

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALASKA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
The University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, AK  
26-27 January 2007

The first annual meeting of the Alaska Entomological Society was held at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks on 26 & 27 January 2007. Interim president James Kruse called the meeting to order at 6 PM Friday, 26 January. Five or more guests and 16 or more members attended the meeting. Minutes below were taken during the business meeting held 9am-12pm Sat 27 Jan 2007.

15 members were in attendance for the business meeting:

Jim Kruse  
Kenelm Philip  
Matthew Bowser  
Dominique Collet  
Alberto Pantoja  
Ken Zogas  
John Lundquist  
Cynthia Snyder  
Roger Burnside  
John Sprankle  
Mark Schultz  
Aaron Hagerly  
Dennis Fielding  
Prentiss Adkins  
Derek Sikes

James Kruse presiding stated the Secretary & Treasurer were absent. James Kruse asked for a volunteer to take fill in for the Secretary. Derek Sikes volunteered.

Treasurer's report: James Kruse delivered the Treasurer's report: current balance \$857.43. Expenses from first meeting: estimated to be around \$200 - final amount to be added later [these amounted to \$184.91 for cash bar & cheese & crackers Friday night & \$135.60 for Sat breakfast of coffee, tea, juice & muffins = \$320.51]

James reported on the society: the address of the society is with the museum & was thankful for the affiliation. The current membership stands at 25 people. There are 52 people on the AKEnt network listserv - James Kruse wants to encourage people to join listserv if people are currently not on it. Noted there is duplication between AKES email list and the AKEnt listserv.

**Motion to have one email listserv to eliminate redundancy, first: Prentiss Adkins, 2nd: Matthew Bowser, passed unanimously.**

James Kruse will delete the 2nd collection of email address so all AK entomologists will be on only one list. List etiquette was discussed among members with a suggestion that members post answers to questions to the list so everyone sees the answers - an alternative suggestion was for the person to post a summary of private responses to the list.

Membership note: a benefactor, Christian Thompson, a systematic Dipterist at the USNM gave the society a \$250 donation to start a fund to use as membership saw fit. James Kruse stated our current bank can't set up endowment - right now this money mixed with general fund. Derek Sikes proposed some ideas for the fund: a student travel award, a best student talk award, an award to a youth in the public for a science fair project on insects. James Kruse would like the money to go to student travel. Mark Schultz explained endowments. One needs a large amount to start & use only the income from the interest. It was proposed the society could name the fund after C. Thompson. Roger Burnside discussed nonprofit status for local chapter. James Kruse will contact ESA to ask about local society information. Matthew Bowser commented that due to our unique geopolitical nature we might ask ESA who we should be affiliated with? He suggested possibly BSC (Bio Surv Canada) and the Canadian Ent. Soc. because biologically we belong to Canada. James Kruse will talk to ESA first & then possibly ESC and report in a month or two.

Agenda item:- Ratification of the Constitution & By laws - James Kruse changed the topic to the society by-laws as posted on the website & displayed in the back of the room: He asked if everyone has seen it? - He suggested the term 'nonprofit' be dropped from the constitution / bylaws because it is a strictly defined legal term. Proposed a change in wording to educational organization. Dominique Collet stated that the word science also be added & connecting to general public - comment that we are not just education. James Kruse commented that lots of amateur (& that he dislikes this term) entomologists exist, that are better called avocational entomologists, Dave Guinn is sensitive about this. Derek Sikes proposed the wording - "to promote entomological science & education" & point made that "science" covers those paid & nonpaid to do entomology (in response to discussion about emphasizing avocational entomologist & encouraging them).

James Kruse made a request for more comments on goals. Kenelm Philip recommended checking documents for Lep Soc. James Kruse replied that our bylaws are written from 4-5 different ent socs and the Lep Soc has been mined for verbage already.

John Lundquist commented that the first goals we have are what strategic planners call a "mission statement" - which some groups spend weeks tinkering with. Proposal to form an ad hoc committee of John Lundquist, James Kruse, Dominique Collet & Matthew Bowser to work on the preamble / mission statement. The name and acronym of the society was discussed.

**Motion to formalize society acronym to the four letters 'AKES,' first: Dominique Collet, 2nd: Kenelm Philip, passed unanimously.**

**Motion on the subject that the Constitution is not ratified and that ratification will take place by email. First: Alberto Pantoja, 2nd: Prentiss Adkins, passed unanimously.**

Agenda item: Logo -Discussion started on the society logo. James Kruse described the logo. Dominique Collet did the artwork. It is currently on the society webpage. Image of state with state insect. James Kruse solicited comments on alternatives? Derek Sikes commented on the text of the logo being hard to read on the webpage - displayed logos on screen for comments. Matthew Bowser & James Kruse commented on having words on top of the logo, and "est. 2006" at bottom? This was left hanging. The website was viewed & it was suggested we change the logo to color for website, and change AES to AKES on webpages.

**Motion to defer final vote on logo. First Matthew Bowser, 2nd: Mark Schultz, passed unanimously.**

Agenda item: Website: The subject of using paypal for membership payments was raised by James Kruse. Matthew Bowser reported on several ecommerce options, paypal being easy & low cost, no initiation fees, only % per interaction. For transactions between 0-\$3000 they take 2.9% + 0.30.

Prentiss Adkins commented that we could tell potential donors about the extra cost if they want, optionally to pay the extra amount. A weblink sends people to paypal & uses their secure website & then links back to our site. Derek Sikes asked about receipt - Matthew Bowser & Prentiss Adkins replied an email confirmation receipt is sent.

**Motion to use paypal for society membership, treasurer will set this up with help from webmaster. First: Derek Sikes, 2nd Prentiss Adkins, passed unanimously.**

Website report - Matthew Bowser, acting webmaster, reported we could have gone for a free website but didn't due to content constraints and other issues. Our website costs \$3/month, \$34.88/yr. This solution can do databases, can do emails. Matthew uses his personal credit card & gets reimbursed by society. Asked can society get it's own credit card or check card? Kruse asked if webservice site can pull from same account that paypal puts into. Hosting company - can they get paid automatically from our bank account? Kruse commented that if we could set up an auto payment between the webhost & our bank so the treasurer doesn't have to keep track as treasurer changes year to year.

**Motion to keep our current website & its costs for hosting. First, Prentiss Adkins, 2nd: Alberto Pantoja, passed unanimously.**

Mark Schultz asked about other members making changes to the webpage. Matthew explained that it is easy to change & designed to make it simple. But do we need society approval to add links etc? This was discussed and suggested that there should be no need for a formal review process but Matthew will email members if he has questions about a certain type of link etc. James Kruse suggested it would be best to have website controlled by one or two webmasters rather than give total group access.

**Motion to have webmaster responsible for changes without committee approval with 2 webmasters: Matt Bowser & Roger Burnside - Mark Schultz addendum - major structural changes to site should be run by the president - final decision with president. First: Mark Schultz, 2nd Prentiss Adkins, passed unanimously.**

John Lundquist asked if we could have counters on the website? Matthew said, "that could be added." John Lundquist asked what is the best use of the site? Other sites offer information- Attract interest of visitors? Glitzy marketing tool to grab interest? James Kruse - wanted basic links, ESA, ESC, agency sites, etc. Mark Schultz suggested that we see that the Univ. Ohio links page is linked by us so we aren't duplicating effort. Derek Sikes commented have AK specific links - few & good, and also link to larger link page.

Derek Sikes suggested that we might target visiting entomologists, perhaps a separate link? "Coming to AK?" portion, Sikes suggested like ESAB (Ent Soc of Alberta) maybe we should have regional directors responsible for different regions for visitors to contact if visiting that region. These would annually report on the entomological activity in their region. Derek Sikes suggested that Kenelm Philip's paper on collecting legally in AK could be posted as a PDF. Kenelm Philip commented that it could be done but would need to be cleaned up first. Matthew Bowser stated that there are many other similar ideas of things to do with the website such as a contact list of members, with expertise & research interests. John Lundquist recommended not inviting visitors to contact us explicitly due to time constraints on our part. Roger Burnside emphasized our volunteer nature, and that we don't want to overwhelm our workload. Kenelm Philip commented that he is listed in Lep Soc Directory as a contact for Alaska & he gets 5 inquiries /yr about visiting & collecting here, which he finds acceptable. James Kruse cut discussion short to keep to schedule.

break: 10:45-10:55

Agenda item - newsletter / bulletin: James Kruse solicited comments on the Newsletter - should it be annual? It's lots of work & is it worth it? Matthew Bowser & Kenelm Philip commented that it's a good way to announce news stories accurately. John Lundquist recommended we have a poster to post or flier to hand out at ESA, to get news out about our society.

**Motion for an informational flier - First: John Lundquist, 2nd Matthew Bowser, passed unanimously.** Dominique Collet will do layout after words done by others. Prentiss Adkins & Cyndi Snyder & John Lundquist agreed to be on a flier ad hoc committee.

Returning to the issue of the newsletter James Kruse suggested 1 or 2 per year. Solicit articles via email. Perhaps list new AK entomology papers - if seen we should email the citation to James Kruse. An archive of newsletters is on web - link to word docs (Matthew said these can be converted to PDF).

Agenda item: Alaska Reference Collection System & Coordination - discussion. James Kruse et al realized there was no name for a variety of collections in the state. 3 US forest service collections & AK DNR collection, and the Cooperative extension service. The "Bigbug" database is of these collections. James Kruse would like to expand the AK Ref System to all collections through the state. John Lundquist added that the USDA forest service collections large & valuable. Dominique Collet stated that smaller collections exist that we don't know about. Derek Sikes commented that traditionally collections are known by names / acronyms that correspond to each actual collection - if a single name was used to refer to multiple collections this could result in confusion of which collection a specimen belonged to. He recommended that if we use a system of linked collections it should be for internal use only to facilitate loans and cooperations but not to appear to the outside world that there is only one (umbrella?) collection in the state (split / housed among multiple locations). Discussion of the future of the AK Reference Collection System was not brought to completion.

**Motion - Towards the goal of facilitating communications and knowledge about various collections of arthropods in AK Derek Sikes volunteered to database AK collections (not the specimens!). Derek Sikes will send emails to solicit information & build a database of contact information and collection descriptions etc . This will result in a directory of our regional collections. First - Sikes, 2nd Alberto, passed unanimously.**

During discussion of this motion John Lundquist suggested perhaps a committee be formed to consider the various issues that are involved in databasing these collections. Derek Sikes asked what sort of issues these might be & John Lundquist replied explaining issues of data & legal cases - this indicated that a misunderstanding of the goal of the proposal had occurred. The proposal was to database the existence of the collections, not to database the contents of the collections, Derek explained.

Agenda item: Databasing Alaska's insects: James Kruse asked Derek Sikes to start discussion on this topic. Derek Sikes described his efforts to compile a checklist of AK nonmarine arthropods - Matthew Bowser supported the idea & suggested that Sikes formally solicit help from others. Derek Sikes explained that there was far more to discuss than we had time for right now - and there were at least two large categories to think about: (1) data quality and (2) data format. The first was an issue, he explained, in that we all want the highest quality data possible but we also know that time and other limitations prevent us from achieving this goal - we would need to discuss what our priorities are and what we could do to achieve them. The second item was more an issue concerning data sharing- if we are going to coordinate on producing a single checklist of species backed by vouchered specimens or literature records we will need to be able to share data readily - to accomplish this we'll need to start using standardized field names and field formats. Derek Sikes provided the example that some might have 'genus' & 'specific epithet' in one field and others might have these data split into two fields. Agreeing to all use the same schema or format would simplify all data exchange efforts.

Agenda item: Officer Nominations: (12:00)

**John Lundquist nominated James Kruse to be president.**

Current Directors: Dominique Collet, Derek Sikes

**Dominique Collet nominated Derek Sikes for secretary**

**James Kruse nominated Matthew Bowser for VP**

James Kruse then solicited nominations for treasurer.

Prentiss Adkins volunteers for Treasurer. But added he may be leaving state.

**John Lindquist nominated Roger Burnside for secretary-** he agreed with mandatory requirement that when checks are deposited in Fairbanks he will be emailed & told.

**Ken Zogas was nominated as a director**

**James Kruse nominated Dominique as a director**

**Prentiss Adkins nominated Mark Schultz as director**

Dominique Collet suggested there be a regional director

John Lundquist suggested there be 3 directors (one for each region) and one at large, 4 total.

**James Kruse nominated Kenelm Philip for central director**

**motion to vote the whole slate, first: Alberto Pantoja, Cynthia Snyder 2nd, passed unanimously.**

The first annual meeting of the AKES adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Derek S. Sikes, Secretary