

Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Executive Board Meeting
April 19, 2005

Meeting via Conference Call started at 5:58 pm

Present:

Warrensburg, CMSU
Vicki Jackson

Columbia MDC Research Center
Larry Mechlin
Chris Newbold
Margie Mitchell
Rosemary Heinen
Nick Cahill, MU Student Chapter

Tim Russell was unable to be in the Conference Call due to technical problems. Vicki was going to pass information from the meeting on to Tim.

Agenda Items:

1. Spring Meeting Discussion and Evaluation
2. Committee Chairs
3. Catch-all

Spring Workshop Discussion and Evaluation

Discussion:

- All agreed that the Spring Workshop was a big success and think this is the beginning of a great tradition. We had 65 students and 28 professionals participate in the Spring Workshop.
- It was discussed which Executive Board Member should coordinate the Spring Workshop. Larry pointed out that the Past-President is in a good position to coordinate the Spring Workshop since this office really only has duties for about 3 months and would have the time to devote to it.
- Rosemary suggested that the Past-President and the President-Elect co-coordinate the Spring Workshop. This would promote good “training” for the President-Elect, good cooperation, and a good transition between President-Elect, President, and Past-President officers.
- The entire Board agreed that the meeting should rotate throughout the State on a yearly basis. This would promote the participation of different, regional groups/members, would focus on different habitats/issues, and could possibly, in the future, promote intrastate cooperation.

- The Board all agreed that in future Spring Workshops, we should invite Fisheries students from the State's Universities since we have included fishery techniques as part of the workshops.
- Chris suggested that the Board look at developing activities and programs at the Spring Workshop that will attract Natural Resource field professionals. These activities may be a workshop that would be applicable to the field personnel jobs. By focusing on field professionals, we may increase membership and participation in MOTWS. Rosemary agreed with Chris' thoughts.

Action Items:

- The Board decided that planning for the 2006 Spring Workshop should begin now.
- Chris suggested that University Forest be used for the 2006 Workshop. This site has varied habitats, will put the meeting in the SE part of the state, and has housing available. Vicki will look into reserving University Forest for 2006.

Committee Chairs

Discussion:

- Vicki has contacted most of the Committee Chairs. Some will stay on, others have asked to be released.
- Open Committee Chairs:
 - Farmer-Wildlife
 - Membership
 - Nomination
 - Professional Development
 - Runge Award
 - Raffle-Auction
- If anyone is interesting in filling one of these committee chairs, have them contact Vicki.
- Vicki has suggested to have co-chairs where needed to help spread out the responsibilities among two people.
- The Board would like to have these committee chairs filled by our next meeting.

Action Items:

- Margie will contact Rob Chapman, the Membership Chair, to see if he will still serve. If he will, Margie will see if he will send mailings of membership forms to past members and alert them to the opportunities to serve as committee chairs.
- Contact should be electronic, but followed up with mailings for those who do not respond electronically.

Catch-all

Discussion:

- Budget: \$8,633.52 in Checking, \$400.93 in the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is short the needed \$500 for our Chapters annual payment to the national society. A private donation has been pledged to meet this payment, but has not been made yet.
- The National Envirothon thanked MOTWS for its \$300 donation.
- The web site domain (www.motws.org) was paid for and reserved for a five year period. The renewal will be needed on 5/19/2010. Chris has placed this information in the Secretary's files.
- Vicki pointed out that we have been asked to provide a sponsorship at the 2005 National Wildlife Society Meeting in Madison, WI. She asked if we should make this payment, which could be anywhere from \$500, or more. The Board would research this with past Officers and look through our records. A discussion and vote on this issue would be conducted via e-mail. (The discussion has taken place and was very good. The Board voted to approve a \$500 sponsorship to the National Conference and also to look at ways to make it easier and more likely that members will attend National and Regional meetings.)

Action Items:

- Margie will contact Rob Chapman to see if he is still willing to serve as the Membership Chair.
- Vicki will touch base with Tim to discuss issues of the meeting
- Margie will look through past records to see if the MOTWS has made sponsorship payments to national and regional meetings in the past.
- Tim will be working on the Spring Newsletter which will be out in May. Lots of space will be devoted to the Spring Workshop.

Adjourn. 6:32 pm

Email Discussion of Sponsorship Issue (Cut and pasted chronologically by Chris Newbold):

4/26/2005

One of the missions of TWS that directly offers benefits to wildlife professionals is to enhance their ability to conserve wildlife resources. The Wildlife Society does this by encouraging professional growth through certification, peer-review publications, conferences, and working groups.

In light of the fact our profession takes in a broad interest in wildlife resources (from insects and reptiles to birds and mammals)

I am not so sure a majority of those individuals in the wide variety of wildlife professions even know about or understand the society's support for professional development. We need to remember, our profession entails not only federal and state government agencies and universities, but local government agencies, NGOs, private wildlife services, and a growing number of environmental consulting firms.

Therefore, I can see that our chapter should increase our efforts to reach these professionals and clearly define the purpose and also the benefits to being a member of MoTWS as well as the parent society. An organization larger than what we have now could certainly support a "tour bus full" of wildlife professionals to attend these meetings. Even with the current membership level we have, I definitely would support a grant process to help get more members to the various conferences and symposiums. If we can continue to increase our membership, it would still be a good process to utilize for more membership to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

Perhaps we should think about some type of survey of not only our members but outside wildlife professionals as well. This could help us understand how well MoTWS is known and the benefits of professional development that it offers. This could ultimately serve us well as a catalyst to gain meaningful cooperation and partnerships in various natural resource efforts.

Tim Russell

4/25/2005

Thanks all for the discussion. I've been enlightened by it. First of all, I understand we have plenty of money to buy a sponsorship, and I agree and vote "yes" on doing this.

Second, I agree with John, and think that we should really look into providing funds to MOTWS members to travel to this, and other future, professional meetings. I think if we did this, then we would be furthering our goal of providing/encouraging/supporting ongoing education for members. I think that would be more beneficial to MOTWS members than just getting our name on a publication as a "sponsor". I also think this will provide a valuable service to our members. This would allow more members to participate in professional meetings other than those of us who attend to speak, or go wearing multiple hats.

I think that was my concern. How was a sponsorship going to directly benefit MOTWS members? To me, if we can get more MOTWS to the meeting the sponsorship becomes more relevant. I think John sums up my thoughts the best when he says "not only should TWS state chapters be concerned about supporting regional or national continuing education efforts with supporting financial contributions, but rather how can TWS state chapters fill a tour bus full of land managers, biologists, and administrators to attend these meetings and take full advantage of the professional development opportunities."

I'm not sure the specifics of how to provide assistance to MOTWS members getting to the Conference, but maybe we would want to look at some sort of "grant" process or some other process to provide funding for members to get to Regional and National Conferences.

Chris Newbold

4/22/2005

In regards to the discussion of sending someone to the national meeting, MDC - Wildlife Division decided to send me to speak at the State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Symposium being held in conjunction with the 2005 Annual Conference in Madison. They asked me to present examples from our part of the state to explain how the CWS framework will build better conservation from a regional field perspective. Since I'm serving as a MoTWS officer as well, the Wildlife Division Mgt Team proposed in the budget to foot the bill. I would be more than happy to return with a report to share with the board and membership as well. As details of the agenda develop, I would be glad to gather info and attend other sessions that the board would see as beneficial to our chapter.

Tim Russell

4/22/2005

In her last email, Margie suggested I provide additional thoughts about MO-TWS chapter's contribution towards expenses of the national TWS conference. I don't have additional information to add on the topic specifically, but Margie mentioned something in her last note that needs more discussion.

Several years ago when I was state chapter president I raised the dues from \$5 to \$10 with the primary motivation to use the additional funds to send one or two chapter representatives to either the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference or the National TWS Conference (to the best of my knowledge this hasn't happened yet). I believe it's critical to keep state chapters engaged at the regional and national levels so they stay connected to the available professional resources. Each state chapter has a vote on the executive council at the section level, but very few states send a representative to the annual meeting (usually held in connection with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference).

Out-of-state travel budgets will likely not increase in the near future. In our profession, most professional development activities are related to conferences and symposia associated with meetings out of state; we must look for creative ways to continue to send our professionals to these meetings (you can't learn everything from a Steven Covey book or video tape). Last year, for example, I had planned to attend the Midwest conference with some creative financing even though I was president of the North Central TWS Section (DJ Case & Assoc. covered my hotel, MDC paid my registration and provided a car, and I was going to pay my own meals).

The bottom line is that not only should TWS state chapters be concerned about supporting regional or national continuing education efforts with supporting financial contributions, but rather how can TWS state chapters fill a tour bus full of land managers, biologists, and administrators to attend these meetings and take full advantage of the professional development opportunities. Maybe we have some useful information we can share at these meetings with other professionals from other states. These conferences are of little value, however, if no one goes to listen.

John Schulz

4/22/2005 3:23:56

To answer the financial part of your inquiries: we have some \$8000+ in our General account, from which this money would come. Our account's balance use to hover around \$1,000 - \$2000 back in the 1990's. Beginning with 1996, the funds started increasing each year, reaching the \$3-4,000 mark in

2000, \$4-5,000 in 2002, \$6-7,000 in 2004. We certainly need to maintain/increase our membership numbers to sustain this kind of revenue. That's why I suggested we contact individuals (who have been members at one time or another over the past 4 years) if they've neglected to renew for this year. But, we also don't need to raise money if we're not going to make good use of it.

The endowment money (the \$500 we were discussing at the meeting) is from a separate Endowment account at the Credit Union. That money was to be raised by Dave Murphy, Glen Chambers, and others, solely for being sent to the national society as our contribution to their endowment fund. Keeping the accounts separate avoids our dipping into our general funds if they fail to raise the \$2500 (over 5 years) that was pledged for the endowment.

Having our Chapter's name associated with a break doesn't mean that we're simply buying that portion of the conference. We are supporting continuing professional education through this national meeting, which includes all the food, room rates, speaker fees, etc. that comes with such a function. By requesting our name on a flyer for a particular part, we are receiving specific recognition for our contribution. We could certainly request that our money be used for a speaker (however, \$500 may not be a sufficient price to cover a high-quality speaker) or something else.

You questioned whether this would help our Missouri members as far as continuing education. Larry & I talked about this some today in the office. He mentioned that the Board has discussed sending someone to the national meeting for some time, but hasn't done anything about it. They usually rely on MDC to foot the bill for someone to go. We could certainly pay for one of the Board members or someone else to attend, gather ideas, information, contacts, & return with a report of some kind. I guess this meeting wouldn't affect most of us on a personal basis, so I can understand your hesitation for funding. But, it would be supportive of our parent society & its goals - and we are, as a Chapter, a part of the parent society. Please don't feel pressured into voting for something with which you do not agree. These are just some thoughts for discussion - sometimes hard to do via emails.

Larry also mentioned that we should devise some sort of plan for raising money for the Chapter. Perhaps that should also be part of this discussion. Anyone?

Margie Mitchell

4/22/2005

I support spending this money, if we have it. But I do have a few questions:

At our last meeting Margie pointed out that we were short the \$500 payment we owed to the National Chapter and would need a donation to cover this expense. If this is the case, should we be spending money on this sponsorship? In other words, does advertising at Madison, help us provide education, training, and professional development to Missouri TWS members and potential members? Do we have enough money to provide funds for this sponsorship and for future activities/programs that will directly benefit MOTWS members and potential members?

I'm not saying we should not sponsor, I'm just asking questions that I've thought about and I think we as a Board should think about (and the rest probably already have.) I guess I'm just looking for Margie and others to tell me that this sponsorship will not hurt our funds for future activities. And I would imagine that \$500 is an amount that we could provide without much hardship. If the rest of the Board thinks the answers to my above questions are "Yes", then I'll support donating \$500 for this action.

4/22/2005-

I agree with the \$500 donation.

Vicki Jackson

04/22/05

We certainly have the money. I'm with you in voting for this size of contribution, but will abide by whatever the entire Exec Board decides.

Margie Mitchell

4/22/2005

Margie, thanks for the insight and I agree that we should host part of a break session with a donation. It will look great for our TWS Chapter and I'm all for it, but the ever important question.....Do we have the money to do this? I'm thinking we do, and if so, I'm in favor of a minimum of \$500.00 contribution.

Rosemary Heinen

04/21/05

To Executive Board:

Just finished hearing an eloquent discussion from John Schultz regarding the Missouri Chapter's decision on whether or not to donate money to the national Society's annual meeting. He was definitely in favor of our Chapter providing some sort of support. His insightful comments, none of which could I duplicate well, basically repeated our philosophy that we are all about continuing education, & that we should be proud to fund such an educational opportunity.

The N Cent Section plans to donate \$1000. John thinks we should help finance the event whenever it's hosted within our Section. He felt that if we even provide \$100, it would get our Chapter's name on brochures & advertisements. He suggested that if we were generous enough to offer \$500, we should request that it "buy" a break session or a drink table or something, & that we have some sort of identifier that signifies "This break was donated by the MO Chapter of TWS." He had insisted on this very thing for our Chapter at the Midwest when it was held in KC. This would be an outstanding example of how our Chapter was actively involved in professional endeavors.

So far, I have not discovered an entry within the Treasurer's log that indicates we have done this in the past. I'm not sure that should color our response. If we are to return to being an influential state Chapter with constructive goals (the Spring Workshop was such a terrific start), I believe we should think strongly about this issue. We've shown we want to educate/influence the state's students. Chris suggested we do the same for the field staff folks. This certainly seems like a perfect chance to help education at the national level.

Margie Mitchell

P.S. I've copied John so he could provide additional persuasive advice, if need be.