

ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2000

Charlie Gagen, President, convened an EXCOM meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, on 1:21 PM in the Benton office of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Others present were: Brian Wagner – past President; Steve Lochmann – President-elect; Rich Standage – Treasurer; Diana Saul – Secretary; Lisa Hlass – Environmental Affairs Comm. Chair; Chris Davidson – Web Master and Tom Bly – past Secretary. Charlie passed out the agenda and asked that each person state any problem or question about the procedural manual when it was his or her time to speak. He also stated that the procedural manual was last updated in 1993 and he would like to see the procedural manual updated this year.

Tom Bly handed out the minutes from the 2000 meeting. All EXCOM members approved the minutes.

Rich Standage stated that the procedural manual needs to indicate that the treasurer needs to be the keeper of the membership list. Rich then handed out a list of current members' addresses, phone numbers and E-mail addresses. He pointed out that several people did not respond during the annual meeting on whether they wanted their information posted on the webpage. Rich said that he had been in contact with Mark Oliver, the newsletter editor, to have each person's membership status be indicated on the mailing labels. The newsletter editors for surrounding states and national AFS board members were also added to the mailing list. Rich also suggested that it might be helpful to put the address list in the newsletter excluding those who do not want their information published. Brian Wagner suggested that Scott Yaich be added to the mailing list.

Rich reviewed the AFS tri-state meeting. The meeting came out a total of \$4.68 in the red in spite of Louisiana paying \$25.53 to balance the books. Apparently, some bills came in after the meeting. This total included the \$934.00 raised by Arkansas raffles and \$1,500.50 raised by Texas. The cash bar at the banquet was an additional \$1,500.00 that had not been put in the original budget. Also, not enough T-shirts were sold to help balance the books. This was for the whole meeting, not just the Arkansas portion and did not include the dues. The Arkansas Chapter actually broke even.

Rich expressed frustration with the Merrill Lynch account because there is no local person to deal with and it is hard to tell what is exactly going on. The person that is now handling the account is the second new person to handle the account. An \$80 annual fee was taken out of the account, but the account manager could not tell Rich from where it had been taken. Charlie told Rich that it might be worthwhile to draft a letter to Merrill Lynch on letterhead and state the problems with the account. Rich had just recently talked with the new account manager and wanted to give him time to get acquainted with the account before deciding to draft a letter. At the date of the meeting, the Arkansas Chapter had a balance of \$12,600.90 and another 20 memberships could still be collected.

Approximately 75 T-shirts were left from the meeting. These T-shirts were split three ways between the chapters. Charlie distributed Arkansas' portion of the T-shirts to the subunits. A discussion issued about the pictures taken at the meeting. Chris asked to have access to the pictures, so they could be put on the website. Tom Bly said that he had already sent the prints to Mark Oliver, but that he could give Chris the negatives.

Charlie brought up the subject of the rebate from the parent society. This is based on the percentage of national members in the chapter. It was stated that this money has been donated to the parent society in the past. All of the meeting attendees agreed to donate this money back to the parent society.

Charlie congratulated Chris Davidson on the layout of the webpage and asked him to update the attendees on the webpage status. Chris asked for a copy of the 2000 annual meeting minutes to be put on the webpage. Chris stated that he had thought of putting a box on the webpage that scrolled messages across the page. This would be to draw attention to special items on the page. Chris stated that all of the abstracts except 1994's are on the webpage. These files had originally been scanned as PDF files. All but two or three meetings have been rescanned in as Word Perfect documents. This drastically decreases the size of the files on the website. Chris asked how the attendees felt about making the abstracts for each meeting as one PDF file with bookmarks. He said that this would cut down on the size of the file because it would take out the links. Steve asked if PDF files could be keyword searched and that we might want to consider allowing for this option in the future. A discussion arose as to why PDF files were being used instead of HTML. We might want to think about being able to put pictures into abstracts. Chris asked whether we still wanted to list the people that belonged to committees at the parent society and southern division levels. He said that Brian was the only one listed, but that he knew that other people were on committees. Charlie suggested that a request be sent out in the newsletter to get the names of people on committees.

Chris told the committee that Bill Shinn had contacted him about putting some information on the website about the science fair winners. Tom suggested putting the winners' names and their abstracts on the website. However, not everybody who judged a science fair collected abstracts. It was decided that Chris and Bill will put some information about the science fairs on the website this year and that the subject of abstracts would be brought up at the next annual meeting.

Lisa Hlass began her report on the Environmental Affairs Committee by stating that the procedural manual does not clearly state if the whole EXCOM or just the president is supposed to approve Environmental Affairs Committee letters. It was decided that with current technology such as E-mail that the EXCOM committee could approve letters in a timely fashion. Information about environmental affairs concerns could be posted on the website for the entire Arkansas Chapter to know about. However, the EXCOM Committee could approve time-sensitive matters.

Lisa presented the letter for the State Land Commission about the Saline River logging operation. It was the general consensus of the EXCOM Committee that the letter should

state in stronger language that the Arkansas Chapter of AFS is against this operation. Bill Posey, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Malacologist, joined the committee at this time and made additional comments about possible mussel impacts from this type of operation. It was decided that Lisa and Charlie would redraft the letter and send it out to the EXCOM for approval.

The remainder of the meeting centered on the 2001 annual meeting. Charlie told the committee that the Arkansas Chapter would be hosting the 2002 AFS Southern Division meeting. It was decided that because the Arkansas Chapter is hosting the Southern Division meeting in 2002, the 2001 meeting would be an Arkansas Chapter only meeting. Two locations, Heber Springs and Russellville, were discussed for next year's meeting. It was decided that the meeting would be held at Heber Springs. Tom Bly said that he would come up with the information on the possible meeting places in Heber Springs. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Saul, Secretary  
Arkansas Chapter of AFS