

**Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Midwest Fisheries Conference
Minutes of the 2003 Annual Business Meeting
December 3, 2002
Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel, Bettendorf, IA**

President Mike Steuck called the annual business meeting to order. Thirty-one members attended the meeting. President Steuck requested approval of the agenda. Kay Hill moved to approve the agenda, Mike McGhee seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Steuck introduced the executive committee (EXCOM). **Mike Steuck** is serving his term as **president**. **Scott Gritters** is **president-elect**. **Greg Gelwicks** is currently serving as **secretary/treasurer**. **Past-president** is **Don Kline**. **Newsletter editor** is **Kevin Hanson**.

North Central Division (NCD) **President Chris Guy** was present at our meeting. **NCD secretary/treasurer Don Kline** was also in attendance. Chris Guy thanked the chapter for holding our annual business meeting at the Fisheries Midwest meeting, as it helped to boost attendance at the conference. He also said that the American Fisheries Society is working hard on membership recruitment. A young professional membership category has been created. This was done because many students drop their memberships when they leave school and get a job and can no longer pay the student rate for membership. Now young professionals may join the society within 3 years of graduation for the student rate of \$38. It is hoped that this will help retain these young professionals as members of the parent society. The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program is being continued this year. The World Fisheries Conference in Vancouver is taking up a lot of the AFS's time and resources. Gus Rassum has spent a lot of time and energy improving the society's publications program. Chris also stated that the AFS at the parent society level does an enormous amount of work on Capitol Hill to represent important fisheries issues and influence policies that affect our fisheries. It is therefore important that fisheries professionals join the parent society to support these efforts. Chris said he was impressed that the Iowa Chapter had an active continuing education program that held a FAST workshop last year. He also liked the \$500.00 scholarship and the \$1000.00 grant for fisheries related projects that the Iowa Chapter funds.

President Steuck requested approval of the 2002 business meeting minutes. Dick McWilliams moved to approve the minutes, Kay Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

NCD secretary/treasurer Don Kline reported that the NCD has money to spend and if anyone has good ideas on ways to spend money they should bring them to the NCD business meeting.

President Steuck provided highlights of the Iowa Chapter's activities during the past year. Instead of doing the EMP resolution discussed at last year's meeting, a letter was sent by the chapter to Tom Latham on the appropriations committee in support of the EMP. President Steuck participated in a NCD membership committee survey. Don Kline developed an application for the chapter's \$1000 grant for fisheries related projects. President Steuck also worked on replacing chapter committee representatives, and prepared a chapter budget proposal.

Financial Report – Secretary/Treasurer Greg Gelwicks summarized the treasurer's report and concluded a balance of \$7479.46 as of Dec. 1, 2002. Income was a combination of chapter dues, annual meeting registration and auction, the FAST continuing education course, the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference booth T-shirt and raffle ticket sales, and interest on the checking account. Auditing committee chairman Greg Simmons approved the financial report. Bernie Schonhoff moved to approve the auditor and treasurer's report and Tom Boland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

REAP – Dick McWilliams reported it has been a tough year for REAP and other conservation funding in the state. Funding for REAP was essentially cut for this year. Funding for REAP next year will depend greatly on how many people contact their local representatives in support of the program. The REAP congress was not funded this year but still met. Several suggestions came from this meeting. It was suggested that the REAP Alliance take a more active leadership role and work to expand its base. The Alliance will work to add more groups as members. It was also suggested that the alliance work to re-vitalize county REAP committees in order to increase contacts with local representatives in support of REAP. This legislative session about 40% of the members are new, so the Alliance will be working to educate and inform these members about the REAP program. At last report, the budget request is again \$15 million for REAP for this year, and the REAP Congress has asked for \$20 million for the program. Ultimate funding for the program depends on finances and whether legislators feel there is support for the program. The Alliance wants to thank all who have contacted their local representatives in support of REAP, and encourage everyone to continue these contacts. If people need help to figure out what to say to their local representative, Dick McWilliams has fact sheets and suggestions available that he can e-mail to you. A new program named I-CALL (Iowa Conservation Advocates' and Leaders' Link) will be used to target environmental issues of interest to us in a timely, bi-partisan, common-sense method. When this program is up and running, interested individuals will receive messages and will make an effort to contact legislators and policy makers with a coordinated message. Dick asked if the chapter would be willing to make its membership list available to Rich Leopold who is coordinating I-CALL to allow him to contact members about the program. President Steuck brought up that he feels the EXCOM should be allowed to set up a separate e-mail account. This would allow distribution of information on programs such as REAP without risking getting in trouble for using the state e-mail system. Gary Siegwarth moved to allow the EXCOM to set up its own e-mail

account, Tom Boland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. President Steuck moved to make the chapter membership list available to I-CALL, Pitlo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Continuing Education – Clay Pierce was unable to attend the meeting so Mike Steuck reported in his absence. An IRIS (Iowa Rivers Information System) workshop is being planned and will be held when the system is ready. If anyone has ideas for future continuing education classes they should contact Mike Steuck or Clay Pierce.

Membership – Don Kline will be working hard to recruit members for both the Iowa Chapter and the parent society and asked for chapter member's assistance in this endeavor. Don asked for ideas for recruiting new members. Don had some ideas including: giving students half price memberships, having a lottery for free memberships for students, offer incentives to current members to sign up new members. Dan Kirby thought we should talk to professors at smaller Iowa colleges to recruit them and their students as members. Other ideas of places to recruit members were IDOT environmental unit, county conservation boards, IDNR EPD, Univ. of Iowa Hygienics Lab. There was much discussion of the need to foster the attitude among students that society membership is important. Don asked the membership to e-mail him names of potential members or ideas for increasing membership in the chapter and parent society.

Nomination – Gary Siegwarth replaced **Tom Gengerke** as nominations chair. He will be working on coming up with nominations for next year.

Student Affairs – Bob Summerfelt was not present at the meeting.

Resolutions – Mike McGhee replaced **Marion Conover** as resolutions chair and reported that there were no resolutions at this time. Mike requested that members contact him if they have nominations.

Best Paper – Lannie Miller could not attend the meeting and Mike Steuck reported in his absence. Best paper from last year's annual meeting was awarded to Joe Larsheid, Mike Hawkins, Jim Christianson, Donna Muhm, and Tom Gengerke for their paper that Joe presented on *Post-stocking performance of hatchery reared muskies*. The award for best poster presentation from last years meeting went to Robert Bringolf and Dr. Summerfelt for their poster on *Reduction in estrogenic potency of municipal wastewater with serial passage through aerated lagoons*. Mike Steuck asked the membership if we should do a best paper award at this meeting. It was decided that the chapter would give best paper awards for presentations at this meeting. Scott Gritters volunteered to head up best paper and poster judging for this meeting. Bryan Hayes, Lewis Bruce, and Mike McGhee volunteered to help score presentations.

Technical committee updates:

Walleye (WTC) – John Pitlo replaced **Tom Gengerke** as the chapter representative to the WTC. There was no summer meeting of the WTC but there will be a meeting today at 3:30. John Pitlo reported that the Walleye Symposium was published in the NAJFM. The symposium will include papers by Pitlo, Larry Mitzner and others. The symposium is available as a book at a reduced price for parent society members.

Centrarchid (CTC) – Don Kline reported that CTC did not have a summer meeting but will be meeting today at 4:30.

Rivers and Streams (RSTC) – Greg Gelwicks reported the RSTC held a meeting last spring in Rock Island, IL. There were several good stream talks. The RSTC will also be meeting today.

Esocidae – Joe Larshied could not attend the meeting. There was no report on this committee.

Salmonid (STC)– Bill Kalishek was not present at the business meeting. There was no report on this committee.

Ictalurid (ITC) – Dan Kirby reported that the first ever meeting of this committee was held at the midwest meeting last year. Since then, bylaws have been adopted and the committee has requested that the NCD move the committee from adhoc to full committee status. This will be decided at the NCD business meeting this week. This summer there was an electronic meeting where each chapter representative gathered information on ongoing catfish research or catfish projects going on in their state. This information was compiled and sent out on the listserv set up by the committee to facilitate information exchange among researchers and managers working with catfish.

Old Business:

Student Travel Grant - Mike Steuck reported that for the past several years the chapter has made available \$100 that is matched by the NCD for a student travel grant to help defray costs of attending the annual meeting. Robert Bringolf received the grant this year. Mike asked for a motion to make \$100 available next year for this purpose. Chris Larson so moved. Kay Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ISU Scholarship Fund –Mike Steuck reported that the chapter awarded a \$500 scholarship to the Animal Ecology Dept. at ISU to award to a student to put toward tuition in 2002. This year the scholarship was awarded to Kirk Hanson. Acting president Steuck asked for a motion to approve another \$500 scholarship to award to a student in the Animal Ecology Department at ISU in 2003. John Pitlo so moved. Discussion followed on whether the student receiving the scholarship was required to be an Iowa Chapter or parent society member. Mike Steuck said that he would contact Dr.

Summerfelt to find out what the requirements are, and recommend that there be some membership requirement. Tom Boland seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REAP Alliance – Mike Steuck reported that for the past several years the chapter has made an annual donation of \$150 to the REAP Alliance. Mike asked for a motion to donate \$150 again in 2002. Vance Polton so moved and Don Kline seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) – Mike Steuck reported that for the past several years the chapter has made an annual donation of \$100 to the IEC. Mike asked for a motion to donate \$100 again in 2002. Chris Larson so moved. Tom Boland seconded. Mike reported that he was the chapter's representative on the council and met with Susan Heathcote to discuss what we can do for the council and what they can do for us. Their focus right now is on water quality and feedlot issues and this supports fisheries objectives. The motion carried unanimously.

Fisheries Project Grant – Mike Steuck reported that Don Kline made up a grant application with stipulations for awarding the grant. The application form was distributed to the membership. A chapter member must sponsor the application. The EXCOM can grant up to \$1000 a year for fisheries related projects. Comments are needed on the application by January. Don Kline moved that the EXCOM be authorized to spend up \$1000 next year on grants for fisheries related projects. John Pitlo seconded. Scott Gritters inquired about availability of funds from last year. Don Kline said applications received now would fall into next years funding. The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognition

Mike Steuck thanked Don Kline for serving his second year as past-president, Greg Gelwicks for serving his second year as secretary/treasurer, and Kevin Hanson for his service as newsletter editor. Mike also thanked Mark Flammang, Paul Sleeper, Chris Larson, Donna Muhm, Jon Christensen, and others who helped out with the raffle.

New Business:

2003-2004 Budget Proposal – Mike Steuck distributed a copy of the budget proposal to the membership. Mike explained the proposal covers the period from Sept. 1, 2003 – Aug. 31, 2004. The proposal shows projected income to the chapter and expected expenses. If projected income and expenses are correct, expenses will exceed income by \$545.00 during this period. However, the chapter has sufficient funds (over \$7000) in the account to cover this deficit. Kevin Hanson moved that the budget proposal be approved. Mel Bowler seconded. There was considerable discussion of concerns over the deficit shown in the proposed budget. The motion was amended by John Pitlo to have the proposal reflect the use of reserve funds to make up the deficit. This will be done by

adding a line for reserve funds used to balance the budget. President Steuck stressed that this budget proposal is a tool to speed up the business meeting by giving the membership the opportunity to approve/disapprove yearly expenses (scholarship, travel grant, REAP, IEC, Fisheries project grant) all at one time. This would replace separate votes on each item. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Vote for President Elect and Secretary/Treasurer – Mike Steuck appointed Kevin Hanson, Mel Bowler, and Tom Boland to distribute, collect, and count the ballots.

Newsletter Editor- Kevin Hanson wishes to step down as newsletter editor after four years of service. Scott Gritters asked the membership to thank Kevin for his service to the chapter. Mike Steuck asked for volunteers to take his place or recommendations of people to replace Kevin. Names mentioned were Karen Aulwes, Scott Grummer, Mark Winn.

Future Chapter Meetings – Location/Joint Meeting? Scott Gritter and Mike Steuck have discussed past meetings and generated a list of chapters/groups we have met with since 1994. They decided when contacting other chapters/groups about future joint meetings, they will first contact the chapters/groups with which we have not met for the longest time. Therefore Scott will talk to Missouri first, Minnesota second, Wisconsin third, and Nebraska fourth about the 2004 meeting. He has e-mailed Missouri and will ask them about meeting in 2004 or 2005. If Missouri cannot do it, he will contact Minnesota.

Announce new officers – Tom Boland and John Pitlo counted the ballots. Mike Steuck announced that Dan Kirby narrowly defeated Alan Johnson for president-elect by a vote of 16 to 15. Mike Hawkins defeated Kim Bogenschutz for secretary/treasurer by a vote of 21 to 10. There was discussion of why we are voting at the chapter meeting instead of by mail ballot. Mike Steuck explained that this was changed last year.

Additional items from the Floor – Dick McWilliams announced that Tim Goeman has some copies of the Walleye Symposium publication for sale at this meeting.

Don Kline made a motion to authorize the EXCOM to put together a new membership project based on comments heard at this meeting with funding not to exceed \$200. Tom Boland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Scott Gritters asked that the best paper volunteers meet briefly after the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Mike Steuck to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.