



Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

EXCOM Meeting Minutes (Detailed)

October 13, 2000

Charlie Gagen, President, convened an EXCOM meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, at 10:27 PM in the Benton office of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Others present were Steve Lochmann – President-Elect; Brian Wagner – Past President; Rich Standage – Treasurer; Diana Saul – Secretary; Lisa Hlass – Environmental Affairs Committee Chair and Joe Stoeckel – Nominations Committee Chair.

Rich Standage began the treasurer's report by expressing his discontent with the Merrill Lynch account. He still has not had anybody from Merrill Lynch answer his questions. He stated that we had lost over \$300 this year. Charlie told Rich to look into writing a letter to Merrill Lynch with our questions and stating that if things didn't change we would move our account somewhere else. Since the last EXCOM meeting, Rich had provided the national AFS office with last year's financial report. Rich stated that he and Charlie had had conversations about auditing the treasurer. They had agreed that the EXCOM had basically audited him because he hands out financial statements at each meeting. Rich stated that the policy and procedure manual needed to be changed to reflect the need for the treasurer to be audited and that a yearly financial statement be sent to the national AFS office. Rich said that the current checking account balance is \$13,896.73. He stated that he was having problems getting the version of MS Money that he was using to work with this type of account. Installing the most current version should take care of some of the problems. Rich stated that he wants the new treasurer to decide what should change with the Merrill Lynch account. A discussion issued on whether this type of investment strategy was too complicated to keep up. Looking into some other investment options was discussed. Rich suggested that we use somebody local, so that we could deal with them personally. Charlie stated again that Rich should send a letter to Merrill Lynch with his questions and problems.

Rich then brought up the subject of purchasing a computer for the treasurer. He said that he is not ready to make the actual purchase yet. However, he plans to have the computer before the next annual meeting. Suggestions were given on what devices needed to be on the computer. Rich will get with members of the computer committee to decide on what type of computer to buy.

Diana Saul passed out the minutes from the May EXCOM meeting. It was noted that a newsletter will be going out soon, and minutes from both meetings needed to be in the newsletter. Diana will give the minutes to Charlie who will then pass them on to the EXCOM for review. Rich stated that Charlie would probably need to give the EXCOM a due date for the review.

Lisa Hlass began the Environmental Affairs Committee report by noting that Mark had reported, at the last EXCOM meeting, that the Bear Creek permit had not gone through. She also stated that changes to Regulation 15 (gravel mining) had passed. Most of the changes were good, but not as good as hoped. One of the changes was a 100-foot buffer around gravel mining. Lisa then brought up the subject of CARA, which as an act did not go through. However, some last ditch efforts are being made to get some funding for CARA. Lisa had received a fax from Nancy Ledbetter encouraging people to fax the president and speaker of the house in order to get some funding for CARA. Lisa asked if we want to fax or call the president and speaker of the house about attaching funding for CARA to other bills. The EXCOM voted to send the CARA fax.

Brian Wagner gave an update on the Membership Committee and the 2002 Southern Division meeting. There have been a few membership renewals coming in intermittently. As of the time of the EXCOM meeting, there were 80 paid professional members and 29 students. Brian will setup a booth about the 2002 meeting in Little Rock at the 2001 Southern Division AFS meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. The Little Rock Convention Bureau will give Brian a bunch of raffle items and freebies to use for the booth.

Steve Lochmann gave a report on the meeting arrangements for the 2001 meeting. January 6, 2001 will be the early registration deadline. It was decided that a poster and raffle ticket would be given to early registrants. Steve asked for comments on the design of the poster and T-shirt for the meeting. Diana suggested that the chapter sell a shirt with colored prints of the fish of Arkansas on it. It was decided that this might be too cost prohibitive for a chapter meeting shirt. It was decided that a less expensive shirt with the meeting design and date be made for the 2001 meeting. Diana would look into the cost of making the other shirt, which could be sold at the 2001, and 2002 meetings.

Steve then began to discuss the 2001-meeting budget. Steve had spoken with Tim Ernst and William McNamara about speaking at the banquet. Unfortunately, their fees would be \$1,200.00 together. This was a sum beyond the budget of the Arkansas Chapter of AFS. Steve asked if our breaks were sponsored by anybody in the past. Charlie stated that it hadn't been that way in the past. Steve posed the possibility of having them sponsored to defray the cost of the meeting. The cost and number of posters and T-shirts was discussed. One hundred posters and 150 T-shirts are usually produced for the meetings. The registration fee was set at \$40 for early registration and \$50 for late registration for professionals. The student registration fee was set at \$30 for early registration and \$35 for late registration. Steve asked the EXCOM if rooms for students needed to be provided in the 2001 meeting. It was decided not to fund student rooms.

Steve discussed the lodging situation with cabins at Lindsey's and the logistics of room assignments. It was recommended that each person be responsible for making their own arrangements and that this information be put in the newsletter.

Steve presented a proposed registration form. It was decided that one registration form would be used for both societies and that all of the forms would go to Rich. It was suggested that a printable registration form be put on the website. Steve will ask the Wildlife Society if they want Rich to collect their dues for them also. The ways of splitting the cost of the meeting with the Wildlife Society was discussed. It was suggested that the meeting expenses be split 1/3 and 2/3 between the two societies. Steve will discuss this proposal with the Wildlife Society. T-shirt sales will be handled separately.

Steve also went over the call for papers. Steve presented the idea of putting graphics in the abstracts, which was approved. Abstracts will be sent in by E-mail. Joe Stoeckel stated that the call for papers needs to reflect if it is a student paper (graduate or undergraduate).

At this time Joe then began to discuss the things needed for paper judging. He suggested that the student papers be scheduled as a groups, graduate and undergraduate. It was also discussed to try to have the student papers before the banquet, so awards can be presented at the banquet. The winners of the professional papers awards would announced in the newsletter. Steve will figure out how to designate the difference between graduate and undergraduate papers on the abstract booklet and meeting schedule.

Steve then discussed the speakers for the White River Symposium. It was decided that a panel discussion would be done after the symposium.

Joe discussed and took nominations for Vice-President and Treasurer. He told how the nomination committee selects nominees for office. He also stated that nominations were needed for Best Conservation Organization and Best Conservationist.

Respectfully Submitted

Diana Saul, Secretary
Arkansas Chapter, American Fisheries Society