

## **Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes**

**February 8, 2013**

**Nashville, Tennessee**

The 2013 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1716 hrs by President Brian Murphy. Secretary/Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Murphy recognized the current SDAFS officers; Mike Allen, President-Elect; John Jackson, Vice-President; Steve Lochmann, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Murphy recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Jeff Boxrucker, Charles Coutant, Cecil Jennings, Pat Mazik, Steve McMullin, Larry Olmstead, and Larry Wilson. Murphy introduced AFS President John Boreman.

**AFS President John Boreman's Remarks:** President Boreman mentioned recently attending several subunit meetings (e.g. Texas, Arkansas, and North Carolina Chapters; North Carolina State Student-Subunit). AFS will hold its annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, 8 – 12 September 2013, which will include 28 symposia. “Preparing for the Challenges Ahead” will be the meeting theme. The Society is searching for a new Executive Director, as Gus Rassam's contract ends at the conclusion of the annual meeting. President Boreman briefed the Division on the search and hiring process. He provided updates on three special committees appointed during his tenure. First, the Governing Board discussed strategies to provide more efficient and effective governance by paring it down to a more manageable number. A committee is currently studying this task and will report back to the Governing Board with recommendations for organizational change. A second committee, chaired by Second Vice President Ron Essig, was appointed to investigate educational requirements for professional certification, congruence between academic curricula and professional hiring needs, and identifying/cataloging North American fisheries science institutions of higher learning. The third committee, chaired by Julie Clausen, will investigate scientific communications and social media to determine optimal means to disseminate our science externally to the public. Additional activities have included upgrading member web services, reinstating Capitol briefings, looking into hiring of a professional meeting planner for annual meetings, and completing a salary survey (will be published in the March issue of *Fisheries*) of fisheries professionals. President Boreman closed by thanking the Division for the meeting invitation.

**President Murphy's Address:** President Murphy introduced and welcomed the contingent from the new Puerto Rico Chapter: Miguel Antonio Garcia, Interim President and Director of Fisheries and Wildlife; Craig Lilyestrom, Director of Aquatic Resources; Maria de Lourdes Olmeda, Hatchery Manager; and Vilmary Roman, Program for Education in Aquatic Resources.

He updated the members on his Plan of Work, including highlights from the “3 Cs” (i.e. Chapters, Committees, and Communication). Under chapters, Murphy mentioned the establishment of new subunits (e.g. Puerto Rico Chapter and Austin Peay University Student-Subunit) and Division officers attending all but one chapter meeting during the past year. The Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee reactivated under Mark Thurman's leadership. Murphy solicited feedback from agency fisheries chiefs on shaping committee work priorities. The EXCOM voted to make several procedural changes to enhance the ability of committees to establish quorums, conduct business by synchronous electronic participation, and extending appointments to 2-year terms (see EXCOM meeting minutes). For communications, a new

Division logo was created by Patrick Cooney and accepted by the membership. A new website was developed. Former webmaster Jerry Finke retired, and Gloria Schoenholtz assumed the role under a paid arrangement due to the rigorous demands of new website development and content migration. Murphy acknowledged Jared Flowers who served as interim webmaster of the old site during the transition. Gloria will be available to assist Division subunits with migrating web site content over to the new WordPress platform and/or attaching their websites to the Division host server and domain. Also within communications, three options for web-conferencing were developed by Craig Bonds and Michelle Klopfer and reported to the Division. This report will be made available on the Division website. At the EXCOM meeting (see minutes), two proposals were reviewed that would 1) change the bylaws to add a student representative to the EXCOM and 2) remove the requirement that bylaws changes must be posted in the newsletter (allowing dissemination among members through a variety of distribution channels). These proposed changes will be presented for membership review in the next newsletter (conforming to current bylaws constraints) and vote at the 2014 business meeting.

Murphy noted a student luncheon will be held Sunday (February 10). At this luncheon, Steve McMullin will talk with them about leadership in AFS, and a discussion will be held among students and Division officers concerning the future of the Student Colloquium.

Murphy discussed his latest newsletter address specific to his confessed bird-watching passion, and encouraged others to share their interests with each other. He closed with a warning to incoming President Allen that his next year of service would be a “wild ride” (those not present missed the projected photo of Mike Allen riding a bear; written minutes can’t possibly do proper justice to that image).

**Secretary-Treasurer Bonds’ Report:** Minutes from the 2012 Biloxi Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Charles Coutant) and the 2012 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds presented the 2012 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year (note: the financial statement is a report and does not require a motion for approval). Bonds noted the Division 2011 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15<sup>th</sup> reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2013 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported the Audit Committee completed their audit on 10 January 2013, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Tom Holman) to approve the 2013 budget. Motion passed.

**President-Elect Allen’s Chapter Activity Report:** Highlights from the various state chapters and their student-subunits, as reported in the EXCOM Briefing Book, were summarized. The Arkansas Chapter will be hosting the AFS Annual Meeting in Little Rock 8 – 12 September 2013. Past-President Lochmann invited all to attend the meeting. Several chapters hosted continuing education workshops at their meetings (e.g. Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). The Mississippi Chapter is reimbursing the final payment of \$3,000 back to the Division for donations it made to the Chapter after the Hurricane Katrina devastation. Stephen Brown, Tom Holman, and Dennis Riecke presented the check and a letter of appreciation to President Murphy. South Carolina Chapter will host the 2014 Division Meeting 23 – 26 January at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston. The West Virginia Chapter hosted a joint meeting with the Ohio Chapter. The Florida Chapter is bidding to host the 2017 AFS Annual Meeting.

**Vice President John Jackson's Technical Committee Report:** The Alligator Gar Committee, chaired by Lee Holt, held a gar aging workshop at Nichols State University and another workshop at the 2012 Division meeting. The Aquaculture Committee, chaired by David Deaton, maintains a hatchery listserv to promote exchange of information among hatchery managers. The Catfish Management Committee, chaired by Bob Greenlee, held a catfish sampling workshop at the 2012 Division meeting. The Non-Game Aquatics Committee was resurrected under the leadership of Mark Thurman. They plan to meet at this meeting to plan for a possible symposium at the 2014 Division meeting relating to State Wildlife Action Plans. The Reservoir Committee, chaired by Kurt Kuklinski, continues to work with the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership to assist with project selection criteria and reservoir impairment assessments. They held their summer meeting at Lake Texoma where they worked on updating their habitat manual. Small Impoundments Committee, chaired by Wes Neal, completed their textbook project, *Small Impoundment Management in North America*, which is currently for sale through the Society. The Striped Bass Committee, chaired by Tim Churchill, will complete their reference book project, *Biology and Management of Inland Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass*, this year. The Trout Committee, chaired by Matt Sell, hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop at Frostburg State University. During the previous year, the Warmwater Streams Committee awarded Laurie Early of Auburn University the Jimmy Pigg Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award and continued with a variety of activities.

**President Murphy's Standing Committee Report:** Murphy recognized Dennis Riecke as long-time chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Tennessee Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Dave Rizzuto, General Meeting Chair; Phil Bettoli and Frank Fiss, Program Co-Chairs; and Bobby Wilson, Fundraising Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2013 meeting. Riecke made a motion, and seconded by Lochmann, to pass the resolution. Motion carried.

Riecke presented a resolution on Federal Funding for Implementation of the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States. The resolution was presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2011 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment, received one editorial comment to change a date) and approved by the EXCOM to bring before the membership for consideration. Motion was made (Gene Gilliland) to accept the resolution and seconded (Larry Wilson). Jim Rice inquired as to whether the "...” in the third paragraph was intentional or a typo. Riecke stated the "...” represented a non-substantive verbiage omission of a partial quotation, and was intentional, but that he would confirm. The motion was approved. Motion was made (Charles Coutant) and seconded (Fred Heitman) to forward the resolution to the Society's Resolution Committee for consideration. Motion was approved. Riecke noted that the resolution on Federal Funding on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program that was adopted by the Division last year, and advanced to the Society, was currently open for Society members to vote.

Ballot Committee Chair, Christian Waters, noted that Division elections were held in July 2012. Kim Bonvechio and Dennis Riecke were candidates for Vice President, Craig Bonds and Linda Lombardi were candidates for Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Churchill and Jill Jenkins were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Through the use of Survey Monkey, e-mail ballots were sent out. Waters recognized and thanked Jerry Finke for his facilitation of the online balloting. Votes cast in 2012 were 403. Waters announced Dennis

Riecke as incoming SDAFS Vice President, Craig Bonds as incoming Secretary/Treasurer, and Tim Churchill as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

**Presentation of Awards:** President-Elect Allen announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Murphy congratulated recipients and presented awards:

SDAFS Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Dave Rizzuto and Greg Summers. Dave was recognized for his service as Secretary/Treasurer and President of the Tennessee Chapter, recipient of its Outstanding Service Award, 15-year member of the Division's Small Impoundments Technical Committee, and many contributions and involvement in hosting Division meetings. Greg has served the Division tirelessly over the years. Most recently, he implemented and coordinated the use of presentation podcasts and led the digital archiving of the Division's historical documents.

Allen recognized Phil Bettoli, inductee into the National Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence by the AFS Fisheries Management Section. Allen read excerpts from the plaque honoring Phil's distinguished fisheries management service and mentorship of over 50 graduate students.

There was a tie for the 1<sup>st</sup> place 2012 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award between Brandon Baker (Steve Lochmann co-author) of University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Mike Morgan (Sterling Heyden and Robert Pierce II, co-authors) of the University of Missouri. Plaques and checks for \$75 were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Student-Subunit Award went to Mississippi State University.

The Best Poster Award from the 2012 SDAFS Meeting in Biloxi went to Cher Newman (G. Walter Ingram, Jr., co-author) of the University of Southern Mississippi. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2012 SDAFS Meeting was given to Jamie Morgan (and 5 co-authors) of the University of Georgia. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Michael Bednarski (Douglas Peterson, co-author) of the University of Georgia. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to David (Randy) Stewart (Oklahoma State University) and Chris Starr (Oklahoma State University).

Murphy and Allen recognized and thanked Tim Bonner for his role as Awards Committee Chair.

**Old Business:** None.

**Installation of 2012 Officers:** Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; Dennis Riecke, Vice President; John Jackson, President-Elect; and Mike Allen, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Brian Murphy presented the Presidential gavel and a copy of the Roberts Rules of Order motions chart to Mike Allen.

**Newly Installed President Allen's Remarks:** Mike thanked Brian for his guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past-President's plaque and a bottle of tequila. His plan of work in 2013 includes moving the proposed bylaws changes forward, working with students to decide the

fate of the Student Colloquium, and working with Gloria on continued website enhancements. Mike encouraged members to nominate their colleagues for AFS awards at the Subunit, Division, and Society levels.

**New Business:** Wes Neal made a motion to donate \$500 in seed money to the new Puerto Rico Chapter. Motion was seconded by Fred Heitman. Brian Murphy moved to amend the main motion to increase the donation from \$500 to \$3,000. Motion to amend the main motion was seconded by Craig Bonds. Motion to amend the main motion passed by vote. The amended main motion to donate \$3,000 in seed money to the new Puerto Rico Chapter subsequently passed by vote.

Mike Allen recognized outgoing Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Julie Harris, for her outstanding service during the past year.

A motion to adjourn was made (Cecil Jennings) and seconded (Tom Holman) and the meeting concluded at 1847 hrs.