

2013 ARAFS Chapter Business Meeting

January 25th, 2013

Faulkner County Natural Resource Center

Conway, Arkansas

Current officers as of adjournment of this meeting:

President: Chris Racey
President-elect: Jeff Williams
Past-president: Lindsey Lewis
Treasurer: Paul Port
Secretary: Tate Wentz

The following minutes are from the AR Chapter AFS Business Meeting, held January 25th, 2013.

President Lindsey Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:01AM by welcoming and thanking the Chapter for staying and having a great meeting. Secretary Tate Wentz determined a quorum was present with 64 members in attendance. Mark Oliver made a motion to accept 2012 Business Meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded by Brett Timmons.

Lindsey proceeded to recognize former and current AFS presidents in attendance; which included current AFS president John Boreman and past president Jack Wingate. John Jackson current SDAFS Vice President addressed the chapter of current SDAFS news. John (Jackson) mentioned that SDAFS President Brian Murphy sends his regards and wanted to address issues at the division level. Just a few short months from now SDAFS will welcome the Puerto Rico Chapter. John Boreman interjected that the Governing Board recently voted and passed and Puerto Rico is now a full, standing chapter. The second issue brought to the Chapter's attention was the recent updating of the SDAFS website, and encouragement of state chapters to take advantage of joining the new webpage. Arkansas will need to be present at Nashville to discuss. Next, John (Jackson) addressed the issue of students and that the student colloquium will not occur this year because lack of interest. Mike Allan will be hosting a lunch-in at Nashville to discuss the future of students and the colloquium at the division level and how we as a division can continue to integrate. Lastly, Mark Thurman (TN) is revising the non-game technical committee for the southern division and will host an informal gathering at an off-site venue to work on this committee. John would like to see a second representative sit on this committee from Arkansas, perhaps from the EXCOM or chapter as the first member is appointed by the state fish/wildlife agency.

Treasurers Report

Christy quickly covered recent Chapter line-items including donations and reciprocated donations from other southern chapters. Membership was stated as 139 paid members, of which

101 were professionals and 38 students. Christy requested updated sub-unit officer information in order to send tax information. Lastly, she reminded the Chapter that if you haven't already done so, then please pay your dues.

Committee Reports

Past President Colton Dennis passed out ballots for President-Elect and Treasurer and briefly discussed duties. Nominees for President-Elect were Jimmy Barnett and Jeff Williams. As Jimmy was finishing out his duck season, he was unable to provide a few words and so Jeff politely declined to say anything as Jimmy was, "Too busy shooting ducks".

Nominees for Treasurer were Tim Burnly and Paul Port. Paul thanked everyone for the nomination and said he would be happy to handle the money. Tim echoed Paul's sentiments and said he grateful to serve the Chapter.

Colton then recognized each sub-unit's Outstanding Student Awards:

Chris Naus-University of Central Arkansas

Dustin Lynch-University of Arkansas

Chris Baker –Arkansas Tech University

Joe Sellers-Arkansas State University (Rich received the award on Joe's behalf and took the opportunity to mention ASU now has minor in Marine Science)

UAPB-No award given

Environmental Affairs committee-Rich Grippo

Fairly quite at first, receiving very little input from the chapter, except Allan Carter. Rich wants the Chapter to get linked into ADEQ's website. Rich asked for this in the next newsletter. Third party rulemaking, lack of public awareness and the majority of presence is AEF were discussed. That conversation led to a request of our membership to be present to offer opposition. Rich recently meet with Faron Usrey and found two different issues in the Buffalo National River. First, gravel mining is occurring again in the BNR watershed. Rich would like to draft a letter to DEQ, if it is ok with the Chapter. The second item is the permitted hog farm in the BNR watershed. Rich again would like to draft a letter, and felt unaware. Burnely addressed Rich and said that the USACOE does not permit gravel removal. A discussion ensued further on the legalities of what regulatory agency is responsible and Lindsey stated that there is good news that there is a new chief of regulation at the Little Rock USACOE. The last thing Rich discussed was committee membership and further requested volunteers. Lindsey wanted to add that he may be able to forward information, but warned about the volume of these projects. Jeff Quinn addressed the chapter and said the most important issue in the next year is the State Water Plan and would try to keep the membership updated through the newsletter. Allan Carter asked that

our members make their presence known, and that they should go on record if they are seriously opposed as well as forward information to Rich or the Chapter. Lindsey suggested teaming up with other people, i.e. Debbie Doss Arkansas Canoe Club Environmental Affairs.

Educational Committee Bill Shinn

Science fair dates:

Bill updated everyone on the location and dates for regional sciences fairs and requested you contact him ASAP if interested in judging. Location and dates are as follows:

Southeastern, Monticello March 7

Central, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, March 1

Northeast, Jonesboro,

Southwestern, Hot Springs

Northwestern, University of Arkansas March 15th

State science fair is March 29th and the Chapter will give certificates for junior high and high school division, along with a teacher appreciation award. Bill requested pictures, abstracts, names, etc... for submittal to the newsletter. Mark Oliver asked if the Chapter still gives plaques and Bill stated that we had switched to certificates.

Activities and Raffle Committee-Christy Graham on behalf of Jimmy Barnett

Christy reported \$350 from the silent auction and thanked everyone who brought donation items. The Chapter sold 58 t-shirts and made \$954, however we cleared close \$250 to \$300 after paying company.

Newsletter Report

Jeff thanked everyone for quick and timely responses. He reminded faculty advisors to promptly forward newsletters to subunits. Jeff would like help obtaining retired members information for an 'emeritus list' as well as any other members that might not be receiving the newsletter.

Website

Ben Batten said he was web liaison to Beverly. Lindsey said he might be interested in taking over this position and the entire website after national meeting. It was stressed to remind subunits to update their webpage and that the Chapter needs updated officer information.

Subunits

ASU-Update provided by Grippo: The ASU fisheries subunit is part of wildlife subunit and there has been a fair bit to report. In the last year, the subunit has completed a highway clean-up and attended Wildlife Conclave. Rich also mentioned that the Biology Department may be getting a new ornithologist and luckily her husband is a malacologist.

ATU-Updated was provided by Chris Baker. Chris stated that membership stands at 43 members and that several graduate students had recently graduated/defended. The subunit is trying to organize undergrad/graduate relationship through volunteer activities. The subunit has been volunteering for the USFS at Bearcat Hollow. Members have been attending meetings (7 in attendance at SEAFWA) and several were headed to Southern Division.

UofA-No report

UAPB-Updated provided by Tony Fernado, who is acting president. UAPB EXCOM recently voted for Tony to be the full-time subunit president. Brett Crowe, AGFC, was invited to teach a boaters education class. The sub-unit recently completed a lake clean-up and were trying to bring in several new speakers. Members have been trying to continue Journal Discussion club; which an article is brought forth and discussed critically. Due to university restructuring, the sub-unit no longer has access to their webpage, but the club now has a Facebook page.

UCA-Updated provided by Chris Naus. Members have been volunteered recently at Lonoke Hatchery as we as Conway's Ecofest. Members also serve as hosts every year for the Environthon. The sub-unit has been hosting 'Eat and Speak' with professionals-Mitch Wine (USFWS), John Harris (AHTD-retired), Jason Throneberry (ANHC). This is an opportunity for members to discuss with professionals about career options. Andy Peck (TNC) will be joining next year. Most recently the sub-unit held an invasive species fish fry on campus to promote eating of these fishes as well as a fundraiser.

UALR- Updated provided by Justin Stroman. While not currently recognized as a sub-unit, it is currently the Aquatic Science Association. Members joined together with volunteers of UALR's Stream Team and together completed clean-up of Coleman Creek prior to the park designation. The organization has set-up booth to display, started a facebook page and will soon be sending in paperwork to start the process for starting a sub-unit.

Old Business

Lindsey reminded subunits and faculty advisors that they are a part of EXCOM. Lochman reminded that subunit officers are supposed to be a member of the parent society and that the cost is paid by the chapter. John (Jackson) mentioned SDAFS does offer travel stipends to subunit officers.

Lindsey Lewis then addressed the Chapter whether there was any other old business. Ginny asked if EXCOM voted for best student paper award. Ginny then asked that is issue brought before the Chapter for discussion. EXCOM then stated we would review past minutes.

New Business

At this point Lindsey handed the reins to Chris Racey who stated, 'it was an honor and privilege.' Chris then proceeded to thank everyone who has helped him pull the meeting together. He then recognized the staff of the USFWS for 'behind' the scenes and for all the 'little' things.

First order of business was to recognize Christy and Lindsey for their service to the Chapter. Chris then asked Colton for the election results and it was announced that Paul Port was treasure and President elect, Jeff Williams. At this point EXCOM addressed several changes to the Procedural Manual. These changes included language that Past-President would serve as the Nominations and Awards Committee Chair; Chapter officers would be offered optional reimbursement for parent society dues, and the start of an injured student fund. Darrell asked for clarification regarding the injured student fund and was concerned of abuse of this. John Jackson asked whether to approach the universities to change policies regarding insurance rather than the Chapter take on this burden. John was uncomfortable as the Chapter taking this role and as it should fall on the university. Ginny, responded universities do need to address this issue. Racey then decided that this change is rather contentious and EXCOM would review the issue and provide information back to the Chapter.

Chris addressed the Chapter regarding the 2014 Meeting as the Chapter had received an informal request from the city of Rogers. At this point all options are up for negotiation and discussion. There may also be the possibility of pursuing a joint meeting with a neighboring Chapter or The Wildlife Society.

Chris then asked the Chapter for any other new business and Rich Grippo made a motion that students should receive a \$50 for best student papers. Ginny made friendly amendment that it should be \$100 for graduate students and \$50 for undergraduates, Charlie Gagen seconded. Lochman made a friendly amendment that it is currently \$100 each, Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

Chris asked if there was any other business, Rich Grippo made a motion to adjourn; this was followed with a unanimous second.