

MOTWS Minutes of Executive Board Meeting -2/27/09

Attendees: Rochelle (Ro) Renken -President, Alan Leary - Treasurer, Kevin Hedgpeth - President Elect, Deb Burns (by phone)-Board Member at Large, Jeff Esely-Secretary, John Vogel-Past President

Meeting called to order by Rochelle at 10am.

Ro asked for discussion of the February 4th executive board meeting minutes. John pointed out that Alan Crossley's name was misspelled. Kevin noted that using a credit card machine at MNRC was discussed and he suggested borrowing the NWTF credit card machine. The group asked Kevin to look into the NWTF machine further (fees and phone line fees). Rochelle noted that the meeting minutes need to reflect that membership needs to vote on changes to the bylaws instead of the operations manual. The meeting minutes were approved with those changes.

Old Business:

- Ro began discussion of spring workshop plans at Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie. She asked that everyone attend if possible. A registration form is posted on the website and student chapter presidents have been notified. Alan indicated that no one had registered yet. Kevin asked if we had an email list of student chapter members. Ro indicated that we don't and she is relying on presidents to relay message. Ro asked if anyone had access to an air horn. John mentioned that a CO2 horn could be purchased cheaply, but would check at Busch office. Ro also asked if anyone had access to a loud speaker system for use at the workshop and Kevin indicated that he could borrow one. Ro will bring other various equipment for presentations and feels that we should have everything necessary. Alan asked about backup plan in case of bad weather. Ro indicated that we will use the 2 sheds in case of bad weather. The students could put tents in the sheds if needed. Kevin asked if turkey hunting was allowed on Wah-Kon-Tah since it will be youth turkey season, and suggested we keep this in mind. Ro is currently negotiating to have a reporter from St. Louis Post Dispatch attend the workshop. The student chapter at the University of Central Missouri will handle all meals. The dinner will be sponsored by QU and the MPF. Rochelle will arrive about 5pm on Friday night.
- Rochelle started discussion on the direction of the professional development committee. Jennifer Mittelhauser is the committee chair and she will meet in early March. They will research the opportunities currently available for members to get credits for certification. If opportunities are lacking, then we will look into establishing opportunities such as webinars and short courses. One idea of Ro's is to pay someone such as Josh Millsbaugh to hold short course on a topic such as population dynamics. Deb recommended conducting a survey of members to help determine what the needs are. It was agreed that this should be part of the initial research. John indicated that we could use the list serve for the survey. Alan indicated that a professor at Missouri Western was thinking of starting up an online policy course. He also indicated that we might try to get

copies of course descriptions to have available for members when they complete their certification application. Deb suggested that we establish reviewers to look over applications before they submit them since the application cost is high. Ro indicated that she spoke to Shannon Peterson about the opportunities for using experience and other trainings for coursework credit hours. John reiterated that the travel grant possibly be converted to a certification grant to help pay for class fees which tend to be fairly expensive. He indicated that we would need to establish an annual limit that we could fund. Rochelle said we need to investigate the travel grant rules in the bylaws or operations manual to see if we could use it for training/class fees. Alan asked if recipients of travel grant funds are required to provide a report, and John indicated that they typically put something in the newsletter. Alan suggested that the deadline for applying for the travel grant money was too late and may need to be changed. Ro said she would convey all these ideas to Jennifer.

- Ro then introduced the topic of the Chapter Operations Manual and Bylaws changes, and asked John for a review. John indicated that the manual is updated periodically and they began current changes over a year ago. He had hoped to send the bylaws changes to nationals this year but they weren't ready. The bylaws changes must be first approved by nationals and then by chapter membership. The operations manual can be changed by the executive board at any time. One of the major changes included the creation of technical committee and operations manual editor. John indicated that the current modifications still need more work. He hopes to have a proposed draft ready and submitted to nationals by mid-summer and then get it to the membership in the fall newsletter. John indicated that Margie Mitchell and Steve Sheriff have typically reviewed changes of the manual. He said that Margie feels that the Operations Manual Editor should be responsible for making all operations manual changes and updates and that person should then present recommended revisions to the executive board. Ro suggested asking Margie to take over editing of the operations manual and bylaws and then coordinate with John. John hopes they could have the changes ready by early July to submit to nationals. Kevin asked how they would be included in the newsletter and John felt that the bylaws were short enough to attach a hard copy to the newsletter or attach as a jpeg file to the electronic version. John asked if everyone liked the idea of forming the technology committee. The board felt it was a good idea and that Tom Kulowiec was a good choice for the chair, but he should recruit others to be on the committee.

New Business

- Alan indicated that we had 88 paid members as of the end of February. Forty – five members paid dues at MNRC with seven of these being new members. Rochelle introduced a recommended 2009 chapter budget. Kevin recommended that we check to see if the affiliate Conservation Federation membership fee has changed. Kevin asked if there is a target maximum amount that the chapter prefers to have in the bank account. John and Ro indicated that there is no rule regarding this. The board agreed that the budget was acceptable.

- Ro asked for recommendations for 5 open committee chair positions. The following recommendations were given:
 1. Audit Committee: Alan suggested asking past treasurers and the following names were suggested: Keith Jackson, Doreen Mengel, Lonnie Hansen, Tom Bell.
 2. Membership Committee: Jeff Demand, Aaron Jeffries, Scott Sudkamp.
 3. Nominating/Elections Committee: Len Gilmore, Gene Gardner, Brad McCord.
 4. Resolutions/Public Statements: Janet Sternburg, Mary Lyon, Aaron Jeffries, Scott Sudkamp, Mike Jones, Lisa Potter.
 5. Runge Award Committee: Ed Brown, Debbie Fantz, Bill Heatherly.
- Ro then opened discussion on a potential one-day workshop for members. Ro suggested that the chapter did a lot for the student chapters but could do more for members. She felt a one-day annual workshop would be fairly easy to put together compared to the spring student workshop. Deb indicated that the workshop could go towards credit towards certification. The group felt that July 5 through August 15 would be the optimal time period. The board felt that the workshop should probably run approximately 10am-4pm.

The following potential workshop topic ideas were suggested: 1) Lessons from MOFEP, 2) Wind energy impacts on wildlife in Missouri. 3) Glade/Fen management, 4) Missouri River Mitigation sites in NW MO, 5) Prairie management efforts/patch burn grazing, 6) Invasive species management, 7) Cave Karst workshop at Tom Aley's Tumbling Creek Cave near Bull Shoals Lake, 8) Wildfire Simulation.

The group ranked Cave/Karst and Wind Energy as the 1st and 2nd preferred topic choices respectively. Allen indicated that \$500 would cover the cave/karst fee and lunch. Ro indicated that we may be able to work with Squaw Creek NWR for a wind farm workshop. The board decided to flip a coin to choose between the two topics and the wind energy topic was selected. The hope is to have a tour of an actual wind farm. Ro indicated that she would contact Lynn Robbins about presenting. Ro suggested that the group think about potential contacts. Allen suggested talking to Doyle Brown, and Ro said she would contact him. John suggested inviting a representative from the wind energy development field to speak. Kevin said he would contact Max Alleger, and he also suggested inviting someone from Kansas to speak. Ro suggested possibly contacting Bob Robell and also suggested inviting someone to speak on the economics of wind energy. Deb indicated that DNR had a Missouri Wind Energy working group. She indicated that she would investigate the working group further. Ro said that she wanted to get an announcement to the membership as soon as possible.

- Ro introduced the topic of the chapter potentially hosting the national TWS meeting. John said that the meeting would need to be held at St. Louis or Kansas City. John said that we would need to see if MDC would be a major supporter or

contributor to the event. Alan indicated that planning and hosting the meeting would be too much for the Chapter alone to pull off. As a whole, the board agreed that it was too large a commitment, and Ro said she would write Clay Nielsen back and decline the invitation.

Other Business:

- Kevin showed the group an email that said that prairie chickens from the relocation efforts were showing up at Wah-kon-tah prairie and other areas.
- Deb asked for clarification on her duties associated with policy updates. Ro suggested that Deb try to stay abreast of any new TWS policy issues and report them to the board.
- The board gave Kevin some clarification on the logistics of preparing the newsletter. John suggested that Kevin review the previous issues of the newsletter on the website and use them as a template. John recommended that he include an announcement about the national conference in the spring newsletter.
- Kevin suggested T&E species as a topic for the 2010 spring student workshop. The board felt that this was a good idea worth looking into.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15pm.