

**MSSFA State Board Meeting  
May 21, 2008  
Lansing, Mi.**

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Balabon at 7:05 pm. A 17 member quorum was present.

Guest speaker (Dave Borgeson), a retired MDNR Fish Division manager and presently President of the Michigan Resource Stewards, led a discussion on the proposal to increase the number of fishing lines from 2 to 3 statewide. Dave stated that the higher the # of angler hours, the healthier the fishery would be. He also felt that the enforcement of 3 rods/person is more challenging. For example, a boat with 3 anglers and 3 lines out, but only one licensed fisherman. After a roundtable discussion, the board decided to support the 3 rods/angler proposed regulation change. Motion (Merckel) to support the 3 rods/angler on all waters for any fish...Second (Potts)... passed.

**Presidents Report** (Balabon)... Rick introduced Dennis Eade, the new director from the Holland chapter. The dates and places of fishing derbies for children were announced.

**Minutes** (Sickon)... Motion (Joe Pilara) to approve minutes as presented...Second (Fred Saladine)...passed.

**Letters/Communications** (Balabon/Haddad)... The "Small Harbor Coalition" has requested that the MSSFA publicly declare support for their organizational goals. Motion (Ron Hunt) to support the coalition mission statement and provide a MSSFA representative to their Board of Directors...Second (Ken Merckel)... passed.

**Old Business**

**Website** (Balabon)... The MSSFA state membership list will soon be available to the chapter membership chairperson. One designated person from each chapter will receive a password from Greg Gumbrecht to access the current membership list. This should facilitate local chapter audits of membership services.

**It Pays to Belong** (Davis)... The Flint Gander Mountain store honors the MSSFA membership card for a storewide 10% discount.

**Membership** (Hoort)... The Ionia group is putting the finishing touches on their By-Laws. Their members consist primarily of stream anglers.

**Financial Report** (Haddad)... YTD income reviewed ,YTD expenses reviewed, Balance reviewed and Motion (Pilara) to accept report as presented...Second (Sickon)...passed.

**New Business**

**2008/2009 Budget** (Balabon/Haddad)... a planning meeting will be held August 6, 2008 at 6:00pm at MUCC in Lansing, Mi..

**Communications Report** (Balabon)... The newspaper manager is receiving great feedback from the advertisers for the recent improvements in content.

**Executive Directors Report** (Andy Pelt)... Andy announced that Showspan is making available floor space for the MSSFA at all of the boat/outdoor shows that it sponsors in Michigan. Local chapters should contact Andy to reserve the free floor space.

**DNR Committee Reports**

**Lake Michigan** (Pilara)... Alewife biomass, while very low, is steady. No collapse occurring with 10 year classes of Alewives present in trawl surveys. Discussion on the 5 salmon bag limit increase. Charters were against idea and fishing clubs were for idea. DNR is setting up a website to take more input on the issue. Discussion on the 3-lines/person anywhere. Support for 2-lines was about equal to support for 3-lines. DNR expressed that it is more effective when trying to protect a resource, to limit the # of lines /angler than to change the bag limit. Sea Lamprey induced mortality is affecting commercial fishery quotas and setting back Lake Trout restoration efforts. The target was 5 wounds/ 100 fish, but the surveys are showing an increase from 9/100 in yr.2000 to 17/100 in yr.2007.

**Lake Huron** (Merckel)... Walleye and Perch recruitment is soaring. Walleye are using perch as a forage base. The emerald shiner #'s are way up from last year.

**Good of the Order...** Loose commercial nets are floating around Ludington and Manistee. The DNR is trying to retrieve them. The next MSSFA State Board meeting is on August 6, 2008 (7pm). Motion (Saladine) to adjourn at 9:30 pm...Second (Pilara)...passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald Sickon,  
MSSFA Sec. / Treas.