



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

EXCOM Meeting Minutes

August 7, 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; John Jackson, Treasurer; Susan Rogers, Secretary; Ron Johnson, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; April Layher, Newsletter Editor; and Mike Armstrong, SDAFS Finance Committee Chair.

Betty began the meeting at 9:20 am by asking the EXCOM if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the last EXCOM meeting, held April 25, 2002. There were none, and the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report began with Mike discussing the budget of the SDAFS midyear meeting. The final budget expense report had been emailed to the EXCOM for review. Profit sharing with the Southern Division was discussed; ARAFS will receive the first \$1,000 from the meeting, and the two entities will divide the remaining profits, not including the raffle, auction, and tee shirt sales, from which ARAFS will receive the proceeds.

John and Betty discussed the request of the Warmwater Streams Committee for a detailed account of the budget of their workshop at the SDAFS midyear meeting. There is confusion between the committee and the EXCOM regarding how many participants were expected and how much the committee asked participants to be charged. The committee had expected more participants and a higher workshop fee, and they came up approximately \$150 short. Steve suggested the EXCOM document that the committee requested a fee of \$30 per participant and ensure the committee was not led to believe there would be more participants. If there is any question regarding either of these factors, the EXCOM should consider reimbursing the committee for their expenses. Mike recalled that one workshop was first listed in the newsletter as \$50; this could be that workshop.

Betty reported that the Wildlife Management Institute never received the \$400 that ARAFS had pledged to help with the printing of the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project Sustainable Alternative Report. John will review old reports and ensure WMI receives their money.

Steve presented the Past President's Report. None of the student subchapters have procedures and bylaws on file with the parent society, and he will bring subchapter bylaws from other universities to the subchapters at Pine Bluff, Russellville, and Fayetteville so that they may have their bylaws written by the next chapter meeting.

There is some question regarding the format for abstracts for the joint Arkansas-Tennessee meeting March 4-6 in Jackson, Tennessee. There has been no formatting request from Tennessee. If they have no preference, Chris Davidson will be asked if he has a preference, as he will be putting ARAFS abstracts on the web page. Tennessee is looking for papers relating to large river topics, as the two chapters share similar ecosystems. Steve requested that Ken Shirley keep the EXCOM informed of the arrangements he is making for the upcoming meeting.

Ron presented the Environmental Affairs Committee Report. His prepared report will be printed in the newsletter. John Jackson has been added to the committee roster.

Steve presented an update on the Bear Creek lawsuit. The Corps has filed a motion to dismiss the case, citing that the plaintiffs do not have standing. Western Law requested that Steve write a declaration. He wrote the declaration and stated that he uses and enjoys the Buffalo National River and because he is a member of ARAFS, the chapter has standing in the lawsuit. Steve was contacted because he was president when the chapter signed on to the lawsuit, and because he is not affiliated with a state or federal agency, he was happy to write the declaration. Western Law has indicated it is not likely the Corps will get the case dismissed. The terms of ARAFS's involvement in the case were reviewed: the chapter paid \$200 and will not be asked for more, although the remote possibility of a countersuit does exist.

Betty discussed the University of Arkansas student subchapter's Arkansas darter resolution. Andrea Radwell has indicated that the subchapter submit their statement of opinion to the city of Fayetteville, and the subchapter does not need anything from ARAFS. Therefore, the subchapter will not need to reformat their statement into a form that ARAFS can endorse.

Betty reported that the postcard mailing regarding the Grand Prairie project was a huge success.

Betty and Ron both received requests from the National Wildlife Federation regarding the chapter signing on in support of Corps reform. The quick turnaround time prompted both to sign the chapter on without consulting the EXCOM. The EXCOM agreed that both acted wisely.

Betty mentioned the scoping letter for the L'Anguille River and Bayou DeView watershed projects. This subject was tabled until the next meeting.

Betty discussed the proposed rule issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service to list the black carp as an injurious species under the Lacey Act. Steve suggested resubmitting the chapter's resolution on this matter during the open comment period. A notice regarding this open comment period will be in the newsletter.

Betty stated that Bill Shinn and Jimmy Barnett had nothing to report.

Betty reported that Joe Stoeckel is working on developing the 2004 chapter meeting. He has suggesting meeting jointly with The Wildlife Society and inviting the Ouachita National Forest to discuss the rewrite of their 10 year Forest Plan. He would like to see biologists from the Forest discuss issues they are facing. Betty proposed the chapter members be canvassed to determine selected topics for the biologists to present. The EXCOM discussed the possibility of a joint meeting, the topic, and the fact that it is the responsibility of the President-Elect to organize chapter meetings. Steve decided to nominate Joe for President. April will include a notice for nominations in the newsletter.

Betty began discussing old business. Lifetime memberships were discussed, and the EXCOM decided not to pursue them any further due to the small number of members that would take advantage of them, no one appears to be heavily in favor of them, the limited benefit to the chapter that would be gained, and the fact that when members renew, they often buy a tee shirt while they are at the table.

Chapter tee shirts were discussed. Tennessee will be making shirts for the next meeting, and it is unlikely Arkansas will be included on the shirt. Diana Andrews has been investigating using Tomelleri fish prints for a shirt that would have no dates on it and could be sold at any time. Betty reported that Tomelleri receives an up front fee for the use of the prints as well as \$1 for each shirt sold. The tee shirt was tabled until the next meeting.

Many SDAFS tee shirts remain, and Ron will take some to Arkansas State University to sell. Five will be donated to the Fish Olympics.

The chapter received copies of the warmwater streams video. They have been given to April for distribution to student subchapters and other colleges, as well as to several guests of the SDAFS meeting.

Betty reported that the parent society requested information on chapter dues. The EXCOM reiterated that chapter dues should not be collected by the parent society.

Betty requested new business be discussed. Steve reported that he had been contacted by Ed Pert, who had never received a certificate for receiving the Best Professional Paper Award from several years ago. The EXCOM determined that the responsibility for producing certificates for Best Student and Professional Papers had fallen through the cracks. The responsibility for this should be clarified, and the awards should be presented sooner than the following year's chapter meeting, which is how it apparently stands now.

The next EXCOM meeting was scheduled for January 7, 2003.

No other new business was brought to the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rogers, Secretary
Arkansas Chapter
American Fisheries Society