



LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
Annual General Membership/Board Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2012

1. Call to Order and Calling of Roll: Executive Director/Board Chairman, Chris Holmes called the meeting to order and also conducted roll call, with the secretary recording board members present and absence.

Present; 4:00 P.M.

(Executive Board):

President Lyle Johnson

Vice President Joe Macaluso

Secretary John Flores

Chairman of Board/Executive Director Chris Holmes

(Board of Directors):

Dave Moreland – (Board Member & Youth Hunter of the Year Committee Chair)

Bo Boehringer (Internal Awards Committee Chair)

Gerald Gaspard – Supporting Member Liaison Board Member

Rusty Tardo (Board Members & Nominations Committee Chairman)

Gordon Hutchinson (Youth Journalism Chair)

Helmut Ermlich (Board Member)

Absent:

Bill Ford – Fish Records Committee Chair

Don Dubuc – Ethics Committee Chair

Wendy Billiot – (Board Member & Membership Committee Chair)

James “Goosie” Guice – Board Member

2. Reading of minutes of last meeting:

Joe Macaluso made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by **Gerald Gaspard**. All members were in favor. None opposed.

3. Executive Director and Financial Report:

Executive Director Chris Holmes, reported the following financials to the board:

LOWA BANKING REPORT APRIL 2012

Interest 2011:	\$74.74
Interest 2012 to date:	\$11.18
Checking Account Balance*	\$2,441.54
Money Market Balance:	\$12,908.74
Total:	<u>\$15,350.28</u>

*Reflected in Balance

YHA Surplus	\$1,214.52
EIC 2012 Sponsor Deposit	\$700.00
Total	<u>\$1,914.52</u>

Actual LOWA Balance \$13,435.76

Vice President **Joe Macaluso** made the motion to accept the financials as read; the motion was seconded by **Gordon Hutchinson**. There was no further discussions; all board members present were in favor, with none opposed.

4. Presidents Report:

President Lyle Johnson, had nothing to report to the board at the spring meeting.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Youth Journalism – Gordon Hutchinson:

Gordon Hutchinson reported the Advocate was running ads for promoting the YJC Program each Sunday in April through its May 11, 2012 Deadline.

Chris Holmes reported that YJC income was \$1,100 and expenses were \$975 for prizes, \$210 for banquet compensations, and \$20 for certificates. In addition to these expenses

the committee donates \$500 to the Advocate for Education Budget leaving a total expense to revenue a -\$605. The numbers were provided for budget purposes.

B. Internal Awards – Mr. Bo Boehringer:

Mr. Boehringer Issued revised rules for 2012 along with a review of the confirmed sponsors for EIC this year. Reported that the book category will be part of the 2012 EIC awards for 2012. And, reviewed the general rules, guidelines and deadlines with the board that will be e-mailed to all LOWA members. The board also discussed various financial categories and the amounts of awards with various suggestions for changes in the future to improve sponsorships, by lessening the burden. Mr. Boehringer also informed the board that 2012 would be his last year serving as the Internal Award Chairman.

C. Membership Committee Report – Wendy Billiot

Mrs. Billiot was unable to attend the board meeting, but did submit a written report to Chris Holmes. Her report, as read by Holmes stated, “the Membership audit was conducted via e-mail in November 2011. No one was disqualified for lack of qualifications. The audit went better than the previous year. The folks that did not respond or choose to not provide proof of qualifications were Chris Ginn and John Jackson. As everyone knows, we lost a valued member in Charles Frank. We had four new members. According to the new directory list we have 45 active members.

D. Ethics Report – Don Dubuc:

Don Dubuc was not present at the general membership meeting but did send in a report and said there were no ethics violations or issues to discuss at the present time.

E. Conservation Awards – Chris Holmes reminded the board that there currently is no Chairman for this committee, or any present awards being considered pending. Moreover, neither is required annually.

Lyle Johnson made a motion that LOWA award a Bob Dennie Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously to honor Mr. Charles Frank and present it to Jean Frank, Charles’ wife, at the annual conference in August; the motion, was seconded by Gordon Hutchinson with the full board present in favor.

F. Fish Records Committee – Mr. Bill Ford:

Bill Ford was not present at the meeting, but submitted a report to **Chris Holmes** stating, “As far as fish records are concerned, we have been pretty slow with just a few entries for the year so far. We could use an annual “push” by our fellow members with articles about the records and how the public can be part of them.

On another note, LDWF has repeatedly tried to schedule a meeting with fish record committee members, but every time we get one together, they have canceled at the last minute. It got really frustrating. LDWF’s Mandy Tumlin (Randy Pausina) told us after canceling the last time that she would get something to us in writing about suggestions they (LDWF) have to enhance our records – nothing from them as of yet (it’s been over a month). Jerald seems to think they might want to take them over. We will wait what they come up with, and I’ll be sure to keep all the Board members updated on this. We also need to consider Butch Thurmond’s comments about LOWA charging too much to be in the records, and that many states offer a fish records program for free. I’m pretty sure an equal number of states charge a fee. I think in the odd thirty years I’ve been associated with LOWA this rears its ugly head every seven years or so. I guess the general membership needs to address this once again. I know we (LOWA) can’t do it for free. If you guys deem it necessary, one of you can call me and we can do a “conference” call over somebody’s I-phone.”

Holmes provided a financial for the Fish Record Committee for 2011. The records had 23 entries at \$25 per entry totaling \$575 dollars. Expenses for the year were plaques for fish of the year, certificates, posters and Chariman’s stipend for a total of \$553.86 and a net balance of \$24.14.

Fish committee member Joe Macaluso reported that the two new species are the Long-nose Gar and Channel Mullet.

G. Nominations Committee – Mr. Rusty Tardo:

Tardo was present at the meeting, but had no report. However, Holmes reminded the board that 2012 is an election year with all board positions open. President, Lyle Johnson suggested an e-mail be sent out to the full membership to announce this year’s elections and request consideration to serve.

H. Craft Improvement Committee – Joe Macaluso

Joe Macaluso reviewed with the board three potential craft improvement sessions he is working on for the upcoming annual conference. He has locked in Clay Morris from

Berkley to come and discuss tackle changes with a focus on lines and the adaptations pertaining to the who, what, where and how concerning to the new products.

Macaluso said he is also looking into the PEW Trust to come in to provide an update on the BP Oil Spill and some of the studies they've been doing on pelagic species of fish (i.e.: blue fin tuna, yellow fin tuna, etal) in the gulf.

Also, looking into an update on the progress of the Vanishing Paradise initiatives at the national level from representatives from the NWF.

I. Supporting Member Committee – Mr. Gerald Gaspard:

Mr. Gerald Gaspard stated he had nothing to report to the board at this time.

J. Youth Hunter of the Year Program Committee – Mr. Dave Moreland:

Mr. Moreland reported to the board that he is receiving applications for the 2012 Youth Hunter of the Year Awards and a press release has been sent out by the LDWF.

Additionally, the application for the awards program is available on the LDWF Website. Deadline for this year's entries is June 30.

6. Old Business:

A. Lyle Johnson brought up previous discussions on developing a Youth Fisherman of the Year Awards program. According to Johnson, CCA has some interest in sponsoring something of this nature. Holmes indicated the budget would be something similar to what currently is happening with the Youth Hunter of the Year Awards program. Johnson will continue to look into developing this program.

7. New Business:

A. Fish Records:

Mr. Holmes received an e-mail from LOWA member Butch Thurmond concerning the high cost of applying for a new fish record (Note: Currently \$25 for an application fee) asking the board to discuss the condition.

Joe Macaluso, the lone fish committee member present at the spring meeting agreed, sighting past history concerning the topic, moreover, how the fee prohibits fish from being entered. Additionally, Macaluso mentioned there was interest out there discussed concerning the LDWF's interest in taking over the fish records program. However, Macaluso sighted that LOWA consistently has done a good job with the records. What's more, felt the LDWF should have access to all of the records and should promote the

records program on their website on how to apply for a fish record. And, with today's electronic capabilities there is no need for the current costs to apply to be this high.

Lyle Johnson brought up that the LOWA By-laws state that rules are developed by the various Committees' Chairman and suggested the committee members lobbied the chairman, where the fish committee could make changes and not the general membership.

Macaluso, discussed the possibility of obtaining someone like Cabelas to sponsor the fish records to offset costs associated with the program.

Holmes reviewed the fish record program's budget numbers that includes the Fish Committee Chairman's stipend, and associated awards fees.

Macaluso also suggested the possibly having an LDWF representative appointed by the secretary to serve as a member of the Fish Records Committee. Macaluso reiterated that LOWA may have the second longest standing fish records behind only Minnesota in the country – that LOWA's records go back to the 50s.

Holmes viewed the discussions as ultimately having the Fish Record Committee look into ways to fund the program and partner with the LDWF in ways beneficiary to both organizations. Moreover, the LOWA Fish Records are now current and electronically up to date and available to all on the website.

B. New members and supporting members:

Holmes reminded the board to encourage those interested in becoming active members or supporting or sponsoring members to join LOWA and pass along contacts to him and he would be glad to follow up.

C. 2012 Annual Conference:

Received two (2) bids for this year's annual conference – St. Bernard Parish, Chalmette and Lafayette. The date of the conference is August 10/11, 2012.

Holmes reviewed the conference packages with board members along with fishing and shooting opportunities, plus entertainment offered by the CVBs, and tours.

Rusty Tardo made a motion to select Chalmette for the 2012 Annual LOWA conference site and Lafayette in 2013. Gordon Hutchinson seconded the motion. All board members were in favor.

D. Joe Macaluso spoke with Mike Mensman, who is the Executive Director of America Sport-fishing Association, in consideration of being the annual banquet's keynote speaker.

E. Joe Macaluso will keep everyone informed of the Fish Records decisions as they progress.

Adjourned – 9 P.M.

