

MSSFA State Board Meeting
MUCC Headquarters, Lansing, Mi.
January 24th, 2009

Meeting was brought to order by President Rick Balabon at 1:00pm. A 34 member quorum was present. **Presidents Report** (Balabon)... The Lake Michigan Sea-Grant fisheries conference had some gloomy news. There is a massive increase in the quagga mussel population. Lake Michigan looks like the Lake Superior food web with a very poor forage base. The cormorant numbers however, are in decline. The Lake Michigan contact person is Dan O'Keefe (okeefed@msu.edu), the Lake Huron contact is Brandon Schroeder (schroe45@msu.edu), and the Sea Grant website is (www.miseagrant.edu/fisheries).

Minutes (Sickon)... Motion (Pilara) to accept Minutes as corrected...Second (Merckel)...passed.

Financial Report (Haddad)... YTD income \$xxxxx...YTD expenses (\$xxxxx)... Balance is \$xxxxx.

Motion (Hoort) to accept report as corrected...Second (Smith)... passed.

Letters/Communications (Balabon)... Letter from the MSSFA tribal affairs representative stated that there are (8-10) abandoned tribal nets off the port of Manistee. The DNR law enforcement division and tribal officials will supervise the removal of the nets in the spring.

Old Business

- 1- Great Lakes Plan (Pietila)... The Metro-West chapter has submitted detailed comments on the "Draft of the Michigan Great Lakes Plan" to State of Michigan officials and the MUCC. The comments focused on the actions that are needed to address cormorant populations, quagga and zebra mussels population, ocean going ship ballast water, and the Asian Carp invasion. Metro-West hopes that other chapters will use their document submission as a model for getting involved in a collaborative effort to overcome the influence of the status quo lobby groups.
- 2- Fundraising Decals (Haddad)...500 decals will be available by Feb. 1, 2009.
- 3- Passport to Giving (Pilara)... research on (ytbinternational.com) has uncovered some better business bureau complaints through (ytbassociations@ytb.com)
- 4- It Pays to Belong (Davis)... Boat US will pay the MSSFA an insurance application rebate if the individual members insurance application is funneled through the MSSFA website. Encourage your members buy their Boat US insurance through our website.

New Business

- 1- State Office Changes (Balabon)... Greg Gumbrecht will be in charge of MSSFA membership as well as the MSSFA website. Please send all membership documents to: MSSFA Membership, Post Office Box 408, Davisburg, Mi., 48350-0408. Membership rolls will be available to each membership chairperson (with a valid access code) at (membership@michigansteelheaders.org). The chapter membership chairperson can cross check their members' name and address for accuracy so that our membership gets the service they deserve. Any corrections to the member database should be sent to Greg Gumbrecht.

Committee Reports

- 1- Lake Michigan (Pilara)... Read the Sea-Grant synopsis in presidents' report. Alewife #'s are down and the Gobies #'s are up.
- 2- Lake Huron (Merckel)... The DNR is conducting a complete hatchery review for Lake Huron. DNR budget reductions may delay the Thompson hatchery geothermal well project. All Brown Trout (100,000) will be planted in the fall. Steelhead (60,000) will be going into Harbor Beach net pens and will be released in the fall. Southern part of the lake has a huge quantity of walleye. The round gobies are the primary baitfish throughout the lake. The annual fish survey was hampered by research vessel mechanical problems, and data from southern lake areas was not taken.

Good of the Order

Access the complete Metro-West comments to the "Great Lakes Plan" through the local chapter links on the MSSFA website.

Respectfully Yours,
Gerald Sickon, MSSFA Sec.

