

MOTWS Minutes of Executive Board Meeting –February 3, 2010

Attendees: Rochelle (Ro) Renken -President, Alan Leary - Treasurer, Kevin Hedgpeth - President Elect, Debra Burns-Board Member at Large, Jeff Esely-Secretary, John Vogel-Past President, and Liz Ball-Professional Development Workshop Committee Head, Jeff Demand Chair Membership Committee, Bruce Leopold-President TWS, and John Schultz.

Meeting called to order by Rochelle at 3pm.

Old Business

- The meeting began with introductions amongst the attendees.
- Ted Seiler provided a report regarding the MNRC steering committee. Contract is in hand for 2010 MNRC. Contract is for 800 people but he indicated that we may need to reduce even more. Committee chairs are all filled except for the run. They still need to line up plenary speakers and they are looking for recommendations. Theme is human element of conservation. Suggestions so far include Robert Glennon (U of Arizona), or someone from USDA leadership. Ted indicated that we ask for volunteers from student chapters to be on committees and assist with running the conference next year. Rochelle suggested that Ted talk to the student chapter presidents or advisors about their interest with this. He said overall everything seemed to be progressing well.
- Jeff Esely provided an oral review of the previous board meeting minutes. Deb made a motion to approve the minutes, Alan seconded and the motion passed.
- Alan Leary provided the treasurer's report (Attached). The Chapter account balance as of 12/31/09 is \$7,446.05. The audit was completed on January 29, 2010 and no issues were found. Kevin motioned to accept and Jeff Demand seconded, and motion was carried.
- The board gave Bruce a summary about the Wind Energy Workshop that was held in June.
- Jennifer Mittelhauser provided a report on the professional development committee report. She indicated that there were currently about 98 people on the listserve. She said that it has worked well so far but they will look to recruit more people to join. Jennifer indicated that a big issue is how to help members attain their TWS wildlife biologist certification. Jennifer indicated that online class opportunities look like a good way to go. She also indicated that the committee has discussed establishing a professional development fund for members trying to attain certification. Bruce indicated that the TWS website lists online courses that are accepted for certification. He also indicated that the Berryman Institute will pay the costs for a person to develop professionally (education enhancement grant up to \$1,000), but the person must be in the field of wildlife conflicts. Bruce indicated that this can be found on the internet and the grant opens in about 2 weeks. He said that \$10,000 is budgeted for this each year and it is usually underused. Rochelle thanked Jennifer for her leadership in the professional development committee.
- Jeff Demand provided a report on the membership committee: Jeff indicated that he has been the chair of the committee since April of 2009. He indicated that Terry Coon is also on the committee. Jeff said that his goal is for the chapter membership to double within 2 years. Jeff indicated that there are many biologists in the state who aren't members so he thinks this goal is attainable. Jeff indicated that he was happy and excited to be in this

position and looks forward to recruiting new members. Kevin indicated that many people have let their memberships expire and that we should contact those folks. Rochelle indicated that providing benefits for members is a good way to sell memberships but we have to get this information out to people. She also indicated that it was important for us to get our members involved. Deb indicated that it may be a good idea to have TWS info at the Wildlife Division Meeting. It was recommended that the TWS display be put up at the meeting. John indicated that a membership flyer was used in the past. John suggested that there is an issue regarding people who are national members and not state members or vice versa. Bruce also indicated that the parent society is looking into getting a credit card setup that chapters could use to pay for TWS communications.

- Liz Ball provided a report on the progress of the Working Professional's Workshop committee. Jason Sumners, Bridget Jackson, and David Strobel have agreed to be on the committee. Liz will provide a summary about the committee at the business meeting and will try to recruit additional committee members. She also indicated that the committee will hold its first meeting on February 4th. Liz provided the board with the agenda for the committee meeting. John indicated that the MNRC should be listed as having credit towards recertification.
- **Resolutions/Public Statements Committee**—Ro indicated that we still do not have a chair for this committee. She has talked to several people about this and there hasn't been any interest. John suggested making this committee ad hoc in the future and the board indicated that this could be considered at a later date.

New Business

- **2013 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**—Liz Ball provided the board with the proposal for changing the timing of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. This proposal was written by Gary Potts and Ollie Torgerson and provides a case for changing the conference timing from early December to early January. (see attached). John indicated that he would like the MOTWS to submit the proposal as a motion for approval at the 2010 business meeting and that this proposal would be sent to the steering committee when it forms. Kevin made a motion to consider the proposal at the business meeting, seconded by Jeff and motion was carried by board. The executive board was in support of this proposal and Rochelle indicated that we would insert this item into the business meeting as new business.
- **Gene Gardner request for funds to send a partner to TWW fly in**—Gene is representing the Missouri Teaming with Wildlife Steering Committee in submitting a request for support (\$300) to send Carol Davit of the MPF to the TWW Fly in Days at Washington DC. The purpose of this event is to meet personally with each of the 11 congressional members from Missouri and thank them for their support of funding and legislation that benefits conservation, and to request their support for increased and dedicated federal funding for fish, forest and wildlife conservation in Missouri. John indicated that this type of request has been handled by the executive board in the past. Kevin made a motion to approve this request for funding, which was seconded by Alan. The board carried the motion. Kevin suggested that we have Carol provide TWS with a report after the trip which we could put in the newsletter.

Other Business

- The board then discussed the agenda and procedures for the 2010 annual business meeting. Rochelle indicated that two items regarding the proposed bylaws changes may need to be addressed. John indicated that these items can be discussed at the general meeting.
- **Prices for Raffle Tickets**—The board discussed how much would be charged for the raffle tickets.
- **Spring Student Workshop**—Kevin provided the board with a proposal for the workshop which will be held at the Drury-Mincy MDC Conservation Area on Bull Shoals on April 9-11, 2010. Activities will include an underground lab field trip, bat mist netting, water quality monitoring and amphibian/reptile walk. There would be a \$15 registration fee and the MSU TWS chapter would help sponsor the workshop. Rochelle indicated that she was concerned that the \$15 registration fee would not be enough to cover the event. John suggested that we contact Bob Gates of the TWS North Central section to help fund the workshop. Rochelle suggested that we pursue additional support for another NGO.
- **Bruce Leopold—TWS National President:** Bruce indicated he would provide an overview of national activities at the business meeting. The board thanked Bruce for attending the conference.

John motioned to adjourn and seconded by Alan and approved by the board at 5:35pm