

# MSSFA State Board Meeting

MUCC Headquarters, Lansing, Mi.

May 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Balabon at 7:05 PM. An 18 member quorum was present.

The guest presentation by the DNR Fisheries Division chief (Dr. Kelly Smith) focused on the DNR budget process. The subject matter covered appropriations, revenue, and expenditures. The fish division FY2009 balance will be \$800,000.00. The FY2010 fish division budget is \$30,473,700.00. About 62% will come from the Game & Fish protection fund, 30% from Dingell/Johnson tax funds, and the rest from license fees. The House of Representatives FY2010 budget includes a 2.9 million\$ and 13 FTE (full time employees) cut for fisheries. The State Senate by edict, has boilerplate language (section 603) that states that all hatcheries must remain open. Hatcheries consume about 32% of fish the division budget. Further cuts to programs will need to be made. Dr. Smith left a copy of FY2010 fish division initial budget allocation for each director. He requested that directors forward their thoughts as to what program cuts they could support. Kelly Smith email address is ([smithk@michigan.gov](mailto:smithk@michigan.gov)).

**Minutes** (Sickon)...Motion (Potts) to approve minutes...second (Saladine)...passed.

**Financial Report** (Haddad)... YTD income \$xxxxxx...YTD expenses xxxxxxBalance \$xxxxxx.

Motion (Potts) to accept as presented...second (Saladine)...passed.

**Letters & Communications** (Balabon)... A Jim VanderMas letter on the tribal nets stated that there should be fewer problems this year. The MUCC convention is in June. The DNR fish division is looking for volunteers to collect salmonid heads and tails at key fishing tournaments. The contact person is David Clapp (Charlevoix Research Station) [clappd@michigan.gov](mailto:clappd@michigan.gov).

## Old Business

**Membership** (Gumbrecht)... The total # of MSSFA members isxxxxx. A spreadsheet of the total from each chapter was distributed.

**It Pays to Belong** (Davis)... Gander bucks will not be taken after their expiration date, and the new cards will be good for 1 year. The Boat US \$12.50 membership discount has been renewed.

## New Business

**Conference** (Balabon)... The Grand Rapids chapter will host a Steelheaders booth for the Outdoor Writers Association conference on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids.

**Executive Director Report** (Pelt)... Andy wants to spend more time on the Lake Huron DNR advisory committee issues. Andy is also working with Howard Tanner, the MUCC, and other outdoors groups to try and find alternative sources to fund the DNR.

**Legislative Report** (Merckel)... The legislature says NO to any new taxes for funding the DNR. The Sea Grant meeting in Bad Axe had 60 participants.

## DNR Committee Reports

**Lake Michigan** (Balabon)... Fishing has been good this spring, with the average size slightly larger than last year. **Lake Erie** (Sickon)... Lake Erie fisheries managers revised the 2009 TAC (total allowable catch) from 10million lbs of yellow perch to 12 million lbs. The walleye TAC was revised downward from 3.6 million to 2.45million. The #of walleye is expected to decline from 18.4 million in 2009 to 15.7 million in 2010, putting the fishery into rehabilitation status.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully yours,  
Gerald Sickon  
MSSFA Sec/Treas

