

**Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Executive Board Meeting
November 29, 2005**

Meeting via Conference Call started at 5:15 pm

Present:

Warrensburg, CMSU

Vicki Jackson, President

Tim Russell, President-Elect

Columbia MDC Research Center

Larry Mechlin, Past-President

Chris Newbold, Secretary

Margie Mitchell, Treasurer

Rosemary Heinen, Member-At-Large

Tom Kulowiec, Website Administrator

Minutes from the 13 September 2005 meeting were accepted and approved as written.

Tom Kulowiec will put past 2005 minutes up on the web page.

Application for Travel Support

Discussion

Vicki emailed a draft copy of the Travel Application Support form she had drafted. Only Chris had received this email. The other Board members had not. Chris commented he thought the application look good and would support using this draft. The rest of the Board requested another email to be sent on 11/30/05. After this email copy was received a discussion would take place via email.

The email did occur on 11/30/05 and the following discussion revolved around who the main recipients would be. Would this grant be primarily used by non-student professionals, or would students be just as apt to receive this grant as non-students? Some discussion was made that the original objective of the due increase was to support travel to conferences for professionals, not students. However, Vicki pointed out that if students are paying the same amount in membership dues as non-students, then they should also be eligible for this award. Last discussion was directed that if students and non-students are paying the same in membership dues, they they should all be eligible for this award. The decision on who to award this grant to would have to be evaluated subjectively by the board and/or committee based on the information provided on the travel support application (i.e., other sources of travel/funding, how they will benefit, how they will share information, etc.) The email discussion is attached.

Action Items

The Board will discuss the application via email and will make a decision on the application via email.

Online Voting for MOTWS Officers

Discussion

Tom emailed each Board member sample voting directions and ballots. All Board members tested the voting system and were happy with the process. The Board asked Tom to proceed with sending voting instructions to the Members via email this year. Tom mentioned there is a problem with using Yahoo groups and the fact that MDC's email blocks it. Tom believes he can circumvent this by sending the email from his home computer. He will work on this and keep the Board updated on his progress.

The email message for online voting will include notification for Chapter members to read the latest winter edition of the Chapter newsletter on MOTWS website. The message will also let members know they can 1.) vote electronically (*an identification code for online voting will be provided to all who have paid their 2005 dues*), 2.) vote by mail-in ballot, or 3.) vote on site at MNRC. The Board decided to keep on-line voting open until January 27th, 2006, the Friday before MNRC, at 5 PM.

Action Items

Tom will get a link posted on the MOTWS web page that will allow members to review candidates for Officers Bios, and voting.

All Board members need to continue recruiting people to run for the Offices of President-elect and Treasurer. Margie provided the Board with a list of potential candidates who should be contacted about running.

Vicki will draft an email for Tom to send to members notifying them to check the web page for online voting. Two drafts are needed: one for paid members and one for non-paid members. The non-paid member one should remind them to pay, otherwise they can not vote.

Spring Workshop

Discussion

Vicki and Tim had looked into having the Spring Workshop in Southwest Missouri since University Forest was not working out to be cost effective. Tim contacted Bull Shoals Corps of Engineers office and they said they would be happy to host the Spring Workshop. There would be good lodging in Branson (nearby) and a MDC house near the Drury CA is available for free lodging. It has 10 bunks to house students and a large garage area that could be suitable for indoor meetings. There is also primitive camping available in the area. To Board voted to approve this as the site for the 2006 Spring Workshop.

Action Items

Tim will put an advertisement into the Winter Newsletter about the Spring Workshop location, and will put out a call for presenters and programs. Vicki and Tim will look into seeing if we can find a sponsor to help with the cost of the workshop.

Membership Drive

Discussion

Margie suggested that the Board seriously consider looking for a Membership Committee Chair that will spearhead a “drive” to bring back old members and bring in new members. The current Committee Chair no longer seems interested in putting in the needed energy. John Vogel was nominated to be Membership Committee Chair. Several Board members thought he would be an excellent choice.

Action Items

John Vogel will be contacted regarding stepping into the Membership Committee Chair. However, contact will be postponed until after MNRC and the change in the Executive Board

2005 Awards

Discussion

Keith Jackson has volunteered to assist with the nomination process for the 2005 Farmer-Conservationist Award. Keith will solicit nominations.

Nominations for the E. Sydney Stephens and G. Andy Runge Awards need to also be collected. A call for nominations will be put out in the Winter Newsletter, on the MOTWS web site, and via an email notification by Tom Kulowiec. Nominations need to be received by Dec. 23, 2005 by 5:00 PM.

The plaque designers should be contacted so they could get started on making the award. The name of the recipient can be added later.

Request for nominations need to go out ASAP. (*Keith Jackson sent out a call for nominations on Dec. 1st. A call for nominations is on the web page as of Nov. 30th.*)

Actions Items

Margie will contact the plaque makers for Vicki to find deadlines for submission (*Margie found deadlines to be January 6th as a deadline for a Jan. 30th pickup.*)

Winter Newsletter

Discussion

Tim needs items to be submitted for the Winter Newsletter. In addition to making and announcement about the newsletter via email, Tim suggested sending postcards as a reminder in case the email messages are not finding all the members.

Action Items

Vicki will draft a "President's Perspective"

Chris will write something about the TWS Conference in Madison .

Tim will ask the student chapters to submit items for the newsletter.

Conservation Federation of Missouri Scholarship

Discussion

Tim mentioned that Ed Stegner with the Conservation Federation of Missouri has offered a \$1,000/yr scholarship for a wildlife student in the State of Missouri. The qualifications for the scholarship are 1.) a Missouri Undergraduate, 2.) a Missouri Resident, and 3.) enrollment in an accredited University. The MOTWS has been asked to supply the name of a nominee for this Scholarship. The MOTWS has been asked to give the Award at the 2006 Annual Conference.

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries, Missouri Society of American Foresters, & Missouri Park & Recreation Association has been given identical scholarships to nominate. Therefore, MOTWS should visit with them regarding the details.

Action Items

Larry and Margie will visit with Joe Dillard to see how MoAFS is handling the award.

Tim Russell will edit the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Award Application to make it applicable to the Missouri Chapter of the The Wildlife Society.

Tim will find out more details about the award, like who will administer the monies, what the application should look like, etc. Tim will also include a mention of this Award in Winter Newsletter.

Catch-all

Tim mentioned that the Missouri State University Wildlife Club has filed all their required paperwork, bylaws and fees to become a recognized Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. They should be approved by January 1, 2006.

John Schultz is housing the Chapter's table top display in his Resource Science Storage. It needs to be available for MNRC.

Vicki requested a new section be developed on our web page – entitled "Action Items" & preferably in red, blinking lights with an update date. The items to be currently included on this section are: (1) request for raffle items; (2) request for award nominations; (3) notification that online voting will be coming soon along with the 2005 Winter Newsletter.

Adjourn. 7:15 pm

Email Travel Application Discussion

LARRY MECHLIN 11/30/2005

This may be noted in some guidelines that I have forgotten, but I am assuming the individual requesting travel funds would have to be a member of the Missouri Chapter of TWS? So in the case of students that are members of a Student Chapter and the Missouri Chapter I would guess most of their involvement would still be within the Student Chapter. Do we need to make it clear for them to include their work within their Student Chapter.

VICTORIA L. JACKSON 11/30/05

I was under the assumption that any member in good standing, including students, of the MO State Chapter could apply for funds. I don't think that membership and activity in the student chapters alone should be adequate for funding opportunities through the state chapter.

CHRIS NEWBOLD 11/30/05

I'm sorry to not have any real constructive comments, but these both look good to go to me. I do agree with Vicki - in that this is a MO Chapter benefit. Therefore the applicant(s) should be showing how this grant will benefit them and MO Chapter, not just a student chapter. I would think a lot of this will fall on the Board/Committee to make some of those subjective rating and evaluations when awarding these grants.

MARGIE MITCHELL 12/02/05

Spoke with John Schulz again. He said that while students were not specifically exempted from the travel fund concept, the monies were initially targeted for professional field staff members (from all agencies) that do not have access through their agencies or employers to travel funds for professional conferences.

I think our Chapter does an amazing job of supporting the students around the state.

Students are encouraged to attend the MNRC & have the opportunity to give presentations & exhibit posters. The Chapter has paid for student chapter booth space(s) & table(s) in the Exhibition area & has, over the years, gotten some of the free rooms for the students (though that privilege was rescinded when excessive partying caused disturbances). When MoTWS hosts next year, hopefully, we can try extending that benefit again. The Executive Board has been working to involve students in additional inexpensive activities: first, through an attempt at cooperative target shoots around the state (which didn't fly) &, second, via the successful Spring Workshop concept.

Currently, the Chapter has 2 cash scholarships & 1 grad fellowship to help students financially. Additionally, sectional & national TWS conferences offer moneyed awards for outstanding presentations & posters. Our parent society provides for internships (which include travel funds to the North American), along with other awards for

exceptional research. The “Student Chapter of the Year” award also provides travel money. And, there is always the ability of student chapters & clubs to raise funds with their own activities.

For the professionals, as John Schulz says, “Once you graduate, you’re on your own.” MDC, especially, does not encourage out-of-state travel. Even presenting a paper or a poster will not guarantee that your travel will be approved. Chris has mentioned several times in our meetings that his field staff folks don’t participate in MoTWS because they don’t feel like there is anything for them. The travel fund concept was set up to offer these people, in particular, one reason to get involved. I agree that if the students are obligated to pay the same \$10 as the other Chapter members, they should be entitled to the same benefits. I just don’t think we should gear the travel fund toward the students when we’re not offering as substantial activities or money to our non-student members. Most likely, the Executive Board will grapple with the task of making these decisions, but I believe that the historical premise for these allocations should not be forgotten.

Please know that I certainly do not believe the Chapter should take anything away from students, nor would I want less involvement among these groups. I am very proud of being associated with the Board that accomplished so much for the wildlife students of Missouri. I reiterate my suggestion that the student groups & the state Chapter attempt to cooperate in additional money-making endeavors that raise dollars to specifically send students to professional meetings.

I agree that if the students are obligated to pay the same \$10 as the other Chapter members, they should be entitled to the same benefits. I just don't think we should gear the travel fund toward the students when we're not offering as substantial activities or money to our non-student members.

VICTORIA L. JACKSON 12/04/05

I'm not sure what the miscommunication was, but all I said was that everyone who pays the \$10, which includes the \$5 addition towards travel, should be eligible. No where did I mean to intimate that the students should be considered above any other paid member. We are looking at individuals and judging their 1) contribution to our state chapter, 2) ability to share information gained from the national conference with other state chapter members, and 3) ability to find other avenues of travel support. Some students have access to other sources of travel support, some students don't even belong to the state chapter, and some professionals have belonged to the state chapter and have historically been active in participation. The language used by our Executive Board in describing this travel support is important.

Trust me, I know that the state chapter has been really trying to include students. The state chapter is for the professionals (and pre-professionals) and the students have gained immeasurable benefits from being included. We already are dealing with a schism caused by the Graduate Fellowship for MU students causing professionals who are not

Mizzou alum to question whether the state chapter is all inclusive or rather geared towards students and professionals from Columbia. We do not have the budget to house several specialized support options (professionals vs. students; students from one school vs. another school), I am just trying to make sure that the entire chapter is represented.

As moneys become available I thoroughly support providing more means of support for every member who needs help.

If we believe that we are going against the original intent of increasing the dues to provide travel support we should probably bring it up to a vote at MNRC of whether students should be included, and if not, what that means as far as their annual dues.

CHRIS NEWBOLD 12/05/05

I'll chime in once more then be done. I think this should be open to ALL MOTWS members, student and non student. I think it will eventually fall on the Executive Board, or an organized committee (whatever the route may be), to make the decisions on where the grant goes. In my mind, it will depend on several things, including available funding, which will probably be variable each year. I think we ought to develop guidelines for the selection process, but, again my opinion is that some of the decisions will have to be subjective, just like MOTWS Award recipient decisions.

I do think Vicki provides a good start, (maybe a complete list) of the issues the deciding body should consider: "We are looking at individuals and judging their 1) contribution to our state chapter, 2) ability to share information gained from the national conference with other state chapter members, and 3) ability to find other avenues of travel support."

These "Questions" should go into the application form and then the Board/committee will have to evaluate the answers.