

# Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



## Annual Meeting Minutes February 6, 1998 Bay St. Louis, MS

### **Call to Order**

The annual chapter meeting was called to order by President Charles Knight at 8:15 a.m.

### **Determination of a Quorum**

Thirty-seven members were in attendance.

### **Reading of the 1997 Chapter Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the 1997 chapter meeting were read by Dennis Riecke, Secretary-Treasurer. President Charles Knight asked for clarification on whether the motion to use 500.00 for a student travel fund was restricted for use at the Student Colloquium or unrestricted for use by students to travel to professional meetings. A motion was made to specify that the student travel fund was created for unrestricted use. Motion seconded and passed. Eric Dibble, President- Elect commented that the committee to develop procedure in this matter and report at this meeting (Steve Ross, Carol Johnston, Hal Schramm and Mark Peterson) should include Steve Miranda instead of Hal Schramm and that he appointed Carol Johnston as committee chair.

After these corrections were made to the 1997 chapter meeting minutes, **a motion** was made, seconded and **passed to approved the corrected version of the 1997 chapter meeting minutes.**

### **President=s Comments**

President Charles Knight made some brief remarks on his term as Chapter President.

### **Secretary-Treasurer=s Report**

Copies of the Financial Statement for the period 2/3/97 to 2/3/98 compiled by Dennis Riecke, Secretary-Treasurer were distributed (copy attached). Total income was 2,632.00. Total expense was 1,791.00. Income less expense was 841.00. Checking account balance as of 2/3/98 was 6,225.96.

Dennis reported that our bank does not allow nonprofit groups to establish interest bearing checking accounts and asked the membership to consider placing some of the chapter funds into some type of interest bearing account.

Mark Peterson thought the funds should be used to fund membership in the parent society for those

awarded the best student paper at the annual chapter meeting or fund their travel to the annual meeting of the parent society. Hal Schramm agreed with Peterson and thought the checking account balance should reach 10,000.00 before we establish some type of endowment using the interest for these activities. Steve Miranda commented that Merrill Lynch administers accounts for several AFS subunits. Some of these asset accounts pay 8-9% interest; have check writing privileges and provide more flexibility than CDs and less risk than mutual funds. Glenn Parsons asked about money market accounts. John Taylor can acquire information on Merrill Lynch accounts and David Franks has a Jackson, MS contact for Merrill Lynch.

President Charles Knight asked for a motion.

**A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Chapter Excom to investigate these options and publish a decision or proposal in the chapter newsletter.**

Garry Lucas moved to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's report with a motion that was seconded and approved.

### **Officer Elections**

For the office of Chapter President, Glenn Parsons had been nominated by the nominating committee and he delivered a short biography. President Charles Knight asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. **Glenn Parsons was unanimously approved as Chapter President and will serve as President-Elect from February 1998 to February 1999 and Chapter President after the February 1999 meeting until the February 2000 meeting.**

For the office of Chapter Secretary -Treasurer, the nominating committee offered Bruce Cummin and Larry Bull. Bruce Cummin's biography was given by Mark Peterson. Larry Bull's biography was given by Dennis Riecke. In a very close vote, the **membership elected Larry Bull as Secretary-Treasurer for the September 1998 to August 1999 term.**

### **Old Business**

Student Travel Award Carol Johnston chaired this committee and Mark Peterson reported that only one student applied for the award despite publicity in the chapter newsletter. He suggested more publicity.

Mississippi Wildlife Federation (MWF) Affiliation Charles Knight reported that as Chapter President he served on the MWF board of directors, since the chapter joined the MWF last year as a statewide affiliate. He commented that the MWF is a good organization that focuses on aquatic issues without advocating extreme positions. Charles felt our involvement was valuable and that we need to participate and opened the floor to discussion on whether or not the chapter should renew its MWF membership for 1998 at a cost of 100.00. The Chapter President or their appointee can attend board meetings as our representative. Mark Peterson suggested retaining our present representation. Charles Knight replied that our representative votes on issues. Larry Bull asked what type of issues. Charles replied that it varies, mostly flood control issues, gravel mining, outstanding natural resource waters. Steve Ross commented that our involvement was good.

Hal Schramm made a **motion to continue our membership**. The motion was seconded and **passed unanimously**.

Chapter Newsletter Charles Knight congratulated our chapter newsletter editor, John Taylor for four years of fine service.

There was a **motion for John to continue as editor**. John commented that he may be graduating within the year and that he had been trying to train or convince students Sherry Harrel and Mike Eggleton to perform these duties. Hal Schramm commented that the Fisheries Management Section of AFS relies on student chapters to publish their section newsletter, which is a vital communication vehicle. This activity is a fund raiser for the students and among them a sense of competition exists with other section newsletters. Eric Dibble asked Sherry Harrel if the Mississippi State University (MSU) students wanted to publish the chapter newsletter.

The **motion regarding John Taylor continuing as editor was withdrawn**. A motion was made to ask Aa student fisheries organization to publish the newsletter for one year. The motion was seconded and **passed**. For 1998 the MSU Fisheries Club agreed to publish the newsletter. In 1999 another student group will be asked to do the same.

John Taylor reminded the membership that publication of the newsletter is entirely dependent on receipt of sufficient material to fill an issue. Eric Dibble thanked the students who provided summaries of their research for the newsletter. John Taylor thanked Jim Franks for submitting the information on cobia. Glenn Parsons asked if anyone has explored the issue of publishing the newsletter by email. John Taylor replied that it costs 48.00/ mailing (55 cents/copy) for postage and he can send it by email. He is trying to establish a chapter website. Mickey Porter advised to use htm and WordPerfect formats. John Taylor requested that those who wish to receive it by email notify him. Mike Murphy suggested retaining the option of receiving it by regular mail or email. Eric Dibble asked John Taylor to maintain the chapter roster and separate out the email distribution and regular mail distribution.

Subunit Status for MSU Fisheries Club , Mike Murphy passed out a **proposed bylaw amendment** the wording of which he received from the parent society regarding this matter **and made a motion for adoption**.

Mike informed the membership that four years ago this issue was discussed. Specifically, the issue is to consider recognizing the MSU Fisheries Club as a Student Subunit of the Mississippi Chapter. The handout contained proposed changes to Sections 2 and 6 of the Chapter Bylaws to accomplish this. Steve Ross expressed his opposition to Section 6 regarding student subunit representation on the Chapter Excom. Ross questioned if that was required by the parent society bylaws. Murphy could not answer but replied that the proposed language was provided by the parent society. Several members thought that the matter should be voted upon. David Franks asked for protocol for consideration and voting on bylaw changes. Garry Lucas responded that a bylaw change cannot be introduced and voted upon at the same meeting. Dennis Riecke suggested that the protocol be

investigated to make sure all actions were legal.

**Murphy withdrew his motion for consideration of bylaw changes.** Mike Murphy made a **motion to publish the proposed bylaw changes in the chapter newsletter for membership consideration and voting. Motion was seconded and passed.**

Mike Murphy will: 1) discuss the matter with Steve Ross to obtain his concerns;  
2) research the chapter bylaws for proper protocol on amending same;  
3) confer with the parent society on what wording is required in the amendment and what procedure is required for legal consideration and voting.

Much discussion ensued. Hal Schramm was in favor of section 6 language and commented that a subunit is a two-way street. Steve Ross wanted to have the requirements for establishing a chapter subunit published in the newsletter. There was concern that if enough subunits were recognized their representatives could dominate the Chapter Excom. Some thought this was an extreme view given that the Excom rarely meets or acts on matters. Nevertheless, the Excom does consider important issues for the chapter.

John Taylor gave a history of this effort and related that this is a new issue for the parent society and this is how they instructed us to handle it. Steve Ross asked what benefits accrue from affiliation. Steve Miranda commented that the members of the subunit would probably have to become Mississippi chapter members but that this should be researched. Mike Murphy read the phrase **with membership consisting of members in good standing**. He thought this meant that subunit members would be required to become Chapter members.

Several members asked the members of the MSU Fisheries Club to comment on the debate. Sherry Harrel commented that the club has monthly meetings with guest speakers and they are raising money to start a fisheries scholarship and they promote AFS membership.

Eric Dibble, President-Elect expressed the sentiment that there has to be a give and take on this issue. At the 1996 chapter meeting in Oxford, MS there was the expressed desire to promote more student involvement and the formal development of student subunits is one way to do it. He believed that formation of these subunits it is a positive step toward student involvement.

Glenn Parsons and Steve Ross asked what the requirements were for establishing a subunit. Mike Murphy will research this. Garry Lucas commented that during his tenure as chapter president, the chapter attempted to revise the bylaws but was not sure these changes were ever sent to the parent society for consideration. Dennis Riecke replied that he will review chapter files and try to determine those revisions. David Franks suggested that we could resolve many of these uncertainties if a copy of the chapter bylaws were available for consultation at each annual meeting.

John Taylor and David Franks **recommended that action (a vote) on this issue be postponed until after the criteria for the formation of student subunits were published in the chapter newsletter and a comment period established.**

#### Student Travel Awards

This committee, comprised of Steve Miranda, Steve Ross, and Mark Peterson will decide on award guidelines and selection criteria. Phil Kirk recommended that all interested universities be represented on the committee.

Eric Dibble made a **motion to add a member from the University of Mississippi and appoint a chairman.** There was some discussion and the **motion was** seconded and **approved.**

Phil Kirk expressed the importance of assisting student involvement in our professional society. Mark Peterson suggested that the Student Travel Award guidelines be published. Eric Dibble responded that they would be published in the chapter newsletter. Tom Holman mentioned that there are other state universities (Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University) and plenty junior colleges and thought all should be made aware of this award. Eric Dibble decided that to prevent further delay of the guideline development, the present committee would establish the guidelines and contact the other universities to solicit their involvement.

#### **New Business**

Continuing Education Hal Schramm mentioned that a four day electrofishing course (Jim Reynolds, instructor, USFWS) had tentatively been scheduled to be held somewhere in Mississippi in September 1998. The approximate cost will be 300.00 - 400.00. He mentioned the new recertification requirements and that 30 people need to register to hold the course. Ron Garavelli mentioned that the Miss. Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks has scheduled an electrofishing course to be conducted by Smith-Root at Pickwick Lake with Tennessee and Arkansas. Therefore, the department did not anticipate participating in the USFWS course. Questions about student involvement were raised. Hal Schramm asked members to indicate their interest in the USFWS course. Four people expressed interest. Hal will try to involve other states and notice of the USFWS course will be published in the chapter newsletter.

#### Resolutions Committee

A brief discussion was held on whether the chapter wished to form a resolutions committee. It was decided that the Excom is adequately handling the chapter's comments on resource issues and a separate resolutions committee is not needed.

#### Awards

President Charles Knight presented the following awards:

50.00 check and a plaque to John Taylor for best student paper at the 1996 annual meeting;

100.00 check to Sherry Harrel for the 1998 student travel award;

appreciation plaques to Bubba Hubbard, and Phil Kirk in recognition of their service as Secretary-

Treasurer and President, respectively.

President Charles Knight turned the gavel over to President-Elect Eric Dibble who assumed the office of President. Eric Dibble then presented Charles Knight a plaque in recognition of his service as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

### **1998 Best Student Paper Awards**

**Overall winner (MS&LA) - Janaka deSilva** (LSU) for his paper AProfile of sharks associated with the U.S. Gulf menhaden fishery and their relevance to the shark populations in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.@(presented with a 50.00 check from each chapter, (?) a plaque

**MS Chapter winners (tie) - Lance Williams** at MSU for his paper AConservation of the leopard darter in Oklahoma and Arkansas: a population analysis and genetics approach@ and to **Kathy VanderKooy** at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, USM for her paper AThe importance of estuarine submerged aquatic vegetation as a feeding habitat for bluegill, redear, and redspotted sunfish.@(each presented with a 35.00 check from the MS Chapter and a plaque)

No mention in 97 minutes of best paper winners or whether plaques were awarded

### **ACTION ITEMS TO ACCOMPLISH BASED ON 1998 MEETING MINUTES**

#### **RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)**

#### **WORKING ON**

**John Taylor**

1. acquire info on Merrill Lynch Cash Management Accounts (supply info to EXCOM)
2. Status of chapter internet site?

**Taylor w/MSU Fisheries Club**

1. update and maintain accurate chapter membership roster.
2. separate email and regular mail distribution lists for chapter mailings.
3. publish chapter newsletters for 1998.
4. publish bylaw change protocol, discussion and voting notices in chapter newsletter.
5. publish EXCOMS proposal/decision on checking account interest options to increase interest income on chapter funds.

6. publish Student Travel Award guidelines in newsletter (Committee to provide guidelines).

#### **Student Travel Awards Committee**

1. decide on travel award guidelines and submit for **(Dr. Miranda, Dr. Ross, Dr. Peterson)** publication in chapter newsletter.
2. Contact other state universities and junior colleges to solicit their involvement on this committee.

#### **EXCOM**

1. review options on checking account interest; submit decision/proposal to membership via newsletter.
2. ensure that proper procedures are followed to amend chapter bylaws; submit any changes approved by the membership to the Parent Society for their consideration and approval/rejection.
3. submit 1998 chapter minutes and *Fisheries* blurb with photos on 1998 chapter meeting.
4. submit Financial Statement to Parent Society
5. determine status of previous chapter bylaw changes i.e. was proper protocol followed?; did chapter vote and approve of changes?; were changes submitted to Parent Society for review?; what action did Parent Society take?; were amended bylaws printed?; do Parent Society and chapter have copies of amended bylaws?

#### **Garry Lucas**

1. Research status of previous bylaw changes STATUS - sent previous action material to Dibble & Murphy

#### **Dr. Eric Dibble**

1. Appoint UM faculty member to chapter student travel awards committee.

#### **Mike Murphy**

1. Discuss bylaw changes with Dr. Steve Ross

2. Coordinate research of chapter bylaw changes for proper protocol to amend same.
3. Confer with Parent Society on required wording for bylaw change to recognize MSU Fisheries Club as a subunit chapter including legal procedure for valid consideration, comment and voting by chapter membership to ensure consideration of such change by Parent Society at annual August meeting.
4. Confer with Parent Society regarding the meaning of the phrase ~~A~~with membership consisting of members in good standing@ i.e., does it mean that members must be parent society members or members of the club or chapter in good standing?

**Dennis Riecke**

1. Renew Miss. Wildlife Federation affiliation; send them updated chapter roster.  
STATUS: check sent, need to update roster
2. Order and pay for plaques for Peter Floyd and best paper award winners.  
STATUS: Will be ordered week after Easter
3. Order and pay for check endorsement rubber stamp.
4. Cross check meeting registration against 97-98 AFS membership directory and send all nonparent society members membership recruitment materials.  
STATUS: Received new 97-98 directory on 4/6/98
5. Send meeting registration sheets to Sherry Harrel.
6. Send updated roster or information to accomplish such to Sherry and John Taylor.
7. review chapter files at Turcotte Lab.
8. Find most recent copy of chapter bylaws.  
STATUS: Marilyn Brown is researching parent society files to determine which version has been approved by them.