

**Executive Board Meeting
Expanded Session
June 28, 2003, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Cedar Creek Sporting Clays**

Attending: Dan Zekor, Larry Mechlin, Lonnie Hansen, Eric Kurzejeski, Bill Bergh, Joel Porath, Janet Sternberg, Gene Gardner, Dave Murphy, Tom Kuloweic, DeeCee Darrow, Jered Wisdom, Jeff Hodges.

President Dan Zekor opened the meeting.

Minutes from the March 10 meeting were accepted as written. Dave Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Eric Kurzejeski. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Lonnie Hansen gave the Treasurers report. The balance as of May 31, 2003, is \$5,893.80. Details were provided in handout distributed by Lonnie. Dave Murphy made a motion to accept the report, and the motion was seconded by Janet Sternberg. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- **Audit Committee** – Wayne Porath – No Report

- **Certification Committee & Professional Development Committee** – Bill Bergh and Eric Kurzejeski - Eric Kurzejeski and Bill Bergh recommended that the Certification and Professional Development Committees be consolidated into one committee called the Professional Development Committee. A handout was provided with suggested duties for this suggested committee. Discussions focused on the accumulated fund balance and the need to allocate funds in the form of travel grants. Dave Murphy made a motion to bring to the membership a recommendation to consolidate the committees as recommended by Eric and Bill and to add to their responsibility the oversight and processing of annual nominations for travel grants up to \$1,000/year. Joel Porath seconded this motion. The motion carried. The recommendation will be announced in the newsletter to be voted on by the Chapter members either on-line or at a future meeting. Dan Zekor directed Eric and Bill to develop potential sideboards for the travel grants. MU Student Chapter President, Jered Wisdom noted that the University of Missouri had a general fund to address these types of needs. The Student Chapter has confirmation of partial funding from these funds for 4 students to travel to the 2003 TWS Conference in Burlington, Vermont. Dan reminded the group that funds for travel to the annual TWS Conference for an Executive Board member is the first priority. Travel grants would be secondary to

this need. Bill brought up some changes being considered by the national TWS Council concerning Certification and their request for comment. Currently, 36 hours of bioscience credit plus 3 years of experience are required for Certification. Experience cannot accumulate until credit hours are met. The executive board asked Bill to comment back to the TWS Council. We recommend that experience should be allowed to accumulate prior to reaching required credit hour requirements. During this discussion it was also noted that MU dropped their requirement for a plant identification course for a degree in Wildlife. Dan and the Professional Development Committee will contact Dr. Josh Millspaugh about the need for plant identification and “on the ground” wildlife management courses that include the development of management plans.

- **Chamber’s Scholarship Committee** – Bill Eddleman – Eric Kurzejeski updated the group on the current process.
- **Education/Graduate Fellowship Committee** – Josh Millspaugh – Josh Millspaugh asked for a volunteer from the Chapter to serve on the Graduate Fellowship Committee. Dan Zekor thought Aaron Jefferies might be interested and would follow-up with him.
- **Farmer/Wildlife Committee** – Brad McCord - The Farmer Wildlife Award had not been awarded for the past two years. The requirement that the recipient be a full time farmer seems to have limited nominations. Dan will ask Brad McCord and Bob Schroepel to make suggested changes to the award criteria to better address today’s landowners. Many landowners are doing a great deal of beneficial wildlife management on a large scale, but they don’t derive a major portion of their income from farming. The proposed criteria will be placed on the Web or in the newsletter for assessment by our members. The hope is to announce the criteria to members August 1 and call for nominations September 1. Dave Murphy made the motion to make this hope a reality, and Bill Bergh seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **MNRC Steering Committee** – Gene Gardner - Gene Gardner gave an update on MNRC activities. MNRC is looking for workshop ideas from the Chapter, and they want 4 ideas for the Trade Blanket. The Trade Blanket is a site for posting results in a 1-page format concerning management treatments, etc. that worked or didn’t work. Authors and parties with similar interest can then meet at the site and have informal discussions about posted results. Proposed registration to attend MNRC will be \$35, if you are member of one of the sponsoring professional societies. Otherwise, the fee may be \$45, and \$70 for all those that register late. The board questioned the very high late fee when considering NGO members, etc. Gene was asked to take the board’s concerns to the MNRC steering committee.

- **Membership Committee** – Bob Chapman – Dan Zekor noted that Bob Chapman had agreed to work on ways to increase membership. Dan noted that any possible changes in dues should be addressed at the annual meeting. Dave Murphy pointed out that our fund balance continues to increase each year indicating no need for an increase. After some discussion, Dan gave Lonnie Hansen the task of informing the TWS headquarters that our dues will remain unchanged. DeeCee Darrow reminded the executive board that the last dues increase was to provide travel grants for members or student chapter members to travel to workshops and conferences beneficial for professional development.
- **Nominating Committee** – Mike Schroer – No Report
- **Resolutions Committee** – Joel Porath – The group had a brief discussion about the lack of activity in researching and preparing resolutions. A large reason for the inactivity is that no one from the Chapter is putting forth any ideas or identifying any needs for resolution development.
- **Runge Award** – Dennis Figg – No Report
- **Raffle/Auctions** – Jeff Hodges - Jeff Hodges discussed fund raising activities for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and MNRC. Dave Murphy suggested that at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference that we raffle a \$1,000 gift certificate from Cabella's. In addition, Tom Kuloweic suggested that our chapter have an item near that value from Cabella's at the booth to draw in players. Jeff will take these suggestions and work his magic. Larry Mechlin reported that he and Trish Yasger (AFS rep.) were working on the T-shirt design to be sold at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference with profits to be split between the Missouri chapters of TWS and AFS. To accommodate fund raising activities at MNRC, Gene Gardner will coordinate getting addition table space in the booths for the MU Student and our chapter of TWS.
- **Operations Manual** – Margie Mitchell/Dan Zekor - Dan Zekor announced he and Margie Mitchell had cleaned up the Operational Manuel and it was now in pretty good shape. Notification of proposed amendments to the by-laws will be posted on our Web Page.
- **Stephens Award** – Dan Zekor - Dan Zekor noted some concern that the Stephen's Award had been presented to MDC employees most frequently. We often fail to keep in mind that not all Missouri Chapter members are MDC employees. In the future, the Society should keep individuals from outside MDC in mind when nominating and selecting candidates.

Other Topics

Website & E-mail – Tom Kulowiec – Reviewed the status of the website. There is interest in expanding the capabilities of the site. We have received at least 1 request for setting up a list server. We are also communicating with members via a e-mail group.

- www.motws.org – our chapter’s web site address
- motws@yahoogroups.com – our chapter’s listserv address

Newsletter – Larry Mechlin

Publication Dates – Larry Mechlin put a July 7th deadline on all entries for the newsletter. The newsletter would be made available via the website and mailed to those without e-mail addresses.

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

- Status of MO-TWS involvement, role or responsibilities – Larry Mechlin
- Executive Board Meeting - Dan Zekor announced that we will hold the next executive board meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Fall Meeting - Dan Zekor gave a review of input and discussions concerning a fall meeting. It still seems like a good idea, but with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, etc., it won’t happen in 2003. The fall meeting will continue to be a discussion point and under development for next year, and should involve student chapters and potential chapters. It should be fun, educational, and provide an experience for students outside of those available at a typical conference.

Student Chapters

- MU – Pres. Jered Wisdom – Jered Wisdom gave an update on MU’s Chapter.
- MWSC – Pres.
- CMSU – petition to establish accepted – New Student Chapter
- SMSU – not a chapter, but it might be.

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership – Request to become an affiliate. The group agreed that affiliation should be at the national level rather than at the state.

MNRC Booth – Gene Gardner agreed to coordinate booth set-up at the MNRC. It was agreed a checklist should be developed for future years. Having an expanded booth for use by the Student Chapters was thought to be a good idea.

North Central Section – Professional Award of Merit

- Call for Nominations – Due August 1.

Schedule of Events and Deadlines

August

September

- 6-10, TWS Annual Meeting, Burlington, Vermont

October

- Fall Meeting – Not this year

November

- Executive Board approves Nominations and Elections Committee ballot recommendations
- All award nominations submitted to Executive Board by November 15

December

- 7-10, Midwest F&W Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
 - Executive Board Selects/Approves
 - Stephens Award
 - Runge Award
 - Farmer /Wildlife Award
 - Honorary Memberships (if any)
 - Graduate Fellowship
- Newsletter Published
 - Includes ballot and candidate biographies
 - Include membership reminder and application