

MOTWS Minutes of Executive Board Meeting -2/4/09

Attendees: John Vogel-President, Alan Leary - Treasurer, Rochelle Renken - President Elect, Bob Alexander-Board Member at Large, and Mike Hubbard-Secretary, Alan Crossley North Central Section Representative, Jennifer Mittelhauser-Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Meeting called to order by John Vogel at 3:10.

John asked for a quick review of 2008 annual meeting minutes. Mike Hubbard sent them out to executive board members in October. John asked if there were any questions related to the minutes. None were noted. It was noted that the 2008 minutes reflected the need for a vote on our chapter bylaws that was going to be postponed until 2010. John said he would inform the membership of this change.

Committee chair positions are now open and include Audit, Membership, Nominations, Resolutions and Public Statements, Runge Award, Raffle Auction, and General Editor Chair positions. Millspaugh will continue as Education committee chair and Bob Schroeppel will continue as Farmer Conservationist Award chair, and Jennifer Mittelhauser will continue as Professional Development chair. Alan suggested that we use the list serve (currently under development) to encourage people to attend these committee meetings and for recruiting members to participate in our various committees. A suggestion was also made to have Executive Board meetings at various places throughout the state, specifically associated with student chapters.

Alan Leary also suggested that we send the most recent Newsletter to new state chapter members so they are aware that their membership has been received and are in effect.

John also brought up that we have, in some cases, liaisons with our student chapters. In the past, these liaisons have always been executive board members. It was suggested that we should have liaisons with all student chapters and those liaisons could be any member in good standing.

Alan Crossley informed the Executive Board that the same issues occur in Wisconsin and they are still trying to find answers to increasing involvement with committees and memberships.

Bob lead a discussion related to raffle tickets and using hats to encourage folks to participate in the raffle. He suggested \$30 would get an annual state membership, 20 raffle tickets and a hat. He also suggested we could use some of the hats as raffle prizes. We could also throw a hat in with paid attendance at our spring workshop. We could also throw a hat on every silent auction item at our booth. John asked if we should try to liquidate them below cost. The board suggested that we try these other approaches this year before we start getting rid of the hats for less than cost. Ro suggested that we offer the \$30 option and we also offer the hats to our student chapters at cost. Ro's suggested

was approved by the board. It was also determined that the hat would be sold at the MNRC for \$8.

Alan Leary also suggested that MOTWS look into renting a credit card machine for our booth at the MNRC.

Jennifer discussed with the board the potential of working with the Society of American Foresters (SAF) to coordinate some additional training opportunities and advance educational opportunities at their biennial trainings. She also asked about opportunities to have on-line trainings to help members maintain their certifications. She has also worked with National to create a listserv for MOTWS members and that has been accomplished. John said SAF is very interested in partnering with MOTWS to provide training opportunities for our members. SAF's workshop chair is Gus Raker and John said he would contact Gus to start discussions related to a joint training opportunity. The board decided to send two MOTWS representatives to the next SAF training opportunity to see how things are run. These members should meet/talk with Gus prior to attending. The board decided to cover cost of the two members who are selected to attend.

Alan Crossley also suggested that in Wisconsin, they started these types of trainings by providing a one-day training opportunity to their members and this may be an option for the Missouri chapter.

Ro suggested that during the coming year she would like to see information provided to MOTWS membership on how to become certified and/or maintain their certification. She is hoping to grow the Professional Development Committee and provide training opportunities, webinars, links to courses offered at universities, and working with universities to provide certification programs. She is also trying to find a faculty member who would develop 4-day short courses on specific topics that would help our members become certified.

John suggested that given the cost of most on-line courses, it may be that instead of having a travel grant program (which the state chapter currently has, but is seldom used) we use that money to set up an account to help offset cost of on-line courses for our membership.

Ro mailed an announcement for the spring 2009 Student workshop to the board 2 weeks ago. She has 13 professional that will participate in the training. The training will be April 3-5 at Wah-Kon-Ta prairie in southwest Missouri. Topics will include grassland management, prescribed fire, prairie chickens, etc. She also is encouraging executive board members to attend this workshop and meet with students.

The board reviewed the agenda for the 2009 annual meeting agenda.

Alan Crossley updated the board on section and national level memberships. All memberships have been declining, but national level membership is currently increasing slightly. Alan asked the board to discuss things that were going well and things that

National and the Section could improve on or change. The board discussed the new "Wildlife Professional" magazine and how good it is at relating to individual professionals. Alan also was interested in why members are national and not state chapter members and vice versa. He said there is some discussion at the national level about creating a "unified due" where you're either a member of national, section, and state chapters or you're not a member of any. This is being debated and there are pro's for the national level, but mostly negatives for the state level memberships. Alan also discussed the Wildlife Society National Training Institute and the fact that nominations are currently open for attending that Institute.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.