**Spring EXCOM Business Meeting**

**May 11, 2023 (11 am – 2 pm)**

**Skinny J’s – 2235 Dave Ward Dr., Suite 201**

**Conway, AR 72034**

President Brie Olsen welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Allison Asher, Seth Drake, Chelsea Gilliland, Dylan Hann, Kyler Hecke, Glen Jackson, Sean Lusk, Jacob Martin, Brie Olsen, Jessica Rath, Jeff Stevens, and Tyler Thomsen.

**Officer Reports**

*Secretary’s Report – Allison Asher*

Allison reported that minutes from the 2022 and 2023 Business meeting are available online and the contact information for new Chapter officers has been updated with SDAFS and AFS.

*Treasurer’s report – Sean Lusk*

ARAFS – 2023 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report - Covering 3/17/23 – 5/11/23

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Balance Brought Forward (3/17/2023): | $24,250.43 |
|   |   |
| INCOME |   |
| Interest | $10.00 |
| Incentive from Conway Advertising and Endorsement | $1,000.00 |
| Total Income | $1,010.00 |
|  |  |
| SUBTOTAL | $25,260.43 |
|   |   |
| DISBURSEMENTS |   |
| Student Awards | $200.00 |
| Meeting supplies | $2,109.09 |
| New checks | $25.00 |
| Fees | $129.35 |
| Investments | $525.00 |
| Past Presidents Lunch | $391.00 |
| AFS Registration Refund | $50.00 |
| Meeting Facilities | $6,645.72 |
| Total Disbursements | $10,076.06 |
|  |  |
| Balance as of May 11, 2023: | $15,184.37 |
|  |  |
| Investment Account Balance as of May 11, 2023 | $10,267.38 |

*Prepared by Sean Lusk*

**Appointed Officer Reports**

*Newsletter – Jessica Feltz*

Jessica is working on the spring/summer newsletter. She also reminded the group that she is stepping down as newsletter editor after the fall 2023 newsletter.

*Webmaster – Tyler Thomsen*

Tyler uploaded the 2023 draft Chapter business meeting minutes and the approved 2022 Chapter business meeting minutes to the webpage. He also updated the officer information on the webpage. Past meeting programs and minutes are stored on the website. With each new Chapter meeting, links to documents from the previous meeting are replaced with links for the next meeting. Brie asked Tyler to make any old meeting programs or business minutes are stored online available on the webpage for all to view. Currently, historical documents can only be viewed by those in EXCOM that have administrative privileges for the AR AFS website.

**Committee Reports**

*Nominating and Awards Committee – Christy Graham, Chair*

Christy stated the notification for award nominations will be placed in the newsletter. Christy will stick with the old timeline for nomination submissions.

*Activities and Raffle Committee – Jacob Martin and Josh Melton*

Brie provided an update about the fall plant workshop which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9. Brie said AFS would donate $1,500 for the workshop. Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided. The Chapter needs to continue the conversation with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation to co-sponsor the workshop if the projected cost is more than a few hundred dollars over $1,500. The $1,500 will also cover travel costs for the instructors. Chelsea also added that we could require a small registration fee for the workshop if needed and Brie agreed that could be an option.

Jacob suggested a white water skills/training course. Jacob also suggested a virtual team fishing competition and asked if the Chapter could provide an incentive to participate in the fishing competition, like a free stretch of raffle tickets at the next Chapter meeting for the winner.

*Environmental Affairs Committee – Dr. Sue Colvin, Chair*

No report.

*Education Liaison Committee – Chelsea Tucker and Will Lancett*

The Student Workshop at the Chapter meeting had another great turn out. There were approximately 35 student attendees, plus the 6 panelists covering 5 disciplines, as well as Chelsea and Will as moderators. Chelsea suggested offering the student workshop again, but with a longer time-frame. Chelsea asked for the subunits in attendance to send an updated contact list and a timeline of when officer elections are typically held. She reminded students they are eligible to become a registered national AFS members for only $25 and that membership comes with a lot of perks, one of the biggest being able to access literature and journal articles for free. She also reminded the group that Will Lancett has joined the Education Committee and is taking over Science Fair coordination. The group discussed student activities that could be offered over the next calendar year or at the chapter meeting in Texarkana next year, such as a quiz bowl at AR AFR or future workshops. Allison asked if the student workshop could be offered at the same time as the professional workshop, or if there is too much overlap in attendance. Sean asked the students what workshops they would attend and Glen Jackson responded that students would attend workshops covering R and taxonomic identification as a few examples.

**Subunit Reports**

*Arkansas Tech University*

President: Seth Drake

The Subunit hosted two cleanups on local waterbodies and helped clip trout fins at the Norfork National Fish Hatchery. Most Subunit members will be busy with summer internships, but the Subunit will help out with fishing derbies and the AFS Hutton Summit.

*The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

President: Glen Jackson

Vice President: Jeff Stevens

The Subunit is focused on networking, recruiting, and team building. Subunit members will be attending scientific meetings over the summer to network with fellow fisheries professionals. The Subunit hosted an event for undeclared freshmen and sophomores to invite them to join fisheries. They will also be helping with the AFS Hutton Summit. Team building activities hosted by the Subunit include trivia nights and other activities. The Subunit members have also been helping each other with resumes and have been contacting AGFC to schedule volunteer opportunities.

*University of Central Arkansas*

President: Jessica Rath

The Subunit hosted a macroinvertebrate workshop, collected native fish for earth day, and took a hike on semester dead-day to relax before finals. Officer were inducted in beginning of April the Subunit is working on ways to keep subunit involved throughout the summer.

*University of Arkansas*

No Report

*Arkansas State University*

No Report

**Old Business**

EXCOM continued the conversation regarding future workshops and decided to host the aquatic invasive plants identification and control workshop in late summer and to aim to host a Program R workshop in the fall.

**New Business**

2024 Chapter Meeting

The group discussed holding the meeting at the end of February to avoid SDAFS and Mid Continent Warm Water Fish Culture Workshop. Dylan is planning to hold the meeting in Texarkana.

Christy was asked by a retired professional if the Chapter would reduce the meeting fee for retired members. The consensus among EXCOM was to reduce the registration by approximately $20, which would fall between the normal and student registration fees.

Tyler proposed creating a golden prop award for the biggest field blooper. Stories could be placed in the newsletter and an annual winner can be picked from the entries. ECXCOM was in agreement with the award.

Brie motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chelsea seconded the motion.