

MOTWS Annual Business Meeting (minutes)

Tan-Tar-A Resort – Salon A, Osage Beach, Missouri on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 3:30pm

President, Ted Seiler, called the annual business meeting to order at 3:33pm to allow ample time for those still collecting hard copies of information to be seated (copies included in MOTWS historical records). There were approximately 70 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. Ted Seiler asked for any discussion of the minutes and no changes were announced. Motion to approve the minutes came from Shawn Colborn and this was seconded by Alan Leary.

Treasurer's report was then presented by Scott Sudkamp, who provided printouts to members detailing account balances, credits, and expenses which gave an ending balance of \$4,355.62 at the close of the 2014 calendar year. Ted Seiler asked for any discussion of the report and no changes were announced. Motion to approve the report came from Daniel Zekor and this was seconded by Tom Kulowiec.

Award Presentations

The Farmer Conservationist Award will be presented to Kevin Strange from Edina, Missouri. Unfortunately, the Strange family could not be present to accept the award as they are preparing for an upcoming sale at their sale barn. Kevin Strange manages his agriculture property so that the land is beneficial to wildlife. For example, Kevin plants food plots for bobwhite quail, enrolled over 160 acres of row crop production into CRP field borders and another 120 acres on ground that he leases, leaves winter wheat and other crops fallow, and renovates fence rows into covey headquarters, which makes his NE Missouri operations key to the success of the Knox County Quail Focus Area.

The MU Graduate Student Fellowship was designed to further professional educational opportunities for students interested in obtaining graduate degrees in wildlife management in Missouri and to promote student involvement in MOTWS and to enhance student/Chapter relationships. Evan Hill was awarded the scholarship and is currently studying waterbird usage of wetlands at the University of Missouri – Columbia. His primary objective is to provide information that will assist natural resource managers to make better decisions on management of species such as sora, Virginia rails, king rails, least bitterns, and American bitterns.

The James D. Chambers Memorial scholarship is designed to recognize excellence in academics, leadership, and conservation education and is granted to a Missouri Graduate or Undergraduate student. Shawn Colborn an undergraduate student at University of Central Missouri and President of their Student Chapter was awarded the scholarship as he has proven to be a great leader and scholar.

The Conservation Federation of Missouri Scholarships in Natural Resources – Wildlife will be awarded to Shawn Colborn (Ed Stegner Undergraduate Award) and Travis Schepker (Carl Marrow Graduate Award) at their upcoming annual meeting.

Committee Reports

Kevin Hedgpeth, as chair of the Audit Committee, briefed everyone that ledgers were reviewed from the last year and all accounts appeared to be in good standing.

Daniel Zekor informed the group that the James D. Chambers Memorial Scholarship was announced earlier so that would not hit during finals week and thanked the advisors who spread the word to individual students. There still seems to be a need to keep making students aware of this award, so please let committee know of any ways to improve. Glenn Chambers added a heartfelt thanks to Daniel Zekor for advancing the scholarship and provided a financial report of the funds.

Chair of the 2015 MNRC Steering Committee, Alan Leary, reported that MOTWS hosted this year's conference and so far things were excellent. He asked the other dozen folks working on the committee to stand up for recognition as this is a four year commitment and everyone has been working hard to insure success. Alan Leary felt that things were going smoothly and encouraged everyone to please submit comments to the conference committee. The committee will communicate with representatives of the Society of American Foresters for next year's conference to suggest any needed improvements. This year's attendance increased to over 700 full registrations and almost another hundred in daily passes.

Jason Sykes updated the membership on last year's Summer Professional Workshop which focused on river and riparian management. Participation was down but overall went well and considered a success as it drew in a diverse group of people from over eight different organizations, as well as a few new memberships. New this year was a \$5 registration charge to go towards the lunch. A post-workshop survey helped to gather new ideas or comments to improve future workshops. Jason Sykes also informed everyone of the fast approaching deadline for the spring travel grant. Ted Seiler encouraged everyone to attend these professional workshops and try to make use of the travel grant and participate!

Jennifer Mittelhauser asked everyone to please join the GoogleGroup ListServ and to "Like" us on Facebook. Tom Kulowiec showed everyone the new Chapter Website hosted by the Society. Ted Seiler then presented Tom with a handmade cutting board for his > 20 years of being the Chapter's Webmaster.

Student Chapter Reports

Carly Compton, President of the Missouri Western State University, informed the group of their organization's activities this past semester. Worked with Squaw Creek NWR to maintain their partnership with Fish and Wildlife Service and hosted their first Family Day at the refuge. The students spend a lot of time at Squaw Creek NWR conducting deer surveys and various field work. They participated in Share the Harvest in transferring 940 pounds of venison to needy families, they hosted a shooting competition at Camp Gieger and completed deer aging stations for the MDC and won their 6th North Central Section Student Chapter of the Year Award.

Molly Murphy, President of the Truman State University Student Chapter informed everyone that this was their first time attending the MNRC. Three years ago they started with six members and have grown to about 40 active members! They host outreach events to draw in other students, such as: having a wildlife photographer and MU Raptor Rehab come visit. They will soon have Darwin Day later this month which is a campus wide dodge ball tournament. They also bring in elementary aged students and have their Student Chapter members present on wildlife to the young children. Various other events occur throughout the year, such as: Earth Week, animal/wildlife appreciation, lots of Eastern bluebird research and restoring squirrel boxes, recently installing bat boxes, and participation in the Adair county Winter Bird Count.

Shawn Colborn, President of the University of Central Missouri Student Chapter, reviewed the past year of activities. Several members participated in Science Olympiad which is a program for middle-aged students to participate in future college classes, Pertle Springs cleanup day, hosted their Annual BioBlitz which involves the community, invited working professionals to demonstrate several field techniques, members attended MOTWS Student Workshop and took a trip to Mingo NWR, Jakes outdoor event with NWTF and have assisted the MDC at their campus shooting range in teaching young children, James A. Reed dove wing collection and research endeavors, also assisted the MDC with paddlefish harvest, assisted Johnson County with Discover Nature, again at James A. Reed. They just created a new event called Fall Festival which occurs at the campus shooting range and includes several activities. They invited MDC Conservation Agents to come discuss volunteer protection program, assisted with check-point and deer aging with the MDC and had a local Private Land Conservationist conduct a burn workshop as many students hope to take a trip to Texas to burn and learn about land management. Shawn Colborn closed by inviting everyone to their BioBlitz on April 11th 2015.

MollyJo Leach, Vice-President of the University of Missouri – Columbia’s Student Chapter, described 2014 student activities which were very engaging and thanked Jason Isabelle for such a great job to promote student involvement. Their student group hosted various professionals such as: Rachel Muntz who discovered a new species of wars, Andrew Alba, Kelly Straka spoke to students as a wildlife veterinarian and attracted their largest attendance, not just within the School of Natural Resources. Annual float trip and club provided a couple rooms and promoted to students to attend professional attendance at conferences, such as sending two students to CLFT (Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow), which promotes conservation to students. Group assisted the MDC with deer aging at two locations and had as many as 10 students involved, all of which learned something from that experience, and continue to take weekend trips to assist Dr. John Faaborg with bird banding. They have created a new officer position as a Student Liaison, to meet the needs of offering their own professional student workshop. MollyJo Leach thanked everyone from MOTWS, as they do not get thanked enough for providing students with a network to grow individuals within the natural resources field.

Old Business

Ted Seiler provided a travel grant update, as the money is there but there are no current applicants. Shawn Colborn asked if they are open to students and Ted Seiler responded that it is open to any MOTWS paid member to apply.

President’s Final Remarks Ted Seiler thanked everyone for allowing him to serve and thanked each committee and the MOTWS Executive Board, especially Tim Kavan, Luke Miller, and Jason Isabelle as these individuals will be revolving off the Executive Board and invited the membership to provide them a round of applause. Ted Seiler stated that he and others have been working hard to keep the Chapter moving forward. Drove home the point that our State Chapter in Missouri is very active and thanked everyone for the assistance making the past year a success. Leading the group does take some time but the effort can be very rewarding, so he encouraged everyone to please volunteer!

Election Results: 61 members voted! President-Elect is Ryan Diener, Secretary is Mary Crowell and Board Member will be Charles Anderson.

Presidential Authority passed to New President

Anthony Elliott thanked Ted Seiler for his hard work over the last year and informed the membership that he was honored and a little intimidated to fill the role of Presidency, yet has the support of a great staff. He also

expressed the need for assistance and volunteerism, as the biggest obstacle might be locating a new MNRC Committee Chair, so please take consideration. Anthony Elliott also thanked Ted Seiler but will be counting on his help and advice. Anthony also thanked Tim Kavan, Luke Miller and Jason Isabelle as the out-going officers and welcomed Ryan Diener, Mary Crowell, and Charles Anderson to the table and felt they would make a great leadership group. Future Chapter priorities will remain the same but he welcomed any new input from the membership. As the new President Anthony Elliott wants to continue to keep great communication among the Student Chapters and ensure that MOTWS does stay active in appropriate legislative items yet be financially responsible over the upcoming year and a proposed budget was provided. Main expenses for the Chapter include the travel grants and awards, and major incomes are from memberships and raffles. Anthony Elliott also made a special invitation to each of the Presidents of the Student Chapters to attend our MOTWS Executive Board meetings as they are normally conducted via conference calls.

New Business

Keith Norris, Assistant Director of Government Affairs with The Wildlife Society traveled from Maryland to present to MOTWS new initiatives that have been started over the last few months. He reiterated that each Chapter and Member does need to get involved in the Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). As it provides a great connection for improvement and communication among other sections, encourages networking, and synergizing with the Society. eWildlife is the new newsletter and contains announcements and advertisements to better connect with you! The CAN's initial focus was wildlife policy, but now it is about more efficient and effective means to convey policy.

Ted Seiler informed the group of the upcoming 2015 Spring Student Workshop that will be on April 17-19 at Columbia Bottom CA near Saint Louis. New this year is forming a partnership with MoAFS in hopes that the collaboration expands the opportunities for the students and is a win-win for everyone.

Announcements

Anthony Elliott asked for a quick huddle of the old and new MOTWS Executive Board Officers after the business meeting continue the current momentum occurring among the Chapter.

Dr. Cary Chevalier announced his full support of all the awesome MOTWS Chapter activities and encouraged more folks to attend the conference and participate! He also invited each Student Chapter stand for recognition, as this provided students a great opportunity to be recognized for their efforts.

Brandon Butler, Director of CFM, is a great voice of conservation in Missouri and provided an update of the activities currently occurring within the State Legislature. Members can learn more on the website but made everyone aware of the attacks on conservation in Missouri as this seems to be retribution from the captive cervid issue addressed last session. Several bills are currently in development that would affect the MDC and the conservation of the fish, forest and wildlife within the state. Brandon Butler wants all of our grandchildren to think of us as warriors that stood and fought as a reduction in funds to MDC would mean a reduction in conservation for our state. What can you do about it? Vote them out of office, but most run unopposed in the elections, so you are encouraged to contact the representatives. CFM has recently invested in some form letter software and advised members to sign up for CFM's Legislative Action Network and possible attend a new event "Storm the Capital" and thanked everyone for the time during the meeting! Tom Kulowiec, chair of resolutions committee, laid out a plan to address the current legislative bills. Daniel Zekor comprised a list of most critical members of the Senate and House so that they are aware of the situation. Go to CFM as there will

be templates out for individuals to write their own personal letter. Daniel Zekor informed everyone that there is someone representing you and your interests in the House and another in the Senate, so make your voice heard!

Adjournment

Next business meeting would be held at the 2016 MNRC and everyone is encouraged to attend and support the Chapter. Without any further discussions, Anthony Elliott asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Daniel Zekor and Scott Sudkamp seconded. Anthony Elliott then called the annual business meeting to a close at 5:58pm.