



## **American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter**

### **EXCOM Meeting Minutes**

April 25, 2002

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Delta Rivers Nature Center. Present at the meeting were Betty Crump, President; Steve Lochmann, Past President; Ken Shirley, President-Elect; John Jackson, Treasurer; Brian Wagner; Mark Oliver; and April Layher.

Betty began the meeting by asking the EXCOM if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Annual Meeting, held February 22, 2002. There were none, and the minutes were approved.

John presented the Treasurer's Report. The expenses for the Southern Division meeting have not yet been finalized. Therefore, the money available in the checking account (approximately \$23,600) does not represent the true amount available to the chapter, as several expenses remain to be paid. Currently, the chapter has 105 paid members, of which 47 are professional. Because the number of professional members is down from last year, discussion ensued regarding methods of increasing the number of professional members. Initially, the EXCOM decided to mail the newsletter to all 2001 and 2002 members, including a note with those professionals who had not had a chance to renew membership. This would give those members an opportunity to renew before they were removed from the list. However, April thought it would be more efficient to publish in the newsletter a list of professionals who had not yet renewed. The EXCOM agreed. John continued with the Treasurer's Report and brought up the reinvestment of chapter funds. Steve thought it would be wise to wait and examine the profits from the Southern Division meeting before deciding upon a course of action, as the EXCOM would be aware of how much money would be available for reinvestment. Therefore, the resolution of the Southern Division meeting financial issues will be tabled until the next EXCOM meeting. John will generate a report of income and expenditures not related to the Southern Division meeting for the upcoming newsletter.

Steve presented the Past President's Report. He requested that the newsletter include a request for volunteers for Rob Beadle Fishing Clinic at Nimrod Lake July 17-22. Additionally, Steve requested that ARAFS's Chapter of the Year certificate be included on the History of the Chapter poster that will be at the AFS 2002 Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

Steve presented an update on the Bear Creek dam lawsuit. The Corps has asked for an extension to the deadline for their response to the factual allegations in the case. Pete Frost of Western Law agreed to the extension, but in return requested the Corps turn over all documents leading to their decision to approve the permit for the dam.

April discussed Bayou Bartholomew and the Wal-Mart that has been proposed for development in the upper watershed of the stream in Pine Bluff. For this development to occur, however, Pine Bluff must annex the land and rezone it. Nearby citizens have raised enough signatures to put the annexation issue to a vote. April suggested ARAFS write a letter to Wal-Mart expressing concerns. Betty recommended the issue be put to the Environmental Committee.

The Fishes of Arkansas revision is underway. The pages have been scanned and the majority has been edited, with approximately 10% remaining. Funding needs to be secured for the authors to be able to dedicate themselves to the revision.

Ken presented the President-Elect's report. The joint Tennessee-Arkansas annual meeting will be held March 4-6 in Jackson, TN. ARAFS will need to submit abstracts for the program. There will be a silent auction and door prizes but no raffle.

For the newsletter, April requested the final Arkansas darter resolution, the education report, and the final treasurer's report.

Betty presented the report for Ron Johnson, chair of the Environmental Committee. Lisa Hlass has stepped down as chair but will remain a member. Other members include Steve Filipek, April Layher, Ken Shirley, Jim Petersen, Billy Justus, Steve Lochmann, and Betty Crump.

The Arkansas darter resolution was discussed. Andrea Radwell (University of Arkansas student subunit) has requested a letter from ARAFS endorsing their resolution. Steve mentioned that the correct procedure would be for the EXCOM to produce a statement of opinion in favor of the resolution. The UA subunit has two options: they may call their document a statement of opinion or word it as a resolution, as there are no provisions in the bylaws for position statements. Discussion ensued regarding the bylaws of the subunits. In short, the EXCOM will support the document if it becomes a statement of opinion. The Environmental Committee will see to this matter.

Betty reported for Jimmy Barnett that the raffle donations for the Southern Division meeting were appreciated.

Betty reported that Joe Stoeckel is working on a list of awards, best papers, etc for the newsletter.

Betty began discussing new business. The EXCOM decided to purchase 30 copies of the parent society's warmwater streams video. These videos will be distributed to nature centers, classes, universities, citizens groups, and others for educational purposes.

Betty reported that the Florida Chapter has requested donations to their Roger **Rockman??** memorial scholarship. The EXCOM declined to donate, as ARAFS is building its own scholarship fund.

Lifetime memberships to the chapter were discussed. Other societies (parent society, AR Academy of Sciences) have based their lifetime membership prices on approximately 15-20 years worth of dues. Benefits of offering this option include gaining interest from the money and securing dues even if someone leaves the state. The issue was tabled until the next EXCOM meeting.

Chapter tee shirts were discussed. Betty suggested creating a chapter shirt that could be sold over a period of time. The shirt would have no date and, therefore, would not become obsolete. Steve supported selling undated tee shirts so long as no more shirts are printed until all are sold. April suggested selling caps rather than shirts. Diana Andrews will be asked to look into prices of copyrights for the reproductions of fish that are planned for the shirt.

Betty reported that the dues rebate from the parent society will be left in the parent society coffers, as has been done in past years.

The parent society is asking for donations to the raffle to be held at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Betty reported that anonymous donors from ARAFS have sent a full set of 17 Audubon Field Guides to be raffled.

The next EXCOM meeting was set for August 7. At this meeting, details of the chapter's next annual meeting will be discussed.

Betty opened the floor for additional new business. She suggested sending a letter to the Delta Rivers Nature Center, attention Eric **Maynard**, to express appreciation for the use of their facilities for the EXCOM meeting.

No other new business was brought to the floor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rogers, Secretary  
Arkansas Chapter  
American Fisheries Society