

MWCA Board of Directors Winter Meeting
January 15, 2008
Great Falls Heritage Inn

Minutes

Call to order at 2:05 p.m.

Members Present: John Moodry, Scott Bockness, John Simons, Jim Gordon, Danny McIntosh, Dan Dobler, Jack Eddie, Lisa Surber, Carla Hoopes, Paul Wick, Dave Schulz, Morgan Valliant, Bryce Christieans, Jason Smith, Jim Jacobs, Dick Zoanni, Justun Juelfs, Joe Wiegand, Mark Korte, Dave Brink, Dale Butori, Margie Edsall & Dave Burch.

Members Excused: Ellen Simpson

Members Unexcused: Diane Rice, Marty Malone

Guests: Kevin Chappell, Janie Alt, Jim Olivarez

November board minutes: ***Margie motioned to approve the fall minutes and Danny M Seconded. All were in favor.*** John reviewed the minutes regarding the absence policy for attendance at MWCA board meetings which was made at the late fall board meeting. The motion made by Marty Malone at that meeting was “ Any member who misses three or more meetings, excused or unexcused, in the course of a year constitutes grounds for removal and re-appointment of the position under the discretion of the executive committee.”

Old Business:

08 Annual Conference update: Jim & Becky reported on the annual conference, speakers, numbers, and updates. There were approximately 280 pre-registered for the conference. Gina Ramos was able to come in as guest speaker on short notice. Governor Schweitzer will speak at 8 a.m. Thursday morning.

DC Weed Awareness Week update: Dave reported that the reception is coming along with the four states involvement, although it has been difficult to get Idaho representation to date. He reported that our main message is to promote federal funding on the ground, the lack of cooperative forestry assistance (by 2010 we will lose 65% of the funding we were previously getting for the Trust Fund), and continued support of state funding.

Scholarship criteria & application: Lisa passed around the drafts of the scholarship application and criteria. Three \$1,000 scholarships of students pursuing a degree in natural resource management have been proposed to the board. ***Morgan asked that we include a donation box on the MWCA membership form for dollars to go towards the MWCA scholarships. All were in agreement that***

this would be easy to do. Justun asked about the belief we will have more applicants and Becky responded that with the help of the committee, we will have more help in getting the scholarship advertised at the universities. ***Jack motioned to accept the proposal of offering 3 \$1,000 scholarships with the criteria established by the work group. Jim Gordon seconded and all were in favor. Dave Burch asked for flyers to be available for MDA to take to career fairs and to other events.***

Scholarship applications and criteria will be posted on the website. The current work group will take on the evaluation of scholarship applications and make their recommendations to Becky.

New Business

MWCA Finances - Margie reviewed the finances. Questions were answered regarding annual conference funding and the finances will be presented to the membership on Wednesday. ***Jim Ghekiere motioned to approve and Mark Korte seconded the approval of the finances. All were in favor.***

Staff policies reviewed – Scott and Becky reviewed the staff policies with proposed changes. Scott asked for any input into the document. Becky also asked for input on the work plan which was drafted to coincide with the strategic plan. ***Jack motioned that we accept the work plan and staff policies and Dale Butori seconded. All were in favor.***

ED Report – Becky reported that she had been involved with planning and implementation of the annual conference, preparation for NIWAW, revised staff and employee policies, education survey grant, upcoming conferences with Stockgrowers, MABA and MACD, and planning for realtor trainings in the spring.

Milfoil update – Dave Burch reported that we need a better survey for milfoil which will be included in a grant that is being funneled through the NWTF. Idaho spends 4 million per year and would like to see MT spend more on the efforts of controlling milfoil. Dave reviewed all the parties who sit on the task force; there is a need for aquatic experts to sit on this task force. Scott reported that we (Montana) needs to take a very aggressive stance on milfoil and if we need to put the dollars on the ground immediately at whatever level it takes to get this invasive under control. The resources need to get on the ground so containment happens this season. Divers Jack Eddie and Marty Malone will be contracted to hand-pull milfoil in Noxon Reservoir this summer. Kim Goodwin reported on a token process through legislation to make sure all boaters are being required to have this token. Jim Olivarez echoed the support of using the data and information that Idaho has on hand.

MWCA Survey Grant – Becky handed out a grant that is being funneled through the MWCA by Monica Pokorney and Monica has taken a job with DNRC and will no longer be able to do the grant. She has, however, provided names of interested people to take that over. The executive committee will look into whether or not to continue this grant by the Trust Fund hearings.

Bio-control committee – John Simons relayed that there had been little information on the previous biocontrol meeting and there was a need for more collaboration of research. Scott relayed several

concerns with biocontrol in Montana including monitoring efforts and where the committee is headed in the future. There will be a biocontrol meeting at this annual conference.

Future board meetings – John recommended that we cut our meeting dates down from five to three. He proposes that we have a fall, a spring and a winter meeting. ***Dale moved that we have three meetings a year and Jack seconded. All were in favor.***

Schedule 2008 board meetings – Jim and Becky will schedule those and post those out to the board along with a proposed absentee policy.

Other business –

Dave Burch reported on the changes within the Trust Fund – hearings will be March 3 – 7 in Billings and Margie Edsall was appointed to the Trust Fund council as western area representative.

Kim Goodwin – Reported on the symposium and thanked the board for allowing this symposium to be a part of the annual conference.

Membership – Becky asked that Jim Freeman become an honorary member of MWCA. ***Jim Ghekiere motioned we give Jim Freeman an honorary membership. Jim Gordon seconded. Jack had further discussion regarding the nomination process and that we build the criteria for people to be nominated to that position. Burch suggested it go through the awards committee. Question called. All were favor.*** Future process for adding people as honorary members, and adding a level of membership of \$100 for partnerships with other organizations or swapping memberships will be addressed at the spring meeting.

Dave brink motioned to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. All were in favor.