

Minutes of the board meeting, Alabama Section of AWRA January 14, 2008

Prepared by: Ashley McVicar

The meeting was held at Walter Bryan Jones Hall at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL. Attending were Marlon Cook, Milt Ward, George Marodis, Sabra Sutton, and Ashley McVicar. Brian Atkins was not able to attend the meeting.

Financial Report

Milt mentioned he had not received a bank statement since July of 2007. Sabra provided a copy of the Financial Report for 8/1/2007 – 11/30/2007. The bank statement for September was never received. Some transactions were made during that time period and an effort to obtain a copy of the statement will be made. Auburn has direct deposited the check from the Symposium. As of that deposit there is \$5,874.00 in the account and we are currently up to date on all payments. Marlon will ask Dennis about the funds from the Symposium being less than historical when attendance was so much higher.

We will need to solicit sponsors beforehand for the 2008 symposium. Marlon suggested continuing to allow John Morris to gather sponsors as well as organize the seafood festival. Marlon will invite John to future meetings to keep him in the loop.

Milt mentioned that he and Sabra needed to go to the bank in order to transfer signature authority to her as Treasurer. They planned to do this after the meeting adjourned.

Marlon mentioned that our main expenses are as follows:

- AWRA Symposium and Seafood Festival
- Condo's for students at the conference
- Pay for president to travel to National AWRA conference
- Website Improvements

General Updates

Marlon attended the National AWRA conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2007. He made contact with the new President, Jane Rowan. She expressed interest in having a closer relationship with the state sections and Marlon offered to let her come and speak at our conference this fall. She also mentioned that the Florida section is hosting the National meeting for 2008 in New Orleans. She said they needed help and Marlon offered our help in that planning process. Marlon will contact Jane again to offer our assistance as well as to talk about the link to the State section website.

We will discuss possible website improvements at next meeting when Brian Atkins can be present.

Conference and Symposium Planning

The conference will be held September 3, 4, and 5th 2008 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. The Vice President is in charge of planning the Symposium each year. We also help Dennis Block in organizing the remainder of the Conference. There is a planning meeting January 25th in Auburn to begin organization of this year's Conference. Board members are encouraged to attend. We need to discuss the possibility of a joint conference with Mississippi and what our role would be.

Milt suggested the Symposium topic be Wetlands and Bottomland Hardwood Restoration. Sabra and Marlon suggested Eve Brantley to be a speaker as she is the leading wetland and stream restoration experts in the state. There was a suggestion that Eve may be able to get Greg Jennings from North Carolina State University to do a presentation. Some other possibilities are John Shill with the DOT's wetland program as well as Mike Moxley and Andrea Wade from the Corps of Engineers Mitigation Bank Review Team.

Marlon suggested there be 5 speakers total.

Student Housing for the 2007 conference went up to approximately \$2,300 for 4 condos and 15 students. We had budgeted \$2,000. There is also an issue with being able to rent a condo if you are under 25. Another concern that Milt had to address was balancing out the gender in the units rented. It was suggested we look at a block of 8 rooms at the hotel. Marlon can discuss this with Dennis at the planning meeting. We would then be able to accommodate 16 students for approximately \$1,600. There would have to be a deadline set and the students would have to go through us to get their reservations made.

Membership

Membership is attained by registration for the Symposium/Conference. Ashley will send 2007 list of attendees as well as the certificate template to George to aid with 2008 planning. Kay Stone will send out a list of attendees just before the conference in order to get the certificates printed and put in the packets at the conference. George will need to get with Kay later this summer to discuss this.

The next meeting date is TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.