

Notes from March 28, 1992 VA-AFS Business Meeting

I. Call to order

Paul Bugas called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Recognition of guests

No guests to recognize.

III. Determine quorum

Fifteen paid members in good standing were in attendance. A quorum was met.

IV. Approval of minutes from Big Meadows meeting

Paul Bugas read the minutes from the Big Meadows meeting. A motion was made by Mark Hudy to adopt the minutes as read, with a second by Mark King. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. President's report

Paul Bugas summarized Chapter activities during the past year:

- Paul submitted a packet to Southern Division AFS, nominating our Chapter for the Best Chapter Award. The award was made to the Florida and Virginia Tech Chapters.

- The Chapter contributed \$50 to the TWS-sponsored legislative breakfast held in early January for legislators and conservation groups. Bob Graham was sent to represent the Chapter. Bob indicated that the breakfast appeared to be of limited usefulness, potentially due, in part, to the lack of name recognition of the Chapter to the legislators. Bob further indicated that he felt we should continue to contribute and participate in this activity for at least several more years.

- The Chapter sent a letter in support of H.B. 347, sponsored by Delegate Thomas, which, if passed, would require a \$5.50 conservation stamp to be purchased by hunters, fishermen, and boaters. In his letter, Paul recognized the need for the money for capital outlay projects, indicated that anyone using state lands should be required to purchase this stamp, identified a need to prioritize expenditures if the bill was passed, and stressed the importance of no additional diversions of money from VDGIF. This bill did not make it out of committee.

- Paul mentioned H.B. 4, which concerned the posting of

streams. Because of the near-daily numerous changes to wording and positions of this bill, the Chapter was never able to prepare a letter in opposition to the bill. Fortunately, the measure was killed on the floor.

- Paul noted that the Izaak Walton League is sponsoring a "Save Our Streams" workshop May 9-11. Anyone interested in attending or finding out future information should contact Paul.

- Paul also briefly summarized the events at the summer meeting, held jointly with the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society at Smith Mountain Lake. At their February meeting in Charlottesville, the VA-TWS again expressed their interest in an informal joint meeting with our Chapter.

- Paul indicated that Bob Graham had been asked to represent the Chapter on the recently formed Advisory Board for the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries. This Board is composed of at least 50 individuals representing numerous conservation interests across the state. The Advisory Board has been formed to help the Department establish priorities in budgeting, conservation, and management activities, and provide a coalition for legislative support. Bob has attended one meeting, in which the group was introduced to the Department's programs.

- Paul announced the establishment of the Chapter's Awards Committee. This committee will be chaired by the immediate past-president, and will handle Chapter Service Awards, travel awards, Best Student Paper Awards, and any other awards. The first order of business will be to establish criteria for each category.

- Southern Division: Paul indicated that the Texas Chapter of AFS has already begun soliciting other chapters for funds to help offset the cost of an AFS-sponsored student social at the Southeastern meeting this year in Corpus Christi, TX. The purpose of this social is to provide an informal environment for fisheries students to meet and interact with other fisheries professionals. Discussion ensued concerning the request for funds, with Ron Southwick noting that the student socials in Virginia/West Virginia had been funded entirely by the state chapters. Don Orth suggested that we challenge the other chapters in the Division, but let the Texas Chapter primarily fund the activity.

- The recently-formed Alabama Chapter requested \$500 seed money from the Southern Division and was awarded this grant. Ed Steinkoenig briefly reported on the last Division ExCom/Technical Committee meeting, at which a proposal was made to expand the Division's midterm meeting to presentations and continuing education. Bill Kittrell said that a great deal of the opposition to this proposal

appeared to come from agency staff, who felt that this move might be seen as an attempt to get away from the SEAFWA, and that agency heads might not approval funds or travel to attend several big meetings. Don Orth further noted that this midterm meeting is often held near the time of our meeting, which could potentially deplete attendance at either or both meetings. Ed stated that one of the reasons this proposal was made was that the paper standards for the SEAFWA meetings were so stringent that there seemed to be no forum available for student papers. A number of members indicated that student papers ought to be presented at state chapter meetings.

- Parent Chapter: Paul briefly mentioned the FISH2 (Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat Too) program recently begun by the parent chapter. As he gets more details, he will pass them along to members. He also mentioned the big push by the parent chapter to sell raffle tickets for the national meeting prior to the meeting. He reminded members that 10% of the sales from chapter members comes back to the chapter.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Nominating Committee

Paul mentioned that Michael Odom had recently been elected as the chapter's President-Elect. He also indicated that the ExCom is trying to establish a nominating process. Paul noted that the current Secretary and Treasurer's positions will be ending this year. Anyone interested in being nominated should contact any of the officers.

B. Program Committee

Paul thanked Bob Graham, John Kauffman, and Michael Odom for the excellent job they have done putting together the past few programs.

C. Arrangements Committee

Paul thanked Mike Duval and Bill Kittrell for the work they've done in finding accommodations for our meetings, as well as getting great prizes donated for the chapter raffle.

D. Resolutions Committee

Paul indicated that the Committee had not done much to date. Mark Hudy mentioned that the chapter has an opportunity to comment to the GWNF management plan for support in the Forest's riparian work.

E. Environmental Affairs Committee

The Environmental Affairs Committee (John Kauffman, Sue Bruenderman, Art Bulger) met in Charlottesville on February 12. The committee members reviewed and defined the function of the committee, and discussed several major issues of concern. Letters for Paul Bugas' signature have been sent concerning water protection permits, Middle River water withdrawals, and Rivanna River sand dredging (especially as it relates to the historic distribution of James spiny mussel). The members are currently working on letters concerning power plant emissions. John stated that the committee would be willing to address any other issues that the membership had, but asked that individuals help them by preparing a good position paper to initiate the process. John said that a letter to David Whitehurst had also been prepared jointly by this chapter and the Virginia Tech chapter concerning the Elliotts Creek fish kill. Specifically, they requested that the money go back to the site for fencing, clean-up, or possible easement. Sue added that this kill will be addressed by the Water Control Board Monday, March 30. She noted that an easement has been worked out through the Virginia Outdoor Foundation to develop this area into a demonstration project (similar to Stroubles Creek in Blacksburg). Additional money may go into a Roanoke logperch re-colonization project. One concern noted was the current recovery costs per fish based on the available AFS guidelines (\$0.06/Roanoke logperch). David Whitehurst asked Noel Burkhead (USFWS-Gainesville) to re-evaluate the replacement cost for this species, which Noel determined to be \$54/fish. Ron Southwick mentioned that a resolution from the Pollution Committee will be going through the parent chapter to state fish and wildlife agencies asking states to adopt replacement guidelines currently being used by Texas. Ron asked that when this resolution does come out that the chapter support it. Paul stated that he had testified on the draft 401 permit for the proposed water intake on the Middle River. He said he voiced support of the conservation "triggers" requested by DGIF, and voiced opposition to other parts of the draft.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Joe Stoeckel reported that the Chapter had a balance of \$3,176.37 in the bank, and 65 paid members, prior to this meeting. At this meeting, \$395 was collected for registration, \$296 from the raffle, and \$45 from t-shirt sales. Three members also paid dues at this meeting.

Paul announced that the chapter had received a \$250 grant

from Anheuser-Busch. With the two \$1000 grants from Virginia Power and Coors Brewery, the chapter has now received \$2250 in grants. Joe asked the members to thank Paul for his efforts in contacting industries for this money.

VIII. Best Student Paper Award

John Kauffman announced that the Best Student Paper award would be finalized by next week. Since all of the student presenters at this meeting were from Virginia Tech, John stated that he would present the award (\$100) at the VT Chapter's April meeting.

There was some discussion concerning the manner in which the award should be made. Several members indicated that the award should be changed to a travel advance, or have some other stipulation attached to it to ensure that the money would be used for professional purposes. Other members indicated that there ought to be no stipulations, but that John should encourage the recipient in his award presentation to use the money for travel to a regional or national meeting. A motion was made by Mark Hudy to give the money to the recipient with no stipulations, and was seconded by Reese Voshell. The motion was passed by a majority of members, with 2 dissenting votes.

IX. Old business

- Paul mentioned that he had written again to Representatives Boucher and Olin in support of their support of the large rivers initiative currently in Congress. This initiative is designed to address fisheries management issues on large river systems, with some strong support for some emphasis on the Tennessee River system.

- Fund-raising: Paul stated that he has discussed with Bob Kendall (AFS) the possibility of the chapter marketing the soon-to-be-published Fishes of Virginia book by Bob Jenkins and Noel Burkhead. They are willing to give the chapter as many copies as we want with no money up front, with a 20% markdown. Paul noted that we could sell copies at a 10% markdown to others who won't get AFS discounts (e.g., VDOT) and make some profit (minus shipping costs). Ron Southwick indicated that the Chicago Herp Society has a similar discount book sales program and it is a huge fund-raiser. Paul said that we need to draft a short marketing plan to send to Bob.

X. Officer installation

A. President-elect: Paul recognized Michael Odom as the chapter's new president-elect.

B. President: Paul recognized Bob Graham as the chapter's new president, and handed the gavel over to Bob.

XI. New business

- David Grimes initiated a discussion about hydro-power re-licensing. He stressed that it is very important for outside groups such as ours to give FERC input when projects come up for re-licensing, since that only happens once every 30-50 years. Dave specifically mentioned that Roanoke Rapids and Gaston Dam are due to be re-licensed in 2001. Bob Graham noted that Virginia Power is looking into a task force to address this issue, and tie-ins to instream flow issues. DuBose Eggleston said that T.U. has been very involved in the re-licensing process, with 10 projects in Virginia coming due by 2000. Bud LaRoche recommended that our chapter work with the Tidewater and North Carolina chapters to address these two specific projects. Dave will develop a position paper for the Environmental Affairs Committee.

- Mike Duval expressed some concern about how DGIF funds are allocated internally, and the possible role the chapter might have in trying to effect a change in the direction these funds are being spent. Several members indicated that Bob might try to work this concern into the Advisory Board. Don Orth suggested that the membership draft a fact sheet of aquatic resource priority needs and comparisons with other states. Bob will draft a letter to legislators introducing our chapter and Virginia's fisheries to them, and include a position on long-term education of students in fisheries and aquatic ecology (money being critical for this).

- The next formal meeting of the chapter will be held jointly with the Tidewater Chapter. The meeting will be January 14-16, 1993, in conjunction with the Tidewater Chapter's 2-day anadromous alosids symposium. The meeting will be in Virginia Beach, with accommodations made at \$45/night. Separate business meetings will be held, with some non-alosid papers, on the remaining day. A motion was made by Paul Bugas, with a second from Michael Odom, to accept the Tidewater Chapter's proposal, and was unanimously passed by the membership.

-Bob noted that Eric Hallerman had given him a position statement concerning the restriction of raising and releasing genetically altered fish in Virginia. This statement will be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee, and will be published in the next newsletter.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.