

**Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society EXCOM Meeting
17 January 2006
Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque, Iowa**

President Donna Muhm called the meeting of the Iowa Chapter (Chapter) Executive Committee (EXCOM) to order at 3:05 PM. Members attending were President Muhm, President Elect Mark Flammang, Past President Dan Kirby, Secretary/Treasurer Kim Bogenschutz, Mike Quist, Andy Jansen, Lewis Bruce, Alan Johnson, and Dray Walter.

President Muhm requested approval of the agenda. Past President Kirby motioned to approve the agenda, President Elect Flammang seconded it, and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Expenses

President Muhm and President Elect Flammang submitted invoices to Secretary/Treasurer Bogenschutz for meeting and raffle item expenses. The Chapter was requested to pay an estimated \$490 for four hotel rooms for student members attending the annual meeting. It was discussed that the bylaws allow the EXCOM to approve budget requests up to \$500 without a vote of the membership. There were no objections to paying the requested amount.

2007 Budget

President Muhm handed out the 2007 proposed budget (attached) and explained changes from the 2006 budget. Fundraiser income could increase to \$3000 because Student Subunit members can help sell items. That may also lead to increased spending to purchase more and/or larger items. Income from membership dues should increase this year because of a number of annual meeting attendees from the University of Iowa Hygenics Lab. There was discussion about the ISU scholarship. Mike Quist explained that we have followed the tradition of a university committee deciding on the recipient. Mike chairs the committee and facilitates the process. Criteria for eligibility are listed in the scholarship guidelines. This scholarship has always been a line item in the budget and is now in the bylaws; therefore, the process for awarding the scholarship will continue as is. The Joan Duffy travel award currently does not go through the ISU committee, and the North Central Division matches it with an additional \$100. Gary Siegwarth has \$400 yet to spend for the AFS fisheries grant he was awarded in 200?. Discussion followed as to whether there should be a deadline for project recipients to submit final payment requests. It was decided that grant funds should be spent within the fiscal year that they are awarded. Proposals are due January 1 and can be submitted up to the end of the fiscal year if all of the money is not allocated. No changes were requested for the proposed budget, and it was unanimously approved.

The budget year currently follows the calendar year but will follow the fiscal year (i.e., August 1-July 31) after the new bylaws are approved.

The question arose as to whether the student travel grant was for undergraduate students only. The intent of the grant is to cover expenses not covered by the university. It does not differentiate between graduate and undergraduate students.

Grant Request Approval

Only one fisheries grant application was submitted this year. Ben Dodd is requesting \$500 to research the reproductive biology of pondhorn mussels. It was unanimously approved to fund Ben's proposal. Discussion followed of past projects that were funded and what/who should be awarded funds. We need to advertise this grant opportunity to attract more potential applicants. The Student Subunit will help develop a pamphlet for distribution and posting on the Chapter website. The grant application form is on the Chapter website.

Old Business

None

New Business

President Muhm outlined ideas for additions to the Chapter website. One idea is to have an online scholarship donation form. The Chapter could then either use the donations directly or use them to set up a trust fund with the intent of using the interest from the trust fund for scholarships. It was decided to give this idea a try, put a donation form on the website, and use the donations directly. President Muhm also reviewed long range plans for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters on their websites and suggested we may want to consider drafting long range plans for our Chapter. Another idea for the website is to post 6-month DNR fisheries positions and the DNR Application for Temporary Employment because these positions can be difficult to fill.

Preparation for Business Meeting

Andy Jansen announced that the Student Subunit will be selling T-shirts for \$15 each. The T-shirts feature a Tomelleri smallmouth bass print. The Student Subunit plans on selling T-shirts featuring a different fish each year.

President Muhm indicated that raffle tickets will be \$1 a piece, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10 and can be placed in any prize bucket. We are using the Wisconsin Chapter's gambling permit.

There was discussion as to how many members would be required to vote on and approve the new bylaws at the business meeting. The current bylaws state that bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of approval by those members voting at the annual meeting. If passed, the new bylaws define a quorum as at least one-fifth of the Chapter membership for the previous calendar

year. If a quorum is not reached at the business meeting, official business may be conducted by unanimous vote of at least 20 members present and in good standing. When a quorum is present, decisions are by simple majority, except two-thirds majorities are required in special cases such as amending the bylaws.

Andy Jansen said that the Student Subunit would like to have presentations at their meetings. During the business meeting, he will request that Chapter members volunteer to give presentations. The Student Subunit would need about one month advance notice of such presentations to schedule and advertise the meeting. Andy will also request that Chapter members provide volunteer projects for Student Subunit members (e.g., gillnetting, habitat work, fishery renovations, watercraft inspections).

President Muhm said that she is going to look into getting a plaque and template for the best paper award ahead of time so that it can be printed and presented at the conclusion of the annual meeting. Secretary/Treasurer Bogenschutz suggested that we present a certificate for the best paper award at the end of the meeting this year. The plaque can then be ordered and presented later.

Mark Flammang reported that he is working on planning the 2007 annual meeting. It will be a joint meeting with the Nebraska and Kansas Chapters in Council Bluffs. He is currently looking for places to hold the meeting and said it will probably be at one of the casinos. Both the Nebraska and Kansas Chapters anticipate about 70 members to attend.

Past President Kirby motioned to adjourn, Secretary/Treasurer Bogenschutz seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.