



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

EXCOM Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2003

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Present at the meeting were Betty Crump, President; Steve Lochmann, Past President; Ken Shirley, President-Elect; Susan Rogers, Secretary; Jimmy Barnett, Raffles and Donations Committee Chair; Chris Davidson, Web Page Editor; Bill Shinn, Education Liaison; and Jim Wise, member. The meeting began about 10:30 am.

Betty began the meeting with the roll call, and then the minutes from the August 7, 2002, EXCOM meeting were approved with no changes. Steve brought the Treasurer's report from John Jackson, Treasurer. It appears that for the last year, the chapter has made approximately \$5,000 on the SDAFS meeting. The final report and payment to the Southern Division has been completed. Currently, the funds to be reinvested are in an interest-bearing checking account and have not been invested in the stock market. These funds will remain in this account until the chapter feels compelled to invest them. The EXCOM will need to check with John about the reimbursement to the Warmwater Streams Committee for their workshop. The chapter paid the \$400 pledge to WMI. The trophies for the science fair winners were paid for.

Regarding the upcoming joint AR/TN chapter meeting in March, there are only 4 members that have registered. However, John has a number of registrations, and AGFC personnel will likely register as a group. These names should be sent to Tennessee for nametags.

Steve presented the Past President's report. All three of the student subunits have turned in bylaws, which have gone through the EXCOM, been revised, and turned into the parent society. Steve will encourage them to put their revised bylaws on their web sites. The Past Presidents' breakfast will be the morning of March 5.

Chris discussed the web page. The chapter membership renewal form needs to be updated on the web page. Chris needs the recipients of last year's Conservation Award and Best Paper Awards. Better track needs to be kept of award recipients.

Ron Johnson did not have any new business from the Environmental Committee. However, Betty reported that a few issues have arisen in the past week. Nathan Stone's recommendation to produce a white paper regarding the Corps' Grand Prairie Irrigation Project was discussed. Steve stated that in approximately 1997, the chapter wrote a resolution expressing opposition to both the Grand Prairie and White River Navigation Projects. Also, two years ago the chapter was a cosponsor of the Sustainable Approach to the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project. It appears Nathan's concerns have been addressed and the EXCOM needs to respond to him and alert him to what has been done.

Betty encouraged the EXCOM to call congressmen about the bill before the Arkansas legislature that would provide funding for the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project. Betty has called on behalf of the chapter, but people should still make individual calls. She asked the congressmen to vote against this bill, or at the very least more study should be done. Jim asserted that it is important to discover what the money that has been proposed is for; as it stands, it is not clear in the bill to whom the money would go or for what purpose. It appears the money would go to the White River Irrigation District, but their use of the money is not discussed in the bill. Betty will ask the Environmental Committee to investigate this and contact Terry Horton regarding the federal funding of the project.

Betty discussed Corps reform and the bill introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature that would remove the Corps from damages related to their projects. Although this is not yet applicable in Arkansas, it may be heading this way soon. Jim suggested the chapter contact the Pennsylvania chapter and encourage their efforts to stop this bill. Additionally, he suggested we investigate the parent society's involvement regarding this issue. The Environmental Committee will contact the chair of the Environmental Policy Committee.

Betty alerted the EXCOM that AGFC has developed a "clean list" of aquatic species that may be imported into Arkansas. Ken said they have also developed a "dirty list." Steve mentioned that UAPB has had a seminar that reviewed each species and none stood out. Black carp are on neither list. Discussion ensued regarding whether black carp have already escaped, and Steve mentioned that there has been only one instance when the species has been found in the wild, and that was not in Arkansas.

Betty also discussed the PC&E Commissions review of Extraordinary Resource Waters. She sent a letter on behalf of the chapter supporting streams designated as ERWs.

Steve updated the EXCOM on the status of the Bear Creek lawsuit. The Corps has revoked the permit for the dam on Bear Creek, and the judge is at a point where he is deciding whether the lawsuit is moot because the permit has been revoked. Pete Frost, the chapter's attorney on the Bear Creek lawsuit, has indicated that he will keep pushing for the judge to make a decision on the case (and not dismiss it) so that there will be a precedent that the Corps needs to consult with the National Park Service before anything like this occurs in the future. No action by the EXCOM is necessary.

Bill Shinn presented the report from the Education Committee. He will solicit for Science Fair judges at the business meeting, except for those fairs that will have been held by that time. Judges for those fairs have been lined up already. There are several new fairs this year, and the Southwest and South Central fairs are not being held. Bill has received the plaques for the fairs. Bill also expressed interest in continued investigation of a scholarship.

Jimmy discussed the silent auction and door prizes for the upcoming annual meeting. Jimmy will send an email to AGFC employees asking for donations for these items, and he will forward that email to John to be sent out to the membership. Jimmy suggested we limit silent auction items to approximately 10 of higher value, and the rest may be door prizes.

Joe Stoeckel was not present at the meeting but had sent his report for the Nominations Committee to Betty. The Best Paper awards from last years meeting have been made but await Steve's signature. Steve pointed out that it is problematic for student Best Paper awards to be awarded a year later, because students often do not return the following year. Jimmy suggested forming a committee that tracks the students down after the meeting. Betty suggested the EXCOM present the awards at the end of the business meeting, and everyone agreed.

Joe has only received one nomination for President-Elect and one for Treasurer. The EXCOM came up with several additional candidates for each office.

Joe reported that there have been no nominations for the Joe Hogan and Bob Jenkins awards. He suggested that the EXCOM not pursue these nominations particularly hard-they do not have to be awarded every year, and if no one feels compelled to nominate someone, the chapter should not feel compelled to present the awards. Steve suggested that this be pointed out at the business meeting in Tennessee so that the membership is aware we are foregoing presenting these awards this year.

Joe also updated the EXCOM on the status of the potential meeting next year with the Arkansas chapter of TWS in Russellville in which the Forest Service would be involved.

Joe had several questions about the best paper awards, and the EXCOM will fill him in on the details that were decided at this meeting.

Joe was unsure if the duties of getting awards to the outstanding members of each subunit were the responsibility of the Nominations Committee. This is the Nominations Committee's responsibility.

Betty reported that Arkansas TWS has put together a review committee for the National Forest Plan Revision to provide comments on the revision. The EXCOM considered whether AR AFS should have a similar committee. Jimmy stated that if there are fisheries management concerns in the plan, AR AFS should have a review committee. Ken suggested the chapter wait until it is parceled down to the individual forests, which will likely occur while he is president. This will be on the agenda at the business meeting.

Betty asked the EXCOM if there would be tee shirts sold at the Tennessee meeting. No decision was made, but if there is a design with no date on the shirt, they could be sold at numerous meetings.

It was decided that there is nothing to do at this point regarding black carp.

Betty brought up new business. Not all of the chapter's students were indicated as such on the draft program for the Tennessee meeting. Joe needs a complete list of students so that they are sure to be judged for the best student paper award.

Ken will be the ARAFS representative at the upcoming SDAFS meeting. The report to SDAFS needs to be updated regarding the membership numbers.

Betty introduced the Professional Bass Fishing Hall of Fame that will be built in Hot Springs. The EXCOM considered being a part of this. This will be discussed at the business meeting once the EXCOM finds out what types of sponsorships are available.

Betty confirmed that this meeting of the EXCOM served as the meeting prior to the annual business meeting. The only remaining item of business for the EXCOM before this meeting is the approval of the slate of candidates brought forward by the Nominations Committee, which may be done by email.

No other new business was brought to the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rogers, Secretary
Arkansas Chapter
American Fisheries Society