



## **American Fisheries Society Arkansas Chapter**

### **EXCOM Meeting Minutes**

July 17, 2003

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held a meeting of the Executive Committee at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office in Conway. Present at the meeting were Ken Shirley, President; Chris Davidson, President-elect; Mike Bivin, Treasurer; Susan Rogers, Secretary; Colton Dennis, Interim Secretary; and Bill Shinn, Education Liaison.

Ken began the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m. with roll call. The minutes from the last EXCOM meeting, held April 15, 2003, were approved after a motion from Bill and a second from Chris.

Ken made the announcement that Susan was being transferred in her job with the USF&WS to Minnesota, and therefore would no longer be able to serve as Secretary. The EXCOM expressed their thanks for her hard work over the last year and a half as Secretary and that the Chapter will greatly miss her leadership. Ken also announced that Colton Dennis had volunteered and was subsequently approved by the EXCOM to fill Susan's position as Secretary for the remainder of her tenure.

Ken announced the results concerning the vote on whether Student Sub-unit Presidents may be voting members of the EXCOM. Ken stated the vote passed 11-1, and from this point forward Student Subunit President's will be official EXCOM members.

Ken discussed the Newsletter editors' position, in which the current editor, April Layher, had to resign upon the request of her supervisor. Ken also mentioned that the UAPB student subunit had graciously volunteered to serve as Newsletter editor. Ken stated that all officers, committees, and subunits would need to write and send their reports to Steve Lochmann at UAPB for the September issue effective immediately. Chris said he would also have the 2004 ARAFS meeting announcement and first call for papers in the September Newsletter. Bill asked if there were links to any of the other colleges that do not have sub-units so that they may be alerted about the upcoming Chapter meeting in February. Chris mentioned that he has contacts with the Biology Departments of all the universities and colleges since he sends out announcements for summer help. Ken asked that a complimentary newsletter be sent in September to all Biology Departments to inform faculty and students about the 2004 ARAFS meeting in February.

Mike Bivin gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that the Chapter currently had a balance of \$15, 210.46 in the account that includes four outstanding checks. Mike also mentioned upon transfer of supplies from the former Treasurer, John Jackson, that some items were misplaced. These include a printer, various software, and an extra drive. Mike contacted John, who was in the process of relocating to Russellville, about the

missing supplies. Ken made mention that the printer was needed for registration purposes and asked for a motion to authorize Mike to purchase a printer for under \$150 if John was unable to find the misplaced printer before the February meeting. Susan made a motion, and Chris seconded to authorize Mike to make the purchase if necessary. Mike also added that John was willing to replace those missing items if he could not find them in a reasonable time. Ken acknowledged the offer, but did not think it would be necessary as the Chapter could absorb the costs.

Bill reported on the Education Committee and said he will be able to provide a list of Science Fair dates once school starts, but didn't expect much of a change from years past. Additionally, Bill stated he purchased and placed the extra Joe Hogan Award plaque, previously presented to Harry Dupree's widow, Ruth, at the Harry Dupree Experiment Station.

Ken discussed other old business including Betty Crump producing a Species Viability List, that includes a list of various terrestrial and aquatic species, which the U.S. Forest Service will manage specifically for the Ouachita Forest and stress in their management plans. Ken mentioned that Betty wanted to know if there was anything missing or overlooked that she needs to include on the list. Ken also offered to email the Excel file containing the species list to those who wanted to review.

Ken gave an update on the White River issues since no Environmental Committee members were present. Ken mentioned that apparently the Federal Government has requested the state of Arkansas provide matching money for the Navigation project or expect it to be put on hold. Additionally, the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project has not made it through the House of Representatives and is not being funded in this year's budget. Ken also mentioned that the Conservation Trust Fund has not made it through the House of Representatives either. There was some discussion on authorizing Ken to send a letter on behalf of the Chapter to the House of Representatives. Bill made the motion and Susan seconded. All were in favor of Ken writing a letter of support for the Conservation Trust Fund on behalf of the Chapter.

Chris Davidson had no report on the web page. Chris did hand out a draft program for the ARAFS 2004 Chapter meeting. Chris mentioned that arrangements have been made with Hampton Inn in Pine Bluff, with rooms costing \$55.00 plus tax. The Hampton will provide a small meeting room, approximately 800 sq.ft., for the social on the first night. Chris also stated that the Waterfront Community Center in Regional Park has been reserved for the big social on the second night, at a cost of \$325.00. Chris mentioned that Whodat's were contacted and agreed to cater the social. Chris said the EXCOM will still need to decide on types of Cajun food served and the price will be \$15/person just like it was for the Southern Division meeting in Little Rock. The prospect of entertainment was discussed and dismissed by the EXCOM so that the cost of registration fees could be held to \$30/person.

Chris mentioned that both inside covers of the 2004 ARAFS program would have the sponsors who contributed to the breaks, raffle, and auction items. Chris had confirmed

one break sponsor and there was some discussion as to whether the Nature Center and or AGFC would sponsor another break. Ken said he would check with the Sportsman's Club in Mtn. Home for a break sponsorship. Chris expressed to the group the need to have one big raffle item, and several for silent auction and door prizes.

The Large River Fisheries Symposium and Technical Sessions were discussed at some length including topics for each of the guest speakers. Chris said he would contact the speakers and finalize the topics of their presentations. Times were set at thirty minutes for symposium speakers and twenty for technical. Chris said he scheduled EXCOM members to be moderators. Susan mentioned that student papers should be scheduled for the early presentation times so that judges can decide and announce the winners at the business meeting.

The next EXCOM meeting was discussed and scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Wednesday December 3rd at the AGFC Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Susan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Bill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted

D. Colton Dennis  
Interim Secretary