

*Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the 30th Annual Meeting
February 13, 2004
Kevin M. Hunt, Secretary/Treasurer*

Larry Bull called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

A quorum was determined (40 members present)

Garry Lucas recognized the Historical Committee for the previous night's banquet and ceremony. Larry Bull specifically recognized Jim Franks for his efforts in gathering alumni and coordinating the festivities. 60 members were in attendance for the annual meeting and 75 members and invited guests attended the banquet and historical program. A good time was had by all.

Dennis Riecke suggested that the MS AFS help sponsor a workshop on sturgeon at the National meeting sponsored by USACE this coming year. Members discussed but nothing was agreed upon because of questions about whether or when the meeting would take place.

Larry Bull recognized Southern Division AFS President Steve Filipek (AR).

Based on 29th meeting discussions on MS AFS wall of fame and storing historical records, Ron Garavelli (MDWFP) mentioned that the new hatchery in Enid is in the design stage and that MDWFP has donated space for MS AFS wall of fame. The building should be in production by 2006. The visitor center will be the last thing that will be finished in the facility. Ron suggested we form an ad-hoc committee to provide input on our needs for the space. He didn't feel there would be adequate room for storing historical records.

29th MEETING MINUTES

Kevin Hunt (MSU) distributed/discussed minutes from the 29th Annual Meeting. No errors of omission/commission were noted and a motion was made to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and was passed by unanimous vote of the members.

TREASURER REPORT

Kevin Hunt distributed/discussed treasurer report, and answered questions from previous years budget. Motion was made to accept report; was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of members.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Larry Bull presented information on Certificates of Deposit. They are not currently making a lot of money with low rates of recent years.

MWF MEMBERSHIP

Larry Bull brought up renewal of affiliate status with the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Don Jackson spoke in favor of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. The MWF wants to revisit its mission statement and will be sending this out to chapter presidents of various societies for their input. Larry Bull said he doesn't feel we have used the affiliation to its fullest. Don said the two lakes project in Jackson will be brought forth at the February MWF meeting. Don said the MSAFS representative would have a say in the MWF position statement at that meeting. A motion was made to renew our membership with MWF, was seconded, and unanimously approved by members. Todd Slack asked for someone to replace him as an affiliate. Jan Hoover asked what this entails, and wondered about the objectivity of the affiliate. Dennis Riecke volunteered for the position. The members then discussed what issues that MWF can help the MSAFS on. The predominate ones were:

In-Stream Flow

Dam Construction:

- Protecting the Pearl
- Protecting the Pascacougla

Appropriation on LMRCC

Dam Removal

BYLAW CHANGES (2003)

Last years changes to the bylaws were discussed and finalized. Motion was made to accept all changes, seconded, and unanimously approved by members.

SDAFS President Steve Filipek addressed the Chapter. He discussed the following:

Commended the 30th historical celebration and that it gave him some ideas for AR.

Talked about the Hutton Junior Biologist Program. MS Chapter has been working with it for two year (Chikbu). 25 to 56 will be available in the next couple years. Gave handout and encouraged young students. Application process was open for two more weeks after meeting and encourage chapter members to serve as mentors

Parent membership up to about 10,000 and is moving into Mexico. Encouraged students to participate at ½ price rate for three years.

He discussed new publications from AFS, and mentioned next meetings: 2004 meeting in Madison, WI; 2005 in Anchorage, AK.

Larry Conner (FL) will be SDAFS president next year and mentioned next meetings: 2004 Mid-year in OK; 2005 Mid-year in Virginia.

Mentioned membership down in the Southeastern Meeting, and there was a need for technical committee volunteers. Passed around sign-up for Marine Resources Committee, a defunct committee looking to be reactivated. Also, a catfish committee was initiated this year by Elise Irwin (AL).

DAM REMOVAL/CONSTRUCTION POSITION STATEMENT

Kevin Hunt and Steve Ross (USM) presented the chapter with alternatives to the MSAFS dam removal/construction policy that had been tabled the previous year due to contentious nature of dam construction position. After careful deliberation throughout the year, Kevin, Steve and EXCOM decided since parent AFS was preparing a position statement on dam removal, it would be best to focus efforts on reviewing parent documentation/position, and developing a resolution to support the parent position. If agreed upon, the MSAFS position statement would be permanently tabled. After discussion of the background document to the position statement, the following was presented to the chapter. A motion was made to accept the resolution and forward to parent chapter. Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of members. No negative votes were made.

MSAFS Dam Removal Statement

“THE MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY RECOGNIZES THE IMPACTS OF DAM CONSTRUCTION ON AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND SUPPORTS THE PARENT AFS POSITION STATEMENT ON DAM REMOVAL”

The parent chapter needs any comments to the document one week following this meeting. Kevin Hunt said he would provide opportunity for comments on the web for the coming week, and would forward MSAFS Dam Removal Statement and any comments to parent chapter by deadline.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Jim Franks talked about permanent home, and talked about what should go into the Enid facility. Jim Franks said he would provide input. Kevin Hunt recognized Jim Franks' fine work in his years on the historical committee culminating with the reunion banquet, and offered to take over chair of the committee as he will be digitizing all chapter paper archives. Jim agreed and Kevin said MSU could serve as eventual permanent home for chapter paper archives. Currently all archives are with Larry Bull in the Turcotte Fisheries Lab. Kevin will obtain paper archives from Turcotte for digitizing in stages. Once digitized, those paper archives will remain at MSU until entire archives at Turcotte have been transferred and computerized. Paper files will no longer be needed once computerized and distributed. They will be boxed, labeled, and stored at the MSU

Wildlife and Fisheries Department if ever needed. Various Chapter plaques and Certificates will remain at the Turcotte Fisheries Lab until the AFS Wall at Enid Facility is completed.

C.A. SHULTZ AWARD

Todd Slack spoke about the C.A. Shultz Award and to make sure we have a space for it on the eventual AFS wall at the Enid Facility. Comments on the award were solicited prior to the meeting via the website, and on the floor. Hal Schramm suggested that it be clear that the award should only be awarded to an individual, not a group of people or organization. Also, he suggested that it should only go to someone who has spent most of their career focused on Mississippi streams. After discussion, all members agreed with these qualifications. A motion was made (with a friendly amendment to correct paragraph placement) to approve the qualifications and the document. Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of members.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Ron Nasser refreshed the chapter on the LMRCC and its mission; each governor in the lower MRV supported the budget amendment, however, there will be no legislative line item for the LMRCC. He foreshadowed that current flood control issues on the Missouri River and Upper Mississippi River will soon be evident in the Lower Mississippi River.

Status of lower Mississippi water quality, be done by late 2004.

The lower Mississippi River Guide (draft) was passed out and Ron asked for input and comments.

Ron said the Mississippi River state level planning meetings currently are being held. For example, 64-80 potential sites for habitat projects were identified based on the Arkansas meeting. Eventually, all 6 state plans will be combined into one document called "Restoring America's Greatest River", include photos that link to maps. Purpose: Sell restoration to the public, and to show communities and legislators the links restoration has to sustainable tourism development (a huge selling point).

Ron said web and computer capabilities at LMRCC are being decimated by "brain drain". Plans are to get people on board who can complete projects.

NEW BUSINESS

With the success of the high school students in the Best Paper Award, Kevin asked if we should maintain status quo on high school and below for presentation awards, or a new category should be developed. After discussion, everyone (including high school students) wanted one competition with all education levels (high school, undergraduate, and graduate) included. No motion was made.

MWF – TWIN LAKES PROJECT (LEFLUER’S LAKES)

Cathy Shropshire, Executive Director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, discussed the Lefluer’s lake project below Ross Barnett Dam. She said the project would inundate 5,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods and 3,000 acres of wetlands, and affect sturgeon and high-back turtle populations. Also, two landfills would be inundated, infrastructure would have to be moved. Additionally, Ross Barnett would become a flood control reservoir; not what Ross Barnett Reservoir was designed for and that would affect home values and recreational opportunities. Further, sensors would be put in watershed to signal when water would have to be pushed out of the lakes during times of flood potential. She felt the projects could even increase flooding potential in the Jackson area. Cathy mentioned that USACE received \$2.5 million to study this as a flood control project and for economic development, and that there would be a scoping meeting on February 23, 2004 in Jackson. Mitigation will be discussed at the scoping meeting.

Cathy then provided Kevin Hunt with the MWF Position Statement on the LeFluer’s Lakes Project. Kevin said he would provide the position statement on the web, ask for comments, and to vote on the position statement. Results of the vote would be provided to Dennis Riecke (MSAFS affiliate to MWF) prior to the scoping meeting so that he could vote based on the desires of the membership.

MSU STUDENT SUB-UNIT

Amy Spencer – President of MSU Sub-unit gave update on their activities. Activities included: Canoe trip to Catawba with Auburn University; Participation in Discovery Days at MSU; Conducted a raffle of two hunting and one canoe trip which raised \$1000.00. Monies were used for travel fund for annual meeting, and some was donated to the Catch-a-Dream program at MSU.

She recognized the seven sub-unit presenters and 2 poster presenters, and that Aaron Walters will be presenting at SD AFS in Oklahoma and 5 others were attending the meeting.

Plans for the coming year were to organize occupational safety for fisheries students for that include CPR, etc....

STUDENT CAUCUS

Bryant Bowen said the previous nights raffle netted \$491 dollars for the student caucus.

Bryant mentioned the 2nd annual student retreat was again a success and that plans were to continue the event.

Bryant Bowen then discussed equitable representation on EXCOM by student caucus and Student sub-unit. The students agreed that the student sub-unit and one non-msu student (elected at meeting) would jointly administer the business of the student caucus. Paul

Mickle was elected as non-MSU student representative and will serve as Student Caucus representative to EXCOM.

Other EXCOM members expressed that was still not equitable and the chapter members, including students, agreed that in the future, after election of non-msu student, a second vote would be made to determine which of the two would be the Student Caucus representative to EXCOM for the following year.

BYLAW CHANGES

The discussion of equitable representation of sub-unit and student caucus on EXCOM raised concerns about the chapter bylaws. Currently, Chapter Bylaws specify that one sub-unit, not caucus representative serves on EXCOM. As per changes made to selection of student representative to EXCOM, a motion was made to change the Bylaws to reflect this new procedure. Specifically,

Section 4, Paragraph 1

“Subunit” omitted

Should read “one student representative”

Section 6, Paragraph 1

Eliminate “Subunit”

Section 11 tells us how to proceed, Kevin Hunt will follow-up on with parent chapter.

TRAVEL AWARDS COMMITTEE

See 2003 Mid-year Ex-Com notes. Because of so many travel award applicants and since the travel award had become more prestigious than the outstanding paper awards (in monetary terms), EXCOM decided to cap the total Chapter contribution to travel awards at \$300. EXCOM also granted the student caucus authority to add money to the travel award; In the future, there will be a \$25 minimum and \$75 maximum on the award. All applicants who apply and are presenting will be given an award.

2005 MEETING & LOCATION

Larry Pugh said TN & AR are meeting next year, and probably won't likely be able to accommodate an additional chapter for next years meeting. It was suggested that we pursue meeting with LA Chapter in Natchez. Motion was made to have meeting with LA in Natchez. Larry Pugh will make contacts with LA representatives.

2004-05 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Larry Bull opened nominations for Officers for 2004-05. Nominations were made prior to the meeting for President-elect (Jack Killgore & Tom Holman), none were made from floor. No nominations were made prior to meeting for Secretary-Treasurer, one from floor.

Jack Killgore (USACE) was elected by a majority of members for the position of President-elect. Megan Ellis (MDWFP) was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

2004 AWARD RECIPIENTS

2004 Outstanding Presentation Award

1st Place: Gretchen Waggy (\$125)

2nd Place (tie): Heather Smith & Tyler Strange (\$75 ea.)

2004 Student Travel Award Recipients (\$40 each - \$30 parent, \$10 Student Caucus):

Aaron Walters, Jeremy Slade, Gretchen Waggy, Rachel Beecham, Andrew Arrington, Michael Kashiwagi, Justin Wilkens, Paul Mickle, Dan O'Keefe, Bryant Bowen, Paul Grammer.