

**Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources - Fisheries Bureau Statewide Meeting
Minutes of the 2004 Annual Business Meeting
March 2, 2004
Springbrook Educational Facility, Guthrie Center, IA**

President Scott Gritters called the annual business meeting to order. Eighty-two members attended the meeting. President Gritters requested approval of the agenda. Mark Winn moved to approve the agenda, Bernie Schonoff seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Scott Gritters introduced the executive committee (EXCOM). Scott Gritters is serving as the president. Dan Kirby is president-elect. Mike Hawkins is serving as secretary/treasurer. Past president is Mike Steuck. Newsletter editor is Alan Johnson. North Central Division (NCD) treasurer Don Kline was also introduced.

Scott Gritters requested approval of the 2003 business meeting minutes. Tom Boland moved to approve the minutes, and Tom Gengerke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gritters provided highlights of the past year's activities. Two EXCOM meetings were held during the year. Much of the activity at these meetings revolved around sorting out wording and details of decisions made at past annual meetings and planning the annual meeting. The annual meeting was planned to take place with Missouri this year, but unfortunately this meeting was cancelled due to state budget issues. A letter to Scott Ryan, Missouri Department of Conservation, will be drafted to thank him for his time spent planning this meeting. Newsletters were worked on and improved with more content and a digital format was produced.

President Gritters introduced the budget for 2005 and described the new format. Every item is not voted on; instead the budget is voted on as a whole. Mike McGhee moved to accept the budget and Bernie Schonoff seconded the motion. Discussion involved a question on the projected balance after the 2005 budget. It was relayed by President Gritters and Secretary/Treasurer Hawkins and President-Elect Kirby that the balance is projected to be the same, minus a small amount because of decreased revenue caused by the cancelled annual meeting. A question was raised on sales tax paid by the chapter. Former Secretary/Treasurer Greg Gelwicks explained that we do pay sales tax on raffles. President Gritters explained that the chapter tries to recoup some the tax when we file taxes, but raffles are subject to sales tax. John Pitlo explained that all organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever pay sales tax on raffle items. A question was raised on what we are doing with our money. The EXCOM voiced that we are open for new expenditures. The motion to approve the budget was carried unanimously.

Financial Report – Secretary/Treasurer Mike Hawkins summarized the treasurer's report and concluded a balance of \$7997.00 as of December 1, 2003. Income was a combination of chapter dues, annual meeting registration and raffle, and interest on the checking account. The auditing committee was Joe Larscheid and Juan Cardona.

Committee Reports

REAP – Dick McWilliams reported that the state legislature received a lot of pressure last year from the public after cutting REAP funding. There is pressure from the public to allow local communities more involvement in the REAP process. Dick encouraged members to stay involved and attend local REAP assemblies. Funding has been restored to previous levels.

Continuing Education – Clay Pierce was not in attendance, but President Gritters mentioned an email that he had received from Clay. The committee has not initiated any continuing education projects but would like to hear from the membership about ideas and courses the members feel are needed.

Membership – Don Kline asked for \$200 dollars last year to work on ideas for increasing student membership. Don discussed several of these ideas, but has decided to give the \$200 back to the chapter and defer ideas to Mike Steuck, who is the new chair of this committee.

Nominations – Gary Siegwarth said that announcements for nominations will be held off until the newsletter. Gary discussed the possibility of extending the term of Iowa Chapter Officers to two years. Past President Mike Steuck discussed that the Illinois Chapter has a process where a member is elected as secretary/treasurer for a year, then becomes vice president the following year, and president the year after that. Dan Kirby mentioned that a two year term would mean a six year commitment for the president elect. Further discussion was table for New Business.

Student Affairs – Bob Summerfelt was not present, but President Gritters said that Bob had sent him an email stating that a student had been selected for the Chapter's Scholarship. No name was mentioned in that email.

Resolutions – Mike McGhee read a resolution adopted by the Waterfowl Association of Iowa. This resolution states a proposed allocation of 1/8 of 1% of the State's sales tax be equally divided between the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and REAP. Some discussion followed. Gary Siegwarth discussed how we, as a chapter, can get other groups involved and interested in this concept. Discussion was tabled until New Business.

Best Paper – Lannie Miller introduced his committee and announced that Mark Flammang received Best Paper Award with his presentation of “*Evaluation of Largemouth Bass Regulations in Southern Iowa Impoundments*”. Best Poster was awarded to Nicholas Frohnauer with a poster entitled “*Population characteristics and angler use of muskellunge in Shoepack Lake, Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota*”. Certificates of appreciation for student papers were given to Sarah Katz and Robert Bringolf. Mike Stueck presented Mark Flammang with the Best Paper Award. It was brought to member’s attention that Mark also won NCD Best Paper Award.

Technical Committee Reports

Walleye - John Pitlo discussed a few details of the last Walleye Technical Committee (WTC) meeting held in Dubuque, IA. The meeting’s theme was walleye regulations. John discussed the Walleye Synopsis, a compilation of all published and grey literature in North America into one book. This summer’s WTC meeting will be held in Delta Marsh, Ontario.

Centrarchid – Don Kline said the meeting in Kansas City at the Midwest Conference was well attended with 15 members present. The next meeting will be at the National AFS Meeting in Madison, WI. The Centrarchid Symposium of this meeting will feature crappies and crappie management.

Rivers and Streams – Greg Gelwicks reported that there was no spring meeting because of a lack of attendance. The Dam Removal Symposium scheduled for Madison, WI was also cancelled. There is a spring meeting scheduled in March. Several Iowa members will be presenting.

Esocid – Joe Larscheid reported that the next meeting is in Madison, WI. A symposium is being planned and sponsored by the Muskies Inc. in Illinois in 2005.

Salmonid – Bill Kalishek reported that the Salmonid Committee as remained fairly inactive. The last business meeting was held four years ago.

Ictalurid – Dan Kirby reported that this is the third year of activity for this committee. This past summer marked the first educational workshop, held at Rathbun Lake. The focus of this workshop was aging techniques for catfish. Dan thanked chapter members Tom Boland, John Pitlo, Mark Flammang, Maury Anderson, Denny Weiss, and Gene Jones for organizing and helping with the workshop. About 40 people attended the workshop from several states. A business meeting was held in Kansas City at the Midwest. About 20 members were in attendance. This summer’s meeting will be held electronically.

Old Business

The Iowa AFS email system has been set up. President Gritters talked about the new system. President Gritters explained two projects that the chapter helped fund with our Fisheries Grant. One was video on mussels entitled "*Canaries of the Deep*" and the other is an aquarium project involving native fish.

Don Kline described the aquarium project the chapter helped fund with our Fisheries Grant.

Bryan Hayes talked about the John Richmond trout stream project estimated to cost about \$10,000. \$2500 of this project is being paid by John. \$500 has been approved by the chapter to help offset the costs of the project to John.

President Gritters explained the new budget procedures.

The newsletter has been formatted to be circulated electronically using Adobe Acrobat. A copy of the software needed to make this transition will be purchased.

Awards and Recognition - Scott Gritters

Greg Gelwicks was presented a plaque recognizing his service as Secretary/Treasurer.

Kevin Hanson was presented a plaque recognizing his work as Newsletter Editor.

Mike Steuck was presented a plaque recognizing his services as Chapter President.

Mark Flammang was recognized again for Best Paper.

New Business

President Gritters relayed to the members that the chapter will be losing money this year because of the lack of a formal annual meeting.

Discussion was held related to raising member annual dues from \$5 to \$10. President-elect Kirby discussed that raising the dues to \$10 didn't seem out of line when compared to other states. Tom Gengerke made a motion to raise annual chapter dues to \$10. Kay Hill seconded the motion. Discussion on student dues followed. A member suggested that with available funds maybe we don't need to raise dues. Members of the EXCOM noted that any changes would be affective September 1, 2004. Kay Hill made a motion to amend the original

motion and leave student dues at \$5. Tom Boland seconded the amendment. The vote to amend the motion carried unanimously. The amended motion, raising member annual dues to \$10 and student dues remaining at \$5 had no further discussion and the motion carried.

President Gritters discussed that the chapter had purchased Adobe Acrobat for the purpose of distribution of an electronic version of the newsletter.

\$500 remains in the habitat improvement budget. Applications are available.

The topic of officer term length tabled from earlier in the meeting was mentioned. Gary Siegwarth made a motion to double the length of term of the Iowa Chapter Officers. Discussion included some concern over the longer term length. Members mentioned there may be increased difficulty in getting member interested to run for officer positions. The motion failed to obtain a second. The motion failed.

President Gritters informed the members that the election for officers this year would be done by mail.

President-elect Kirby introduced the idea of the AFS "Road Show". It would be a way to get members together to do fisheries activities away from the job or classroom. The "Road Show" would take the form of a field day where members worked on a project such as a habitat improvement project, a stream project or an "adopt a cove" project on a lake. There was discussion related to making the work days during the week to improve membership participation.

President Gritters mentioned forming a committee to look at developing an Iowa Chapter AFS Web Page. Members were asked to volunteer to help look at options and develop a web page. Volunteers for the committee were Martin Conrad (Chair), Randy Shultz, Alan Johnson, Jeff Kopaska, and Mike Hawkins. Committee members were asked to find out details on cost and ways to keep costs down.

President Gritters explained P Firm. The National Chapter needed state chapter representatives to report on topics of propagated fish and resource management. The EXCOM asked members Don Kline, Mike Mason, and Kim Bogenschutz to represent our chapter.

Mike McGhee was asked to talk a little more about the opportunity to be a part of the resolution being drawn up by the Waterfowl Association of Iowa, a topic tabled from his committee report. President Gritters thought that it may be more efficient to allow the EXCOM time to prepare a resolution to be presented to the chapter for a vote at the next meeting. Mike Steuck suggested that we need to have the resolution drafted and ready to go so that when the timing is right we

can we can coordinate with other groups. President Gritters told the members that the EXCOM would work on the resolution.

Dan Kirby discussed the next meeting of the Iowa Chapter. The meeting could possibly be held in conjunction with the Wildlife Society and possibly the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Watershed issues would be one of the main themes. Ames will probably be the location of this meeting, tentatively scheduled for January or February of 2005.

The EXCOM did discuss the possibility of retrying a meeting with Missouri, but the feeling of the EXCOM was, there may be a better chance of holding the meeting in Ames.

President Gritters announced the winners of FBay. The winner of "Two Dogs in Some Field" was Dan Kirby. "Fairport Ancient Items" winner was Karen Auvles. "Blast from the Past" winner was Lannie Miller. The winner of the "Saw" was Andy Moore.

New Items

John Pitlo discussed the topic of 1/8 of 1% sales tax for Natural Resources. John made a motion for the EXCOM to explore the possibility of the Chapter to join the Iowa Conservation Alliance. Steve Waters seconded the motion. Past President Steuck asked, "If the EXCOM felt the Iowa Conservation Alliance's objectives and goals were in line with the Iowa Chapter mission and goals, do the members give the EXCOM permission to join the Iowa Conservation Alliance." It was relayed by several members that EXCOM's decision to join is implicit in the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Members were encouraged to participate in the silent auction.

Tom Gengerke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kay Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.