ryan and Kevin Hedgpeth will have to go to Clinton to pick up the file box. Tony made asked we make sure the letter is worded so that it is clear we are asking for his resignation, not giving him a second chance to engage, because this is unacceptable. Tony motioned to have the Executive Board ask for Tom's resignation through a certified letter, seconded by Chuck. Ryan will work on the letter and send out to the board for edits. Then send certified. Once finalized, Ryan can get paperwork to remove Tom and add Brad's address to get monthly billing statements. Tony spoke with the credit union and they are willing to give copies of statements for account history. There haven't been any debits to the account between February and when Ryan wrote checks. MOTWS will have to hold a special election to fill the term to keep everything on the same cycle. Brad will fill-in to finish out until we hold the election. He may have found someone to run for the one year slot. She works close to Brad and Kevin which would help with the audit and records. We need to have another name on the ballot. We will take nominations for that position like the other three.

Brad motions to adjourn, seconded by Tony at 10 a.m.