

**Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Executive Board Meeting
July 13, 2005**

Meeting started at 6:15 pm
Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO

Present:

Vicki Jackson
Tim Russell
Larry Mechlin
Chris Newbold
Margie Mitchell
Rosemary Heinen

Agenda Items:

OLD BUISNESS

1. MNRC Update
2. Second Annual Spring Workshop
3. Endowment Fund
4. Travel Support Application Process

NEW BUISNESS

5. David Gwaze seeks support for Shortleaf Pine Workshop
6. Mailers to new members and old members
7. MDC Internship policy shift
8. Teaming With Wildlife
9. Catch-all

Minutes from the 19 April 2005 meeting were accepted and approved as written.

MNRC Update

Discussion:

- Workshops are full for 2006 MNRC
- Registration is scheduled to go out in October
- Vender applications have already gone out
- The 2006 Theme is set as “Managing the Public’s Trust”
- Reminder that MOTWS will be hosting in 2007

Second Annual Spring Workshop

Discussion:

- Vicki contacted the University Forest Staff in Poplar Bluff to get information on using their facilities for the MOTWS Spring 2006 Workshop.
 - ◆ University Forest can accommodate the Workshop.
 - ◆ Cost for lodgings are \$25, \$20, \$15 /day/person dependent on meals that were included (1, 2, or 3 meals).
 - ◆ The “dorm” can accommodate 60 people.
 - ◆ The area also can provide breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner.
 - ◆ John Barham 573/222-8373 is the on site contact/administrator.
- Discussion occurred on whether or not the Board still wanted to pursue University Forest as the workshop location. After a short discussion, it was decided that University Forest would be a good site since it provides opportunities to see/address many issues; including forest management, forest bird habitat, reptile and amphibian species, wetlands, and other natural resource aspects.
- Time frame for the workshop was set for the second weekend in April (April 7-8th, 2006) to maximize field opportunities at University Forest.

Action Items:

- The Board will look into a reduction in cost from the University. Chris will contact the Director’s Office at the University of Missouri’s School of Natural Resources to see if it is possible to reduce at least the lodging costs since the workshop is geared towards TWS Student Chapters.
- Vicki will also follow up with University Forest staff to see if there is any way to reduce costs.
- Tim will check with Wappapello State Park and the Corps of Engineers to see if group camping could be used to reduce cost per person.

Endowment Fund

Discussion:

- The MOTWS Executive Board is tasked to raise money to meet our commitment to the National TWS Endowment Fund (\$500/year until 2009). The Chapter currently has \$51.86 in our Endowment Fund.
- Discussion occurred that explored the fundraising intentions of past Board members who made the commitment. Larry indicated that there really was no event planned or scheduled by past officers or fundraising committee members. Instead their intentions were to raise the money on an “as needed basis” by soliciting donations from various groups and individual members.
- Discussion also occurred on exactly what the National TWS Endowment Fund is and how it came about. *[Review of the past records and minutes showed that in January 2003, Ollie Torgerson advocated that the MOTWS support the National TWS Endowment campaign. This endowment is to be used for efforts to provide more technical reviews and responses to critical issues for wildlife. In the*

January 29th, 2004 Annual Meeting of MOTWS, the Endowment Fund issue was discussed and voted on. The discussion led to a commitment of a minimum of \$500/year for the next 5 years. The record shows that the discussion also focused on the commitment of the Chapter to raise the funds, although no details are provided. The members present passed the motion.]

- Discussion was made to request the student chapters to help raise money for the Endowment Fund. The Board decided that this was not a good idea and other ways, including donations, should be looked at to raise the needed money.
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Action Items:

- Larry will contact the past leadership and fundraising “experts” to see if they can help in raising the Endowment monies. Gaining donations for a raffle and other fundraising at MNRC could help. By getting raffle items now, the Board hopes to secure big ticket items that will generate more revenue.
- No other direction was taken or decisions made on raising Endowment funds at this time.

Travel Support Application Process

Discussion:

- Vicki is taking a first stab at drafting a “Travel Assistance Request” application for use in determining who/which meeting to fund for travel requests from MOTWS.
- Discussion included questions on how much money the Chapter should provide for travel. The Board agreed that the amount should be fluid, and would have to depend on available assets, as well as the costs of various workshops/meetings. Funding should be limited to a set dollar amount, probably for registration. Any additional cost would have to be picked up by the attendee.
- This led to discussions on how to budget for travel reimbursement. The Board decided that it would be a good idea to develop an annual budget to provide to members at our Annual meeting. Travel assistance would be a part of that budget.
- Discussion also included questions on which meetings would qualify for travel assistance. Would funding be limited to only the National TWS meetings, or would regional meetings or specific workshops also be funded? Priority will be placed on Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference & TWS National, as well as other **TWS-sponsored** meetings. Budgeting would allow the Board to better evaluate all requests
- The Board plans on advancing travel assistance in 2006. The program will wait until the next annual meeting in 2006 when the members will have a chance to vote on the draft application and after a budget has been developed.

Action Items:

- Vicki will complete the draft application and provide it for review by the rest of the Board.
- Larry will work to draft a potential budget for 2006.

David Gwaze seeks support for Shortleaf Pine Symposium

Discussion:

- MOTWS was requested to support the Shortleaf Pine Symposium.
- Chris and Tim both argued that this is the kind of program that the MOTWS needs to support & develop, and in which they should participate. It is believed by involving MOTWS in these types of workshops and symposia, more field managers will be exposed to continuing education and professional development. This could lead to increased participation from individuals, such as field managers, who are not as currently active in MOTWS.

Action Items:

- Margie will contact David Gwaze for information and pass it along to the other Board members to be discussed via email. After discussion the Board will vote via email on whether to support the Symposium. *[Information was distributed on the purpose and agenda of the Symposium. The Board voted to support his Symposium by providing \$500. The MOTWS will be recognized as a sponsoring member.]*

Mailers to new members and old members

Discussion:

- Mailers will be sent out to previous members to encourage their reinstatement to and participation in the Missouri Chapter of TWS. Plans are to contact those listed on past membership rosters by email, using Vicki's computer at work. A hard-copy flyer will be sent via postal mail if response from email is limited. A similar plea for new members will be mailed (in hard-copy format) to appropriate wildlife-based public & private offices, agencies, & institutions, as well as being included on the Chapter web page & in the upcoming Chapter newsletter.
- Mailers will focus on why people should join the MOTWS. Activities such as the Spring Workshop, travel assistance to regional & national meetings, MNRC, and participation in ongoing professional development and educational programs should be emphasized. Although calls for assistance with the Spring Workshop and with fundraising activities are needed, the Board does not want to overwhelm potential members with "work".
- The mailers should be short (one page), and include web page and officer/contact information.
- Due to the time (already late in the year), the Board would target calendar year 2006 for the membership drive so any new members would get a full year of membership.

Action Items:

- Margie will contact Rob Chapman regarding a beginning draft of the flyer. The Executive Board will review the flyer before its release to the public.
- Rosemary will look into the possibility of printing mailers through a contact she has in her office. This will help curtail costs associated with the mailed fliers.

MDC Internship policy shift

Discussion:

- Vicki was concerned about a potential shift in MDC's Internship policy. Currently, MDC sponsors several internships throughout the agency and the state. Often these internships include a specific job or project on which the students can work. Vicki stated that MDC is considering making the internships more general, like a "job-shadowing" program to expose non-traditional wildlife students to MDC's policies and programs. This is intended to build a diverse pool of future potential employees. However, by eliminating the specific job or project aspect of the program, many Universities cannot let their students participate because it will not meet many of the University's educational goals. Vicki wanted to know if the Board should develop a comment on this subject.
- The Board decided not to comment on this subject, but let the University representatives bring this point to the attention of MDC.

Teaming With Wildlife

Discussion:

- Vicki received a letter from the organizers of the "Teaming with Wildlife" initiative. They are requesting that MOTWS support their efforts in securing additional funding for Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation. They have requested support in the form of signing a letter of support for this effort to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior in Washington, DC.

Action Items:

- Vicki will sign the letter in support of the Teaming with Wildlife effort representing the MOTWS.

Adjourn. 9:30 pm