

Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

2018 Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Blue Water Convention Center, Port Huron, MI

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Robin DeBruyne

- Robin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum of at least 25 current chapter members was determined to be present.

Approval of Agenda – Robin DeBruyne

- The Business Meeting agenda was approved after the motion carried unopposed.

Approval of 2017 Minutes – Robin DeBruyne

- A few typo errors were pointed out, including an incorrectly spelled name.
- There was a question about the fact that retirees were not noted. This will be corrected next year.
- The 2017 Business Meeting minutes were approved after the motion carried unopposed.

President's Remarks – Robin DeBruyne

- Robin discussed the importance of students applying for travel awards, lower continuing education class costs, and other student opportunities. This helps give students an edge over others and is good to include on a resume.
- Robin discussed that at the national level there are also new opportunities, including free webinars for members, the chance to be a mentor or mentee and that being involved at the national level is important as well.
- Robin thanked her fellow Executive Committee members and Committee Chairs for their hard work and the Chapter for the opportunity to serve on the Committee.

Secretary - Treasurer's Report – Billy Keiper

- Billy reviewed the current treasurer's report and noted MIAFS is in a good position financially.
- As of December 16, 2016 the MIAFS account balance was \$17,054.60.
- Since then, MIAFS has received a number of donations, such as the in memory donation for the Fenske Award (\$585).
- Total income this year was \$10,393.93 and as of December 2017, expenses were \$7,800.
- This leaves MIAFS with a total account balance of \$20,183.43. Billy recommended setting aside some money as an investment w/ the parent society.
- The treasurer's report was approved after the motion carried unopposed.

Committee Reports

- Auditing – Billy Keiper reported that the audit was clean per Dave Caroffino

- Awards – The committee tried out receiving nominations via Google forms this year. Still using both systems but feedback is needed.
- Centrarchid – Nothing to report
- Communication- Justin reported that there were website issues reported recently with error messages concerning security certificates. Heather Hettinger encouraged members to take advantage of the newsletter and Facebook page as an outreach tool and asked that if members are interested in writing something for the newsletter to contact her. Billy reminded members to send job postings and other relevant information to the listserve.
- Continuing Education- Dan Traynor reported it was a successful year with continuing education hosting numerous workshops. He also reminded the group there will be upcoming workshops in 2018. Dan also announced that Carrie Coy was the recipient of the R Workshop Travel Award.
- Fenske- Jessica Mistak reported that the Fenske Award continues to be a huge success and a great opportunities for students to get recognized. She also provided some background information on the award. This year, the 2009 award winner from Iowa DNR was a reference for the recipient. The wildlife recipient was Jordan Myer, a student from UW Stevens Point who works with bats.
- Membership- Brad Utrup reported we currently have about 300 members and 41 new national members. Brad would also like to work on a new membership process that streamlines the process so membership forms don't have to go through so many hands.
- Nominating – Robin DeBruyne stated she had looked up the by-laws and said that typically the chair of this committee is the Past President. It was decided that this would be the default moving forward.
- Past-presidents – Ed Roseman recommended that students volunteer and get involved in the field, stating that “it doesn't take long to grow up” and they should take the opportunities if they see them. He also noted that everyone should read his article newsletters.
- Program – Justin Chiotti reminded members that there is a Lake Sturgeon meeting next week.
- Resolution- No report
- Rivers and Streams- No report
- Student concerns- The Committee needs a new chair. Heather Hettinger pointed out it is a good opportunity for students to be involved in the chapter. Dan Hayes will reach out to MSU and the LSSU Fish & Wildlife Club will make an announcement at their next meeting.

- Walleye – No report.
- Water Quality- No report.

Old Business – Brian Roth

- Awards: Billy announced that the Hazzard, Leonard, and Grayling awards would be given this year and Robin provided background on all of these awards.
 - Hazzard: Darrin McCullough
 - Grayling Award: Greg Kennedy
 - Leonard Award: Gary Whelan
 - Gary thanked the chapter for the award and said he was very humbled to receive it.

Installation of New President – Justin Chiotti was installed as the new president

Installation of New President-Elect – Jan-Michael Hessenauer was installed as president-elect.

Installation of Secretary/Treasurer – Emily Martin was installed as Secretary/Treasurer

New Business

- Justin Chiotti presented the Past-President Award to Ed Roseman and told a story about setting drift nets with him in the St Clair River.
- Justin also thanked Doug Workman, Dan for work on the continuing education committee, Billy and Robin for coordinating the meeting, and Mark Tonello for working on the student awards. He also encouraged continued outreach to get more people involved.
- The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society in January 2019 and we are beginning talks with TWS on this.
- Jessica Mistak encouraged big talks like CWD to all group to bring the two together a little more than in past meetings. She also suggested maybe having a few large talks early in the conference and then splitting into fish and wildlife specific talks.
- Robin told the group that the Catfish 2020 Symposium/Conference had reached out asking about donation. It is the 3rd International Catfish Symposium in Arkansas. Dan Hayes made a motion to send a \$500 donation and also consider a student travel award. Motion passed unopposed.

Adjournment - The 2018 business meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.