



American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter

EXCOM Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2003

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held a meeting of the Executive Committee at the Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Present at the meeting were Ken Shirley, President; Chris Davidson, President-elect; Mike Bivin, Treasurer; Susan Rogers, Secretary; Jimmy Barnett, Raffles and Donations Committee Chair; Ron Johnson, Environmental Committee Chair; Bill Shinn, Education Liaison; April Layher, Newsletter Editor; and John Jackson, past Treasurer. The meeting began at approximately 1:15 pm.

Ken began the meeting with roll call. The minutes from the annual Chapter meeting were approved with one correction after a motion from Jimmy and a second from Mike.

April discussed the newsletter, which is almost completed. April discussed sending draft newsletters out to the EXCOM before they are published. She will send out one draft, on which the EXCOM may comment, and then the newsletter will be published. Ken discussed putting a ballot in the newsletter for the vote on whether student sub-unit Presidents may be voting members of the EXCOM. Discussion ensued regarding whether votes may be by email and how to avoid double voting.

April asked if Ken wanted the EXCOM minutes in the newsletter, and it was decided that the EXCOM minutes will remain available on the web site, and the Chapter meeting minutes will be the only ones printed in the newsletter. Further, those past members who have not renewed their membership for 2003 will be mailed the newsletter with a note reminding them they are past due. This will not be done for students.

John Jackson will give the Treasurer files to Mike, who will send a membership list to the EXCOM. John reported that he has taken care of all payments he has been aware of, although there are several outstanding checks. He has not yet paid the awards for Outstanding Sub-Unit Member. The Chapter currently has approximately \$15,000.

Chris Davidson reported on the web page. He has added a link to the Arkansas Department of Education. Bill asked that a link also be added to the Arkansas Science Teachers Association.

Ron reported on the Environmental Committee. Senate Bill 45 regarding government reorganization has been tabled for this legislative session, but it may be resurrected on the ballot this November as an initiated act. Black carp is the remaining issue for the committee. A black carp was found in Horseshoe Lake in Illinois, and efforts are underway to determine if it is triploid and where it came from.

Bill reported on the state Science Fair. A winner and two honorable mentions received awards this year. Additionally, Bill and Steve Lochmann presented the Joe Hogan Award to Harry Dupree's widow, Ruth, in Stuttgart. Bill suggested the Chapter place a replica of the plaque in the Dupree Experiment Station. Jimmy motioned the EXCOM purchase such a plaque, and Susan seconded. All agreed.

Jimmy reported that the Chapter raised about \$370 from the auction at the annual meeting in Tennessee, which was excellent given the number of donations. Jimmy urged the EXCOM to start looking for donations for next year's meeting.

Ken discussed the request from the parent chapter to submit a bid for the AFS 2007 national annual meeting. Several years ago the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau gave a presentation to the parent chapter regarding holding the annual meeting in Little Rock. The bid was turned down because the chapter did not want the society meeting to be held in the southeast two years in a row (the preceding year was to be Baltimore), although the package was excellent. Ken has asked the Fisheries Division if AGFC would cooperate in holding a meeting in Arkansas, as ARAFS could not hold such a meeting without AGFC's support. The senior management team meets on April 17 and will determine then if the agency will support the effort. Contingent upon AGFC supporting ARAFS's bid for the 2007 AFS meeting, the EXCOM could work with the Convention and Visitor's Bureaus of Little Rock and Hot Springs to put together packages for the meeting. Chris made a motion to move forward with this, and Jimmy seconded. All were in favor. Ken set up a committee to work on this issue, and he will ask Brian Wagner if he is willing to chair that committee as he worked on this several years ago. Jimmy has offered to serve on the committee, as well.

Ken brought up the dates for the ARAFS 2004 Chapter meeting. He suggested the meeting should avoid Valentine's Day and be before the midyear meeting of the Southern Division. The meeting would begin at noon on Tuesday of the week selected and run through noon on the following Thursday. February 3-5 were selected as the dates, if the Nature Center is available. Chris then reported on the specifics of the meeting and where the socials may be held. The EXCOM decided to check on the city of Pine Bluff's meeting room near the lake. Additionally, shuttles will be investigated so that attendees will not have to drive after the social. Chris will talk with local hotels about room costs and blocking rooms for the meeting.

It was decided that Whodat's would be asked to cater, and Ken will talk with a local bluegrass band about playing the social.

Chris also discussed holding a workshop at the annual Chapter meeting. The EXCOM settled on a big river fishes workshop. Jeff Quinn, Bill Layher, and Jack Killgore will be approached about conducting such a workshop, including topics like fish communities, sampling techniques, habitat types, and others.

April discussed Chapter t-shirts. The EXCOM decided to table the issue until the next meeting, as there would still be plenty of time to print them before the Chapter meeting.

Jimmy discussed increasing membership of the Chapter and recruiting from agencies and universities within the state. If EXCOM members determine agencies that need to be contacted, Jimmy will contact them to recruit members. Ken will write a letter on behalf of the Chapter for Jimmy to send out.

The next EXCOM meeting will be held on July 17 at the Fish and Wildlife Service office in Conway. Jimmy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Susan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.