



MINNESOTA OUT OF DOORS

Volume 5, Number 4

Winter 2016

A message from President Joe Hoffmann

I would first like to say, "Happy New Year from our conservation family to yours". With the New Year upon us, the executive board of the Minnesota Conservation Federation would like to thank all of our affiliates for their dedicated support throughout the 2016 season. I would also like to take a moment to recognize the passing of a lifelong MCF member and supporter Conrad George Botz, 94 of Chaska who passed away peacefully 12/3/16. I only knew Connie for a few short years I will always remember his upbeat personality, love for conservation, family, and his community. Connie was also a long time member of the Eagles club, Jordan Lions club, Pheasants forever, wild turkey federation, and the Fish Lake sportsmen's club. I can still hear him hollering, "Amen" followed by a happy chuckle from across the room after the MCF pledge a tradition that I intend to keep as long as I am president. With that, I offer my heartfelt condolence to his family and many friends.

The Belle Plain Sportsman's club graciously hosted the MCF's December quarterly meeting at the Local VFW. I would like thank them for hosting the MCF meeting and for the refreshments, they provided. I would also like to give a special thanks to Lake City Sportsmen's Club for the generous donation they presented the MCF at the quarterly of two thousand dollars. At the meeting, Gary Botzek spoke of legislative matters as well as potential changes to conservation in Minnesota and the country as president elect Donald trump takes office after the New Year as our 45th president of the United States. At the meeting resolutions number seven and eight were revisited as old business. New business included conversations involving the newly formed the Fundraising, Governance, Natural resources and Communication committees. Finally, the meeting ended with local club announcements. Unlike most quarterly meetings, the board decided against having a public speaker do to time constraints and potential weather conditions.

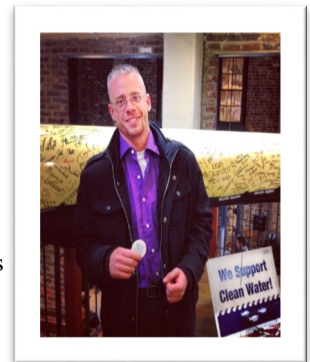
The attendees addressed the passage of the two-tabled MCF resolutions from the Annual September meeting. Both resolution number 7 and 8 unanimously passed with minor grammatical changes. Resolution number 7 deals with asking legislators to support the MN DNR in their angler and hunter recruitment and retention efforts in 2017. Resolution number 8 regards drainage ditch benefits on conservation lands. The MCF plans to present the eight

adopted resolution in a package to the members of the 2017 legislature. I would like our affiliates to remember since MCF's creation in 1936 we have relied on our local sportsmen's clubs and individual affiliates across the state to submitted resolutions that help set the public policy, tone and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. As the MCF's executive director, Gary Botzek has stated, "Our resolutions form the basis for discussion with legislators, congress, agency staff, and other conservation and environmental groups." With that thought, please keep thinking of environmental issues that concern you and your clubs in the year to come. All of the 2016 resolutions as well as past resolutions are located on the MCF webpage in their entirety under the "About the MCF" tab; subtab "resolutions".

New business that we looked at during the quarterly meeting came from the strategic planning meeting that the executive board held on December 2 relating to the newly formed Fundraising, Governance, Natural resources and Communication committees. The board talked about the who, why, what and how for the MCF. We decided "Who" we want to target or represent includes both green conservation organizations, as well as traditional sportsman's groups. We also decided that we want to focus the future of the organization on the youth because they are our future. The "why," the board revisited the clubs mission statement to ensure that it still holds true. The mission statement reads,

To encourage and inspire the intelligent management of the life sustaining resources of Minnesota - our essential water resources - our protective forests and plant life - and our dependent fish and wildlife - and to promote and encourage the knowledge and appreciation of these resources, and their interrelationships (MCF By-Laws).

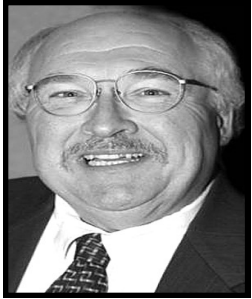
Presidents message continued on page 3.....



Executive Director News

Ex. Director Report

By Gary Botzek
Executive Director



The campaigns and elections are over! Lots of changes both at the federal and state levels of government. At the federal level, President-elect Trump continues to fill out this top leadership in all areas of government. His selections to head up the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency are interested and confusing to some people. Mr. Trump has hundreds of key positions to fill in the Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other key federal agencies. These appointments to departments and agencies will oversee putting into action the new administration's philosophy, attitude, and budget priorities for national parks, pipeline siting, public land management and usage, and the increased use of "clean coal." Sportsmen assisted in Trump's election and were key voters in swing states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Son Don, Jr. is a hunter and is expected to advise his dad on key outdoor issues. The NWF has already begun to work with the new administration and remains optimistic that the many challenges to conservation can be met in the next four years.

At the state level the Republicans increased their numbers in the House (75-57) and take control of the Senate (34-33). With the departure from the legislature of Tom Hackbarth and Denny McNamara, new House chairs of the Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committees were guaranteed. Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau) was elected by his fellow caucus members to chair the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee. Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) will chair the subcommittee on Mining, Forestry, and Tourism.

In the Senate Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria) will chair the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee and Senator Carrie Ruud (R-Breezy Point) will head up the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee. The new legislative session begins on Tues-

day, January 3, 2017!

These are key committees to the MCF due to the fact they hear all bills on habitat, shooting range funding, Lessard-Sams dollars, and put the entire budget together for the DNR, BWSR, and MPCA. We will be setting up meetings with these legislators, share our resolutions with them, and begin to work on natural resource, habitat, conservation, and environmental issues of the session.

At our annual meeting in September and at our quarterly meeting in December the MCF discussed and passed resolutions dealing with:

The need for the a world class shooting range facility in the Twin Cities metro area.

The need for the state to do more regarding cleaning up impaired waters.

The need to fully fund the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) to provide and protect valuable habit for wildlife and pollinators.

The need for the state to do more regarding controlling greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning power plants and automobiles.

Urge the USFWS/DNR to develop a 15-year restoration program for white pelicans and common loons using more of the Gulf oil spill monies from BP.

Urge Congress to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016 funded by the dedication of the current charges on energy and mineral resource exploration.

Support policy that does not charge back drainage ditch benefits to conservation lands but continues to charge back drainage ditch benefits to other lands affected by the drainage ditch improvements or repairs.

Support DNR angler and hunter recruitment efforts to include youth and minorities to participate in the great outdoors.

These eight resolutions will be packaged with a copy letter from the MCF and delivered to all 201 legislators in early January.

MCF to Serve on DNR Deer Management Plan Prep: The MCF has agreed to serve on the 20-member Minnesota Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee. The charge to the committee

by the Legislative Auditor and the State Legislature is to pull together all the deer management strategies and practices and come up with statewide recommendations for deer management—if possible. With the outbreak of CWD (chronic wasting disease) this fall in Southeastern Minnesota, the job just got a bit more important. MCF member, the Bluffland Whitetails Association, will also serve on the committee. The first meeting was held on December 13 at DNR/St. Paul. The second meeting is set for January 18 in St. Cloud.

MCF's Youth Conservation Leadership Corp: The new MCF Youth Conservation Leadership Corp is halfway through its first year! Our first class are the young conservation leaders of the future! Ten students are meeting about every two months over the weekend in Inver Grove Heights. Elsa Litecky has organized the new program for the MCF. It is modeled after the Wisconsin program.

Membership Recruitment Efforts: The MCF represents around 40 sportsmen clubs around the state. We also represent individuals, families, and lifetime members. We are running ads in the Outdoor News to drive readers to our website to see what we are all about—from advocacy on outdoor issues, to education (Walk on the Wildside magazine for 5-6 graders), to our new youth conservation leadership efforts. This is what the MCF is all about. We believe that if folks go to our website and check us out they will strongly consider individual membership (\$25-\$100 range) and join our efforts. It is a tax-deductible contribution and is a wise smart investment! Tell you friends and family to join us!

If you can any questions or comments about the MCF's resolutions, youth emphasis, or membership recruitment efforts please contact me directly at gary@capitolconnections.com or call 651-293-9295. Get out and enjoy the Winter!

Conservation Leadership Corps news....

Conservation Leadership Corps class has met twice:

by *Elsa Litecky*

The focus of the second session in November was on policy and communication; the session was led by Ted Suss, Executive Director of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Rylee Main, Executive Director of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, and Gary Botzek, Executive Director of the Minnesota Conservation Federation. We had 6 of the 9 students show up due to weather conditions. Five students were able to make it to the session and one student who determined to be there video called in on a computer for the session. As part of this session the student's pretended to be different stakeholders including farmers, sportsmen, government employees, locals, and tourists from the twin cities around the issues of buffer width and the sedimentation occurring in Lake Pepin.

They met with the instructors' role playing as legislators in small group meetings and then gave testimony at a hearing on the issue of enforcing buffer laws in Minnesota. The main point was for the students to see that most of the issues we face are complex issues that we have a better chance of solving by working together with different sides of the issue. The students in discussion after this activity commented on how different it was role playing from a perspective than they are used to having. They appreciated the experience of arguing a different point of view than they were used to and gaining more understanding about farmers, sportsmen, environmentalists, etc. At the final activity the students presented on issues they felt were important issues in Minnesota and should be the 3 topics the Conservation Leadership Corps creates resolutions on.

In the beginning we had 5 topics with frack sand mining and pollution of the St. Louis Estuary not being selected for resolution topics and climate change effects on northern forests, renewable energy in Minnesota, and protecting bees in Minnesota selected as the final three issues that the students will now be creating resolutions on. For the next month and a half the students will be researching their topics learning as much about it as they can. They will then meet at the next session in Febru-

ary to meet with an expert on their topic and create a resolution on their topic as a team. We are excited to see what this awesome group of young adults comes up with in the coming weeks!

President's message continued from page 1....

The board believed that this statement still holds true so we plan to continue to promote this vision in the four main areas. These four areas along with goals in each is the "what" we intend to do in 2017. Advocacy and policy the resolution process is the first area of focus. Education is the second area through mood publications and other educational outreach materials. The third area is youth training through the MCF's CLC program. The fourth area is internal communication. The board feels that by narrowing our focuses we can reconnect with our clubs, gain membership, and help created the next generation of conservation youth leadership. I am not going to go through the entire "how" now but I will go over some the goals that have been set.

Some of the 2017 goals for fundraising committee include gaining 50 new individual members. We set a goal to retain all of our current clubs as well as the introduction of three new sportsmen clubs. We hope to obtain five new business sponsors and gain one new work place giving business for Minnesota Environmental Fund. The governance committee is going to do some review of the MCF by-law as well as needed clarification of board member lists and delegate lists. Gary and I still have a goal to find a treasurer for the MCF. Therefore, if you know of a potential candidate please contacts the MCF office. The Communication committee has set a goal to feature at least one of our affiliate clubs per mood newsletter in the 2017. If you think your club should be featured let, us know and tell us why! The communication committee has also set a goal to keep the Facebook and website information as current as possible to be as current as possible. This committee has also set a goal to send out a monthly email blast to keep the clubs updated on what the MCF doing. Last, the natural resource committee has set a goal to promote WOW, Walk on the Wildside, in 50 new schools and 5 new nature centers to continue to teach youth about wildlife and the great outdoors.

With that, I would just like to say that I think the MCF is starting 2017 off in the right direction. If you need to renew your membership, we now have an online renewal and donation tab setup on the website. This link is located under the "Become a member" tab. For clubs the new membership form and renewal form, is located towards the bottom of the same page hyperlinked to a printable document. Have a Happy New Years and a safe holiday season!



**MINNESOTA CONSERVATION
FEDERATION**

542 Snelling Ave. S. #104
St. Paul, MN 55116

Phone: 651-690-3077
Email: info@mncf.org

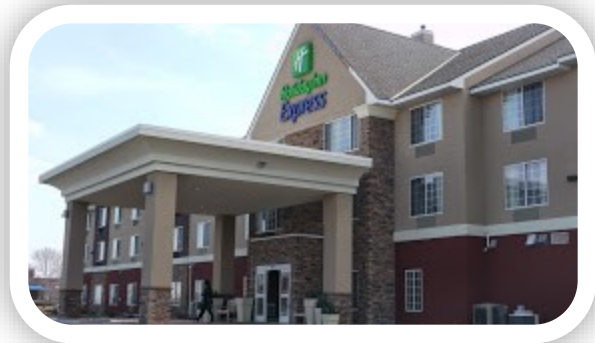
***Minnesota Conservation Federation
2016-17 Officers***

Joe Hoffmann, President
Lance Ness, 1st Vice President
Don Nickolay, 2nd Vice President
vacant, Treasurer
Steve Maurice, Secretary

**ANY ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION MAY BE E-MAILED
OR SENT TO THE MINNESOTA CONSERVATION
FEDERATION — info@mncf.org**

Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, March 11th
9:30 am Meeting Starts

Holiday Inn Express
5653 Bishop Ave
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
(651) 450-1100



Submit your club's news to *Minnesota Out of Doors* Newsletter

The Minnesota Conservation Federation's *Minnesota Out of Doors* newsletter is a place for member clubs to present news about their accomplishments. Club news and/or photos can be submitted to: Tammy Abrahamson Minnesota Conservation Federation, 542 Snelling Avenue South #104, St. Paul, MN 55116, or by e-mail to info@mncf.org. All submissions should be directed to Tammy. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is March 17, 2017.