

**2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26-28**  
**Rogers, Arkansas Center for Non-Profits at St. Mary's**

Officers present: Chris Racey (President), Jeff Williams (President-elect), Lindsey Lewis (Past-President), Paul Port (Treasurer), Tate Wentz (Secretary)

President Chris Racey called meeting to order at 8:32am.

Secretary Tate Wentz determined that a quorum was present 43 members in attendance and that the Chapter could conduct its business meeting.

Chris opened the business meeting and thanked everyone for attending and presenting their work over the last two days. He proceeded to recognize past officers and leaders in attendance, which included Jack Wingate, (past AFS President), Steve Lochmann (past SDAFS President), Steve Filipek (past SDAFS President), and John Jackson (current SDAFS President). Also acknowledged were ARAFS 1986 charter members and past Chapter officers.

John Jackson updated the chapter with up-to-date news from Bethesda with AFS and Executive Director Doug Austen objective to make the society more relevant to the members. This restructuring has begun by allowing Chapter presidents to be more involved with policy changes and management committees with Governing Board oversight. The idea is to provide AFS members with more expeditious policy changes. John also provided an update for the SDAFS and changes occurring at the division level. Among these, were website updates and Puerto Rico induction as a Chapter. Other topics mentioned by John were location of the next SDAFS meeting (Savannah, GA), the Striped Bass Technical Committee symposia proceedings, and SDAFS will be sending representatives to the Western Division meeting. Lastly, John discussed the Emerging Leaders program and encouraged applications from any young up-and-comers interested Bethesda level processes.

Darrell provided a few closing remarks regarding the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting held in Little Rock (AFS2013) last September. Among those, were thanks to the Chapter for awards and recognition during the awards banquet and further thanked all co-chairs. Specifically, Darrell noted Program Chair Steve Lochmann's efforts pushing forward new and untested ideas from Past-President John Boreman as well as Ginny Adams for some great socials. Darrell also recognized Lindsey Lewis, who despite furloughs and frustration, pulled off all the small details. In an attempt to provide closure, Darrell recognized Mike Eggleton who has been finalizing the budget and requested any revisions. Mike stated that the final attendance was 1085 and in the end, the Chapter will get around \$12,000 (edit; this number ended up being \$17,558.70). A big question to the Chapter was what should be done with this income. A major issue was that an MOU between Bethesda and the Chapter was never developed. The MOU outlines the Chapter's intentions with any profits, as this does not exist, the Chapter must decide how to proceed. The

last person Darrell recognized was Charlie Gagen for an unorthodox, but highly popular stacked break room. Darrell also commended Charlie and Reid Adams for their efforts organizing student events.

Several great ideas for the funds were brought to the floor and briefly discussed. It was decided that the present setting was not the best venue for making this decision and EXCOM would develop a list of potential options from this conversation as well as solicit any new ideas. Below is a list of ideas brought forth:

- Fund, in part, the revision of Fishes of Arkansas;
- Travel awards to Puerto Rico;
- Fund lobbyist to work on State Water Plan review and Environmental Affairs Committee;
- Donation to Jimmy Pigg Warm Water Fishes;
- Investment into mutual funds (CDs/bond/etc.) as some offer as high as a 16% return and can extend the benefits.

The last point made regarding AFS2013 was distribution of profits made from t-shirt sales. EXCOM decided to split the \$800 profit between UCA and ATU, as they were the two sub-units responsible for sales during the meeting.

Chris provided the Chapter with a brief update on the status of the UALR sub-unit. EXCOM has reviewed proposed by-laws and suggested changes. The by-laws will move forward for review by the Constitutional Review Committee and Governing Board. Chris updated the Chapter on other EXCOM activities that included a donation to 2013 SDAFS and EOG student travel award. EXCOM, on behalf of the Chapter, also wrote a letter of support for Dr. Ron Nassar for the 2013 AFS President's Fishery Conservation Award, which he did receive. EXCOM received a request to comment on an invasive species bill and opted to let the parent society letter stand; hence no need to comment. Chris provided a few high points from a recent conference call with Doug Austen; which included opportunities for investment, enhancing communications (SDAFS Listserv), engaging Chapters, AFS parent society website, Chapter use of Survey Monkey-parent society has a full subscription, and encouraging members to use LinkedIn. Lastly, Chris discussed the possibility of assigning a committee with a primary role of archiving past meetings, officers, and history. In doing a brief review, Chris noted missing information from late 80's and early 90's and Mike Eggleton commented that some of that information might be stored at UAPB. UAPB has archived five large boxes and that stores a big chunk of the Chapter's history.

Chris brought to the floor the review and approval of 2013 Annual Business Meeting Minutes and asked for any additions, changes, or deletions. Steve Filipek made a motion to accept 'as is' and this motion was seconded by Jimmy Barnett, which was followed with a unanimous yay.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Port passed out copies of the current financial report and proceeded to update the Chapter. The 2014 meeting had 116 attendees, of which 21 were students. Paul reminded sub-units that he will provide them tax forms and the importance of filling them out.

## **Committee Reports**

*Program*-Jeff Williams thanked everyone for attending this year and presenting their research. Jeff also thanked Matt Schroder for organizing the program, Ron Moore and John Stein for organizing our socials, and Eli Powers for the silent auction.

*Nominations and Awards*-Chris began by reviewing 2015 meeting locations and the possibility of a joint meeting with Texas, ARLATEX, or The Wildlife Society. Next, Chris provided a recap of individual awards, Robert M. Jenkins, outstanding sub-unit members, and best presentation recipients recognized during the previous evening's social.

### Individual Achievement

- Jimmy Barnett: For his strong leadership and many years of dedicated service as the Activities and Raffle Committee Chairman;
- Jeff Quinn: For his professionalism and many years of dedicated service as the Newsletter Editor
- 2014 Robert M. Jenkins Award for Outstanding Conservation Achievement was presented to the Illinois River Watershed Partnership

### Outstanding Sub-unit Members

- Arkansas State University, Jessica Buford
- Arkansas Tech University, Wil Hafner
- University of Arkansas, Max Bangs
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Michelle Thompson
- University of Central Arkansas, Casey Cox

### Best Presentation

- Undergraduate, Leo Mua
- Graduate, Anthony Fernando
- Professional, Billy Justus

Prior to the introduction of officer candidates and voting, Chris provided the Chapter with news that President-Elect Jeff Williams will be stepping down to pursue professional opportunities. EXCOM appointed Ben Batten to fill the presidential vacancy. Lindsey Lewis introduced nominees for secretary and president-elect. Secretary candidates were Jason Throneberry, Matt Schroeder, and Eric Brinkman, all who replied they were honored by the nomination and would

like to serve the Chapter. For President-Elect, Ben Batten was removed from the ballot, leaving Jeff Quinn and the option for a write-in candidate.

*Environmental Affairs-* Rich Grippo provided a presentation of recent activities, which covered the Arkansas Water Plan, ADEQ Regulation 2, C and H Hog farm, recent TMDLs, Act 954 of 2013, and recycling efforts during the 2013 meeting. Despite all this, Chapter members were left with the mental image of Rich in a wet t-shirt.

*Education Liaison-* J.J. Gladden has award certificates for regional science fairs, but needs volunteers for the southwest on March 1, 2014 in Magnolia.

*Activities and Raffle-* Eli Powers, the new Activities and Raffle Chair, said the silent auction made around \$900. Eli asked that next year he would like everyone to bring an item or two, allowing for a more diverse representation of items from across the state.

#### Appointed Officers

*Newsletter-* Jeff Quinn stepped down as Editor and Christy Graham will take over responsibilities.

*Webmaster-* The Chapter has been on contract with Beverly Birdsong for the last several years, but since the end of AFS2013, Lindsey Lewis will take over webmaster duties. Lindsey asked everyone to go look at the website and let him know if you have suggestions, sub-units can have your own page, he just needs information. Lindsey will also start a Google Drive account for sharing information.

#### **Subunit Reports**

*ASU:* Rich Grippo provided a brief list of sub-unit activities that included: clean ups, Wildlife Conclave, and a spring break trip to swim with manatees.

*ATU:* Jared Schulterman noted that ATU's sub-unit has been active sending 17 students to the TWS Conclave. This past January ATU hosted a beast feast with around 160 people in attendance. The sub-unit has started a seminar series and an ATU FW Society Facebook page.

*UCA:* Casey Cox said that their club has been active participating in creek cleanups, AGFC Lonoke fishing derby, an Arkansas River (scientific) campout, documentary screenings, Conway EcoFest, Envirothon, and an invasive species fish fry. Casey thanked J.J. Gladden, Steve Filipek, and Lindsey Lewis for donations. The sub-unit is currently bringing in professionals from agencies to discuss their career path as well as a graduate student share program. The sub-unit will be sending representatives to SFS and SEFC and would like to host a stream workshop, but it is pending funding.

*U of A:* No report

*UAPB:* Jack Farrelly discussed UAPB's recent activities which included paper discussions, participating in homecoming parade, a fish fry fundraiser, graduate student share program, and trying to start manhole art contest on campus and for the city of Pine Bluff.

*UALR:* Grayson Farris began by stating UALR sub-unit has around 70 people on email list, but only a few active members. Members have participated in a Coleman Creek cleanup, which included water quality and fish sampling with Ben Thesing. Sub-unit members have volunteered with Audubon Arkansas and USGS as well as submitted proposals to host guest speakers. The sub-unit would like to organize a Fourche Creek float clean-up, but could use some more canoes.

Chris Racey mentioned the Chapter is having a difficult time keeping up with sub-unit leadership and urges officers and faculty advisors to stay in connect and provide up to date officers.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

As the only official act as Chapter President, Jeff Williams thanked everyone for attending this year's meeting and recognized outgoing President Chris Racey and Secretary Tate Wentz for their service to the Chapter.

### *Introduction of New Officers*

Matt Schroeder will be the new secretary for 2014-2015 and Jeff Quinn will be President-Elect.

### *General Topics*

Tim Burnley addressed the Chapter on issues of water quality and community issues to the public groups. As there are quite a few watershed watch groups and regional groups across the state, Tim stressed to these groups to pick your battles and to use science-based arguments when sending comments. Tim continued that as the State's population continues to grow, environmental issues will continue increase. In the room today, sits the scientists and biologists that could help guide these groups to the best available science. Tim discussed how to develop and direct information to these groups. Matt Schroeder responded that many groups have executive boards and a technical advisor. Ben Thesing noted that water quality data can be accessed on-line through EPA's WQX database, but it is difficult to navigate. Lindsey Lewis reiterated his comment from last year, which he discussed the development of an environmental liaison that represents AFS at meetings. It was again discussed that AFS2013 funds could be used to fund, in part or in full, a person to attend these meetings. The discussion continued, but was brought to an end by Darrell Bowman, who suggested it might be best if EXCOM were to appoint a sub-committee to address these issues by next year's business meeting.

Jim Wise proposed to the Chapter potential ways to he would like AFS to become more involved with high schools. There lies potential for this to be accomplished with the sub-units, but he would like members to visit local high school biology clubs once or twice a year to discuss fisheries sciences. Jeff Williams asked whether this should fall under the Education Committee, but echoed sentiments of the difficult to get volunteers. Jade Ryles commented that she attended Project Learning Tree and we potentially could tag-team with their email list.

John Jackson came forth and discussed ARAFS deficiency of incorporating undergraduates into the Chapter meeting. He noted other Chapters are doing a better job of bringing in students to their annual meetings. With Arkansas now having six sub-units, the current student membership is a fraction of the attendance. He asked that we brainstorm for a minute and discuss how to involve the students, as the current meeting format does not allow them to attend. Keith Whalen proposed to facilitate participation by moving our meetings to university campuses. Ginny Adams replied that cost is a real factor in student attendance, not scheduling. Jeff Williams ended the conversation and noted EXCOM could revisit the possibility of restricting meeting dates/times to better suit students.

Steve Filipek requested EXCOM plan each meeting as a 'green' meeting and that recycling should be available.

Ginny Adams is serving a two-year term as President of SEFC, which will be switching their proceedings to on-line form. She also requested any updates from Chapter members.

Christy Graham proposed to change the Chapter logo to AFS2013 meeting logo. Darrell Bowman made the motion to change logos, which Jimmy Barnett seconded. This vote was approved with a unanimous aye from the Chapter.

At 10:40AM, Brett Timmons motioned Jeff Williams to adjourn the business meeting, which again was seconded by Jimmy Barnett. The 2014 Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society business meeting was adjourned with a unanimous aye.

Minutes presented by Matt Schroeder