



American Fisheries Society

Arkansas Chapter

ARAFS Spring 2019 EXCOM Meeting Minutes

18 July 2019

Whole Hog Café, Conway, Arkansas

Attendees: Matt Schroeder (President), Justin Homan (President-Elect), Mike Eggleton (Past President), Matt Horton (Treasurer), Dustin Lynch (Secretary), Tate Wentz, Eli Powers, Matt Richardson (UAPB), and Alyssa Mostrom (Arkansas Tech).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION – Matt Schroeder

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Dustin Lynch

- 2019 ARAFS Business Meeting minutes were sent to the chapter for comments on March 11th, 2019.
- Motion to approve – Mike Eggleton, Seconded – Matt Schroeder.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mike Eggleton (on behalf of Matt Horton)

- The balance is \$13,521.30.
- There is still one uncashed \$50.00 check (#1025, to Kayleigh Smith).
- There was one recent small interest deposit of \$32.43.
- There was a recent Wild Apricot charge.
- We went somewhat over-budget at the state meeting between spending on the kayak for the raffle, the workshop supplies, and service fees.
 - This is not atypical – costs were also high at the 2018 meeting, and the long-term balance is usually around \$12,000-\$13,000 dollars.
 - We made \$18,000 or so when we hosted the National Meeting in 2013, so we may make some profit from the SDAFS meeting next year.
- Special thanks from the ExCom to Mike Eggleton for figuring out how to deal with all of those uncashed checks (see 2019 Business Meeting Notes for background on this issue).
 - Simmons Bank informed Mike that the checks were still good and had not been canceled (it is a \$35.00 fee just to cancel one), and were willing to cash them without question, so we recovered all of that money.

ARAFS – 2019 EXCOM Treasurer’s Report*
Covering 2/1/2018 – 5/14/2019

Balance brought forward (February 1, 2018):	\$26,983.44
--	--------------------

INCOME

Interest (Simmons Bank), Feb 2018-Mar 2019	\$32.43
Income from 2018 meeting	\$145.00
PayPal transfer (June 2018)	\$2,863.33
Square Card reader transfer (Feb 2018)	\$62.58
2019 Chapter pre-meeting income (reg. & dues)	\$750.00
2019 meeting (registration, dues, silent auction, auction and raffle)	\$10,441.46
Misc. income	\$10.02
Income recovered from 2016 & 2017 Chapter meetings**	\$1,005.00

Total Income	\$15,309.82
---------------------	--------------------

SUBTOTAL	\$42,293.26
-----------------	--------------------

DISBURSEMENTS

Chapter student, subunit & science fair awards for 2017-18	\$500.00
AFS certifications, renewals & officer dues for 2018	\$415.00
2018 Chapter meeting expenses (Pine Bluff/UAPB)	\$5,374.43
2020 Little Rock SDAFS seed funding	\$5,000.00
Donation - FLOW 2018 Workshop	\$500.00
Donation - Catfish 2020 Symposium	\$500.00
Donation - WR Waterkeeper event	\$500.00
Wildapricot annual subscription	\$972.00
AFS-required insurance	\$150.00
Tax preparation fee	\$75.00
Spring and Fall 2018 EXCOM meeting expenses	\$190.85
Chapter student, subunit & science fair awards for 2018-19	\$700.00
2019 Chapter pre-meeting expenses	\$1,528.19
2019 Chapter meeting - direct expenses	\$11,648.40
2019 Chapter meeting - indirect expenses	\$193.08
Misc. - related to card readers	\$0.01
Misc. - unknown	\$25.00

Total disbursements	\$28,271.96
----------------------------	--------------------

Balance on-hand (May 14, 2019):***	\$13,521.30
---	--------------------

APPOINTED OFFICER REPORTS

- **NEWSLETTER – Christy Graham**

- Christy was not in attendance.
- Not many people had submitted information for the newsletter – Christy encouraged people to send things in in a timely manner.
- **WEBMASTER - Ben Thesing**
 - Ben was not in attendance.
 - Ben has looked into an alternative for Wild Apricot that might be more affordable but no luck so far.
 - Tate pointed out that Wild Apricot was a good, affordable service for the first few years the chapter used it, but it has continually increased in cost.
 - The Southern Division will host all of the chapter's information for us, but finding functional contact-management software is the challenge.
 - It is too cumbersome to maintain a continually updated spreadsheet with 150-200 names.
 - Jessie Green uses Constant Contact software for the White River Waterkeeper's business. Is this a possible alternative?
 - The deadline to change platforms would be at the beginning of May 2020, so we should deal with this in a timely manner.
 - The State Chapter will still have a Business Meeting at the SDAFS meeting in February, so that would be a good opportunity to address the chapter about the potential to make a change away from Wild Apricot.
 - Motion to approve Appointed Officer Reports – Mike Eggleton, Seconded – Justin Homan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **NOMINATING AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – Mike Eggleton**
 - Officer Nominations
 - We discussed the importance of including more diversity among officers on the ExCom. For example, there have only been two female chapter Presidents and no racial minorities.
 - Several names were discussed as potential nominations – Jessica Feltz, Maurice Jackson, Jon Stein.
 - We discussed whether those who had not served on ExCom before are ever considered for nominations for President – consensus is that they can be.
- **ACTIVITIES AND RAFFLE COMMITTEE – Eli Powers**
 - We raised \$2700.00 this year, minus the cost of the kayak, at the raffle at the state meeting.

- There were 44 Silent Auction items or packets and three raffle items.
- We discussed the SDAFS 2020 Silent Auction.
 - We discussed moving to a “Chinese Auction” method in order to streamline and simplify things.
 - This method involves a separate pool of bidders for each item allowing bidders to focus on buying tickets for the items they want in the raffle. Each ticket card would cost \$20.00 and would have an assigned card number with 25-27 tear-off tickets.
 - This would eliminate some chaos in the ticket-taking process.
 - Bidding would always be in increments of 20s, which would make book-keeping easier.
 - The tickets themselves would cost the chapter little money up front. They could be plain cards with generic numbers or customized for a little more money.
 - No mass rushes to the table, winners would be announced at breaks or during social events. The numbers would be put up on a PowerPoint to inform people to come pick up their items.
 - Eli provided an example of a “Chinese Auction” ticket and we all agreed this sounded like a good idea.
- We discussed the potential of having a Live Auction at the meeting as well.
 - Tate mentioned that at SDAFS in Galveston they did a live auction for the higher-end items, including guns, nice paintings or prints, vacation packages, and so forth.
 - A skilled auctioneer can really spark interest and drive up bids – it is exciting to participate in and a good way to increase the money that could be raised.
 - We discussed potentially contacting Richard Smart, formerly part of the chemistry department at Arkansas Tech, who now lives in Piggott, about serving as auctioneer. We will need to discuss what the appropriate fee would be to hire him or another auctioneer.
- We discussed another method involving selling a deck of cards for a high-end item. Each card will be a chance to enter for a particular item, giving contestants a 1 in 52 chance of winning per each card purchased. Each card would be \$20.00 (\$1,040.00 per deck). Guns and kayaks are good options for this method. Only cost is cost of the playing cards.
- We discussed at the next Chapter Meeting (not the SDAFS meeting), the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation donating as a prize a lifetime fishing license.
- We discussed meeting sponsorships.
 - We have meeting and sponsorship packets that we can get to anyone who knows any businesses to pursue as meeting sponsors.
 - Eli had sent a list of fishing manufacturers in Arkansas to Darrell Bowman last week which is now on Google Drive. This will be a good starting

point to keep track of who commits to sponsorships and who does not, who is worth pursuing sponsorships in the future, etc.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Jessie Green**

- Jessie was not in attendance but sent a report.
- Jessie became the new Committee Chair on May 8th, 2019, taking over for Forrest Payne.
 - The chapter feels this position is best suited to someone not currently serving in a government position due to potential conflicts of interest.
- Jessie signed a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers opposing the Pebble Mine project and its Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Jessie will be reviewing comments on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
- ADEQ will be meeting with EPA this fall to discuss the draft of the impaired waterbodies list.
 - ADEQ should have initiated water quality assessments by now but has yet to solicit outside data so the 2020 list will be substantially delayed.
- ADEQ held two triennial stakeholder meetings on March 28th and April 25th about revisions to Regulation 2.
- Jessie held a fundraising event for White River Waterkeeper, "Hoot Fest" on Saturday, July 20th in Pruitt, AR.

- **EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE –Chelsey Sherwood**

- Chelsey was not in attendance.
- No report was provided but she relayed she was still waiting to hear from officers at ASU and Tech.
- We discussed the ongoing difficulties of keeping track of who is in charge of the Executive Committees for the student chapters and keeping them involved in the business of the state chapter.

- **2020 SDAFS Meeting Planning Committee**

- The committee is Ben Batten, Darrell Bowman, and Tate Wentz. Tate presented on their behalf.
- The next major action is registration activation for the meeting.
 - We discussed our hope that registration would go live by the following week so we could make an announcement to send information on room blocks, calls for symposia, etc.
- Fundraising is tentatively at around \$30,000 through the Game and Fish Foundation, AGFC, and hopefully Mossback as the three major sponsors.
 - \$30,000.00 is verbally agreed upon but we have thus far received just \$5,000.00.

- Jonathan Spurgeon is the symposia chair and will be soliciting symposia.
- Tate reminded us that anyone wanting to attend the meeting should register early so we will have more money to spend sooner while planning the meeting.
- We discussed Catfish 2020
 - Tate estimates around 200 attendees for the meeting.
 - They are beta testing registration right now.
 - There will be a discount for joint registration.
 - Dylan Hann will likely handle registration.
 - Tate, Ben, Darrell or Mike can formulate information and disseminate it through Wild Apricot.
 - Matt Schroeder suggested we keep ExCom involved in the committee's business regarding the meeting.
- Motion to approve committee reports – Justin Homan, Mike Eggleton – seconded.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

• ARKANSAS STREAM HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP - Tate Wentz

- A core group now serves as a steering committee for the ASHP, including Darrell Bowman (AGFC), Joy Wasson (TNC), Matthew Anderson (U.S. Forest Service), Bill Ruck (ANRC, Chris Davidson (U.S. FWS), and Dustin Lynch (ANHC).
- We participated in SARP (Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership) training on how to use their dam removal database.
- SARP would be presenting to Stream Team coordinators sometime within the month.
- The full ASHP meeting will be in September at TNC's Kings River Deckhouse. We will be reviewing TNC's Kings River restoration project.
- We will create a shared working space to track and review projects.
- We discussed dissolving this ad-hoc committee now that its mission is fulfilled.
 - We discussed the options – we could dissolve this committee and reconvene it later if needed, or we could just treat it like the History ad-hoc committee and keep it around but only convene it when needed. ExCom felt the former option made more sense.
 - The President can create or dissolve ad-hoc committees rather than putting this to a chapter vote, according to the by-laws.
 - Motion to dissolve committee – Matt Schroeder, Seconded – Justin Homan.
 - This committee has fulfilled its mission and thus been dissolved.

STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS

- UAPB Subunit

- Matt Richardson (on behalf of Jeremiah Salinger) reported on the subunit's activities.
- Matt reported lots of turnover in the subunit.
- Mike has a new grad student taking stock of the subunit and planning new activities.
- Arkansas Tech Subunit
 - Alyssa Mostrom (President of TWS and VP of AFS) reported on the subunit's activities.
 - They had the Beast Feast and raised enough money to pay the way for all students attending this year's Conclave.
 - One of their officers placed first in a GIS competition at Conclave.
 - They attempted to get a fishing derby going last semester but were unable to organize it due to shifting positions in the subunit but this is a priority for the subunit soon.
- No reports were submitted by the U of A, ASU, or UCA subunits.
- Motion to approve subunit reports – Mike Eggleton, seconded – Eli Powers.

OLD BUSINESS

- Statewide “Sunfish Fishing Tournament”
 - Matt Schroeder is soliciting volunteers to help with the tournament.
 - Matt would like to work with student subunits to get volunteers.
 - One goal is to get the members of the state chapter to interact with the student subunits outside the annual state chapter meeting.
 - The idea would be to get professionals to team up with novices and kids. Promote fishing and hunting which is declining among younger generations.
 - There will be a fish fry associated with this.
- Proposed amendment to Chapter by-laws concerning donations.
 - We could not find evidence in the business meeting minutes of having voted on this.
 - We had put out a survey and had only 35 participants, got a vote of 32 to 3. This was not a quorum (which was 55 as of the last meeting). We need to send out a new email for a new vote.
 - We had initially felt it is better to make this a by-law rather than just a guideline, but we changed our minds during the subsequent discussion of the topic.
 - Jeff Quinn re-wrote the by-laws in 2016 but the Southern Division didn't like having seen the changes only after we'd voted.
 - We could either send a proposed change to Bethesda ahead of time or we could just put it in a procedures manual and SDAFS would not have to see it ahead of time for approval.
 - We decided that Matt would write this in the procedure manual and we would vote on it among the ExCom for approval.

- Changes to Wild Apricot subscription.
 - We briefly discussed changes to the Wild Apricot subscription status – we have signed up for Wild Apricot’s financial system and are moving away from PayPal.
- Status of the UALR Subunit
 - This subunit is unlikely to come back – should we officially dissolve the chapter?
 - The subunit is listed in the by-laws so we would have to make a change in the by-laws in order to dissolve them. We discussed this at the 2019 Business Meeting but did not come to a final decision.
 - We decided to discuss this again at the upcoming 2020 Business Meeting.
 - Tate suggested maybe instituting a time limit where the subunit must dissolve after so many years of inactivity. It has already been 4 or 5 years since the subunit was actively represented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Human Dimensions workshop planning
 - Matt Schroeder has approached Jessica Feltz, who informed him that this is a very broad topic and we should narrow it if possible.
 - Matt is going to send an email gaging specific interests within the broad topic of “Human Dimensions”.
 - This training will most likely take place this fall.
- Environmental Affairs Committee Chair
 - Jessie Green is now the Environmental Affairs Committee chair, effective as of May 8th, 2019.
- Arkansas Chapter AFS Subunits
 - We discussed ways to incentivize participation of the subunits in the state meeting and what responsibilities the subunits have in the state meetings. Should there be penalties in some instances?
 - At the 2019 Meeting, we had subunit representatives whose rooms were paid for by the Chapter, who then no-showed the Business Meeting. This is not acceptable.
 - Subunits that were not represented provided no reports that could be archived by the Chapter.
 - Expectations need to be laid out beforehand next time.
 - High turnover makes enforcement difficult at times.
 - The solution may be to require these participants to give presentations, whether oral or poster, at the State Meeting, as well as to stay for the Business Meeting. This seems reasonable.
 - Tate brought up a good point – many of these representatives are undergraduates who may not always have research to present at the meeting.

- He suggested as an alternative that those who do not have research to present can instead present (oral or poster) over the Subunit's activities over the past year.
 - This would not have to be a by-law.
 - We could put the Business Meeting attendance requirement into effect for next year's Business Meeting but we would most likely not be put the presentation requirement into effect until the 2021 State Meeting.
- AFS 150th Anniversary Exhibit
 - We have committed to participate in this but there is some debate about the best way to go about it.
 - We could do a simple poster – would not have to be a large or elaborate project.
 - This is an important milestone so we feel we should participate.
 - Matt Schroeder will develop a committee soliciting help for the exhibit.
 - The question is whether this should happen at SDAFS next year. Matt has emailed SDAFS President Wesley Neal but has not yet received a response.
 - One big question is what other Chapters are bringing exhibits to the meeting.
 - Tate suggested that Dennis Riecke may be a more appropriate contact for these questions.
- Email Blasts
 - We briefly discussed email blasts sent out to the Chapter membership. There are no current restrictions or limitations. Should there be?
 - This is currently up to the President's discretion.
 - We suggested that this is fine, and if there are ever any requests that the President is unsure about, it can be bounced off the ExCom for feedback before it is sent out.

Motion to adjourn – Matt Horton, seconded – Mike Eggleton.