



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

EXCOM Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2003

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held a meeting of the Executive Committee at the AGFC Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Ken began the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with roll call. Present at the meeting were Ken Shirley, President; Chris Davidson, President-elect; Mike Bivin, Treasurer; Colton Dennis, Interim Secretary; Jimmy Barnett, Activities/Raffle Committee; Lee Holt, ATU Subunit President; Justin Homan, ATU Subunit Vice-President; Chris Berry, U of A Subunit President; Nate Wiese, UAPB Subunit President; Steve Lochmann, Newsletter Editor; and Lea White.

Mike Bivin gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that the Chapter currently had a balance of \$15,043.16. Mike also mentioned that he had received from the former Treasurer, John Jackson, the Chapter's printer, various software, and extra drive that had been overlooked during the transfer of Secretarial equipment.

Jimmy Barnett inquired how the EXCOM wanted to distribute door prizes, raffle, and silent auction items. It was decided that the smaller items would be used as door prizes with a few larger, more expensive items used for the silent auction and the majority of larger items received used as raffle items. Jimmy expressed that he would provide the necessary raffle tickets for the prizes and suggested that the Subunit students help sell tickets during the breaks. Jimmy also mentioned that he would not be available to attend the annual meeting and asked his Assistant, Lea White, to fill in and oversee the activities. Ken asked Steve if he would place a notice in the Newsletter asking members to start seeking donations for door prizes, raffle, and silent auction items and provide to Lea White at the Hampton Inn upon their arrival at the meeting.

Ken asked if anyone had heard from Joe Stoeckel, Nominating and Awards Committee, on nominations for officers. Steve expressed that he needed the biographies of the nominees so that he could place them in the Newsletter for the membership to consider. Ken stated he would contact Joe and remind him to send the biographies to Steve.

Ken announced that several due-paying members had responded to him about not receiving their Newsletter. Mike reported that he had received several Newsletters in the mail because the top address page had been torn off and the only address that was visible was his on the back page. Steve was also aware of this problem and mentioned that it was due to staples getting caught in the post office machines and tearing pages of the Newsletter. Steve suggested that he will try using the small, dime-size circular stickers rather than staples to hold the folded Newsletter together and correct the problem. Steve also mentioned that he would send Mike the new format he needs the membership addresses in for producing the required mailing labels.

Steve raised the question of when the Chapter dues are do because of a problem with some Subunit members not getting their Newsletters. He explained that this is caused from the Subunit members not getting on the mailing list until after their dues are paid to the Secretary at the annual meeting. He noted that students actually pay their dues at the beginning of the school year in September, but are held and not paid to the Treasurer until the annual meeting in February, and therefore not put on the mailing list. He mentioned this is a concern because students who paid in the fall do not get their first Newsletter or first contact with the Chapter until after the annual meeting in the spring. Likewise, the chapter is mailing out Newsletters to students during the summer and fall that may have relocated after graduation in May. Lee Holt expressed that this occurred at ATU this summer and that he used Newsletters from students who had graduated to pass out to new members who paid their dues. Everyone agreed that Chapter dues are do at the annual meeting for that calendar year. Upon a request by Steve, the Subunit Presidents agreed to provide Steve with a list of names in September of student members so that he could make sure and send enough Newsletters in bulk to distribute to their student members.

Mike also brought up for discussion the problem he is having with determining how to apply Chapter dues which are paid during the summer, and if those dues should be applied for the current year or the upcoming year. Mike suggested that a place be made available on the application where members can check for which year they want their Chapter dues applied. He also mentioned that he has converted the membership data into two access files, one for 2003 and 2004, to try and track the membership more accurately.

Ken noted that in the last Newsletter, the editors suggested the membership going to an on-line option. Steve mentioned he placed that in the Newsletter because it had come up at the Division and Parent society level. Ken noted the on-line version would make it easier to send and inform non-members and associates of the Chapter and its activities. Steve asked Mike how much was spent for the last Newsletter mail out. Mike responded that copying and postage charges totaled \$123.00. Ken stated that members who didn't want the on-line version could still have the option of receiving a paper copy and that the option could be placed on the membership form. Steve noted that a hybrid mail out using on-line and paper would not be a problem as far as distribution was concerned. Ken suggested that the issue be placed as an agenda item at the annual business meeting for the membership to discuss and vote on.

Ken addressed the rumor going around that the Corps of Engineers is planning on closing all or some of its recreational areas. Ken had contacted a source in the Corps who stated that it was most likely a budget ploy to get more funding for the Corps since they still do not have a budget to work from. The contact also informed Ken that if the Corp did not get the funding needed, they may have to stop maintaining some areas, but that boat ramps would most likely remain open.

Ken also announced that Congress had voted to increase the navigation channel to 12 feet on the Arkansas River. He asked if anyone knew how much additional dredging this

would include. Chris stated that there would not be much in Arkansas, but rather most of the dredging would occur in Oklahoma where the Corps had held several public meetings. Chris stated he wasn't sure about the possible side effects in Arkansas that were going to be caused from the additional dredging in Oklahoma. Steve brought up that these were environmental affairs issues and that he hasn't received anything from Ron Johnson, Environmental Affairs Committee chair for the Newsletter. Ken noted that he would contact Ron and remind him to provide an update to Steve for the Newsletter.

Chris Davidson gave an update on the upcoming Annual Chapter meeting preparations. Chris mentioned he had a total of 9 abstracts submitted so far, 4 students and 5 professionals out of the 28 slots available. Chris stated he had set the deadline for 2nd call for papers for January 7th and asked Steve to place that announcement in the Newsletter. Chris also asked if everyone had seen the final agenda for the Large River Symposium and that he was still waiting on abstracts from those speakers.

Chris said that Water Monitoring Solutions would be sponsoring a break and Ken mentioned that he would check with Mtn. Home Sportsman's Club and see if they would sponsor a break. Chris noted that he would still need to locate another sponsor for the remaining break.

Chris said he inspected the 750-sqft room at the Hampton Inn where the mixer was going to take place on the first night of the meeting. He noted there were tables for food and chairs along the walls. Chris also mentioned the problem he was having firming up the caterer, Who Dat's. Jimmy provided additional contacts and numbers for Who Dat's. Everyone agreed to have Chris pursue other caterers such as Hogg's Meat Market or King Kat if Who Dat's could not be confirmed.

Chris mentioned that the Social would be at the Waterfront Community Center in Regional Park. Steve commented that it is a good size building with a kitchen, but will need approximately 25 volunteers to help set up tables and chairs and for cleaning up afterwards. Ken noted that he would ask for volunteers during the business meeting. Chris said he would also back up the start time for the Social to begin at 7pm rather than 6:30 to allow for volunteers to set up after the business meeting.

Ken said he would check with the AGFC Fisheries Division and see if a secretary could help out with registration. Chris inquired about having packets available at registration. Jimmy suggested that he could donate the bags that the program, meal ticket, and nametag would be placed in. Chris said he would develop credit card size meal tickets and have them printed on brightly colored paper. Chris asked Mike if he could print out before the meeting nametags for those who had pre-registered. Mike said that he could and that he had in his possession the plastic blanks for the nametags. Everyone agreed that name and affiliation would be sufficient on the nametag.

Chris asked about T-shirts and prices and Ken mentioned that April Layher was checking with the company. April noted that the shirt would be blue with a largemouth bass on the front and the ARAFS logo on the sleeve. The design would not have a date, and so it

could be used from year to year. She mentioned that the company required a minimum order of 48 shirts that could be various sizes and that if Chapter prepaid, the company would pay shipping costs. April also mentioned that she needed the ARAFS logo to send to the company and Chris commented that he would provide an electronic copy in a jpeg file to her. April noted that after this year, since the company will have the silkscreen developed, the Chapter wouldn't be held to a minimum order in the future.

The next EXCOM meeting was discussed and scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Tuesday February 3rd at the AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted

D. Colton Dennis
Interim Secretary