

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society**  
**Spring Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 2 February 2017**  
**Oklahoma City Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 14-15**  
**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Dave Coughlan called the EXCOM meeting to order at 1539 hrs. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio called roll and the following chapter proxies were identified: Dave Coughlan for Alabama and North Carolina, Chris Racey for Arkansas, Kim Bonvechio for Florida, Patrick O'Rouke for Georgia, Robby Maxwell for Louisiana, Dennis Riecke for Mississippi, Wes Neal for Puerto Rico, Brian Alford for Tennessee, Mike Isel for Virginia. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Dave Coughlan; Past President, Dennis Riecke; President-Elect, Wes Porak; Vice President, Craig Bonds; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio) and special guest, Fisheries Chief of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Barry Bolton.

President Coughlan presented the Spring EXCOM Meeting agenda. Jason Olive made a motion to approve the agenda and Bryant Bowen seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

**SDAFS President Report**

President Coughlan reviewed some changes with the way the Student Affairs Committee allocates rooms for students at SDAFS meetings, including preference given to students who are AFS members and are giving an oral or poster presentation, equitable distribution of rooms for both undergraduate and graduate students, and expectation of volunteer hours at the SDAFS meeting. He recognized the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, Dr. Jim Rice (North Carolina State University) and SDAFS Representative to the C. W. Watson Award Nominating Committee, Dr. Cecil Jennings (University of Georgia). Other noteworthy actions by the SDAFS in 2016 included a \$500 donation to the Kansas City AFS meeting and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Florida AFS chapter to provide logistical, financial, and symposia support in exchange for 10% share of the Tampa AFS meeting profits.

**SDAFS Officer Reports**

President-Elect Porak noted his report stands as written. He also acknowledged the partnership and hard work of those involved in the planning of the Oklahoma City SDAFS meeting.

Vice President Bonds presented his review of the Striped Bass Technical Committee. With a sufficient coffer, new chair, and active members, the committee is looking forward to a new direction. Possible changes include re-branding the committee to include other *Morone* species, increasing collaborations with other technical committees, improving communications among committee members and with other committees, and

new fundraising opportunities (e.g., ebooks; selling merchandise). Vice President Bonds' recommendations to the EXCOM are to 1) support the re-branding of the technical committee; 2) provide guidance on technical committee voting/participation guidelines and procedures; 3) provide guidance for selling merchandise; 4) provide better communication and technical support between AFS, SDAFS, and committees; 5) facilitate ways to improve communications within and among committees; and 6) reach out to state fish chiefs for guidance on the future needs/direction of the committees. Following his report, some discussion ensued. One suggestion was to consider overlapping technical committee sessions to facilitate collaborative efforts.

Immediate Past President Riecke noted that he represented the SDAFS at the West Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana AFS Chapter meetings in 2016. Other highlights included working with AFS staff on website issues, as well as soliciting nominations and holding SDAFS officer elections.

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2016 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2016 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, Vice President Bonds made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and President-Elect Porak seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved as read.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted main points from the 2016 SDAFS financial statement. Income from the Wheeling, WV Meeting (\$8,912.06) was about higher than anticipated and an additional \$1,000 was given to the SDAFS as part of the Jack Dequine Estate Distribution. Also, the SDAFS was able to get \$1,431.59 in federal tax withholdings reimbursed for the Reservoir Technical Committee. These funds were collected, due to a discrepancy with the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on its investment account. Expense levels and types were similar to what was provided in the 2016 proposed budget, except for officer travel expenses which were much lower than budgeted (\$890.77 vs \$3,000) and an additional expense for software upgrade for podcast services (\$124.50). As a result, the SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$18,921.09, which was \$8,507.79 above the projected level.

Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances were in agreement. An audit of the 2016 financial information was completed 14 January 2017 by the SDAFS Audit Committee. This report was read aloud in its entirety by President Coughlan. A motion to approve the committee's report was made by Lawrence Dorsey and seconded by Hae Kim. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Proposed 2017 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. In exchange for a \$5,000 donation to the AFS Tampa meeting, a minimum return of \$15,000 is expected from the 10% share of meeting proceeds. Furthermore, as part of the MOU, the SDAFS

webmaster, Hae Kim, will be handling all meeting website needs while the Website Chair is deployed oversees. In exchange for that service, the SDAFS will pay his registration cost for the Tampa AFS meeting (\$150). Website services will increase from \$166.13 in 2016 to an estimated \$3,000 in 2017, due to fees associated with moving the SDAFS and all technical committee websites onto the AFS server. The SDAFS also proposed a one-time donation of \$1,000 to SEAFWA for journal support. In anticipation of additional revenue from the AFS Tampa meeting, it was recommended that the SDAFS invest a minimum of \$10,000 into the AFS Investment Portfolio. This would replace the \$6,000 Strategic Reserve Fund that was being housed in the SDAFS checking account. With such a low interest return on the SDAFS checking account (\$1.67 in 2016) versus the potential for a much higher return rate for the AFS Investment Portfolio, the SDAFS is hopeful this will provide more long-term financial security. Some discussion ensued regarding technical committees' EIN issues and the AFS Investment proposal. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio reminded technical committees to address any IRS-related issues immediately to avoid the loss of any tax exempt status. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio clarified the \$10,000 investment was contingent upon receiving a \$15,000 minimum return from the Tampa AFS meeting and would not be made until the end of the 2017 calendar year (at the earliest) after all monies had been received. If more than \$15,000 was received, possible uses of that money, such as increased financial and student support for the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico and other member services, will be discussed and approved in the 2018 budget. A motion to approve the 2017 budget was made by Wes Neal and seconded by Brian Alford. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Reports from Committees with Action Items**

Immediate Past President Riecke notified the EXCOM of the “Resolution on Standardization of Fish Data Management.” He provided some background and history of the resolution, including comments received after being published in the 2016 SDAFS summer newsletter and distributed to SDAFS members via the listserv. A motion to approve and present the resolution to the SDAFS membership at the business meeting was made by Jason Olive and seconded by Brian Alford. Afterwards, Brian Alford explained that the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee led the effort, in collaboration with the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), to facilitate sharing of information among groups. Motion passed by unanimous vote. President Coughlan read a draft of the resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2017 SDAFS Meeting in Oklahoma City. A motion to approve the host resolution was made by Immediate Past President Riecke and seconded by Eric Raymen. Discussion ensued regarding wording and the addition of the MICRA paddlefish and sturgeon working group to the list of meetings. Vice President Bonds moved to approve the resolution as amended, which was seconded by Cindy Williams. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Chapter Reports**

**Host Comments** – Clayton Porter welcomed attendees to Oklahoma City and thanked key members of the planning committee and volunteers, as well as Barry Bolton for his help with sponsorships.

**Alabama** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Arkansas** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Florida** –Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio, proxy for the Florida Chapter, also noted that planning for the Tampa AFS meeting is progressing smoothly.

**Georgia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Patrick O’Rouke, proxy for the Georgia Chapter, added that 145 people, including 45 students, attended the 2017 Georgia Chapter meeting. The chapter awarded its first \$500 scholarship and assisted with travel for 10 undergraduates to attend the meeting. Ronnie Gilbert also provided the chapter with a generation \$10,000 donation.

**Kentucky (inactive)** – Not present. No report submitted.

**Louisiana** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Robby Maxwell, proxy for the Louisiana Chapter, also announced the upcoming chapter meeting in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

**Mississippi** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Immediate Past President Riecke, proxy for the Mississippi Chapter, also announced the upcoming joint chapter meeting with the Alabama Chapter at the IP Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi.

**North Carolina** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. President Coughlan, proxy for the North Carolina Chapter, also announced the upcoming chapter meeting and Mussel ID Workshop in New Bern, North Carolina.

**Oklahoma** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Potomac** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Puerto Rico** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Wes Neal, proxy for Puerto Rico, also announced a planning meeting on March 1, 2017 for the upcoming SDAFS meeting scheduled for 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**South Carolina** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Tennessee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Texas** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also, highlighted were several records broken for the recent Texas Chapter meeting, including technical presentations (77), posters (40), student-mentor lunch pairings (38), attendance (292), fundraising (up 40%), and awards (ten \$1,500 scholarships and a \$500 research reward). Planning is underway for the upcoming SDAFS meeting to be held in Galveston, Texas from January 24-27, 2019.

**Tidewater** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted were the recent joint meeting with the Virginia Tech Chapter in Lexington, Virginia and an upcoming International Snakehead Symposium to be held in May 2018.

**Virginia Tech** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**West Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was the upcoming joint meeting with the Pennsylvania Chapter in California, Pennsylvania.

### **Committee Reports**

**Alligator Gar Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Aquaculture Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Catfish Management Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was the upcoming Catfish 2020 Symposium to be held immediately preceding the SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Planning is being done jointly between the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee and the North Central Division AFS Ictalurid Technical Committee.

**Pollution Technical Committee** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Due to a delay with the freshwater mollusk section, update of Special Publication #30 is now scheduled to be completed in summer 2017. Also, an announcement was made for a symposium on “Emerging Anthropogenic Pollution” at the upcoming Tampa AFS meeting in August 2017.

**Reservoir Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Small Impoundments Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also noted was their initiative to identify research needs and collect data across multiple states to address those needs.

**Striped Bass Technical Committee** –Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also noted was the committee’s intention to hold a Moronid symposium at the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico. The committee is also considering changing its name to include all Moronid species and selling merchandise such as t-shirts.

**Trout Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Warmwater Streams Technical Committee** –Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was a \$500 donation received from the North Carolina Chapter in memory of Melissa Coughlan, President Coughlan’s late wife. As such, for 2017, the committee’s annual award is given the title “Jimmie Pigg and Melissa Coughlan Memorial Award.”

### **New Business**

President Coughlan listed the schedule for upcoming SDAFS meetings: San Juan, Puerto Rico (March 7-11, 2018); Galveston, Texas (January 24-27, 2019); Little Rock, Arkansas (2020); and potentially Virginia (2021).

He then addressed the hacking of the former SDAFS website and its subsequent migration to the new AFS server for better security. The SDAFS will pay for that migration and the annual fees associated with the site maintenance for all SDAFS technical committees. However, chapters are responsible for their own migration and maintenance fees, if they choose to host their site on the AFS server (recommended). It was noted that better communication between the chapters and SDAFS is needed to make them aware of the situation and how to proceed with getting their old site information for either the migration to the AFS server or for the formation of a new website altogether.

SDAFS fee structure was discussed. President Coughlan reiterated the need to keep registration costs down by increasing fundraising efforts for SDAFS meetings. Immediate Past President Riecke also mentioned \$5-10 additional “student and division support” fee

to be included with registration to improve SDAFS member services. A tiered registration system was used for the first time at the Oklahoma City SDAFS meeting, with lower costs for AFS members than nonmembers. Chapters are also urged to use AFS staff, in particular Shawn Johnston, who can help with negotiating prices for meetings.

In reference to the recent Baton Rouge flooding in 2016, President Coughlan informed the EXCOM of the AFS Disaster Relief program. Disaster relief donations were received at the AFS meeting in Kansas City; however, no requests for those funds have been made since that time. Discussion ensued on ways to make the fund – and the process to distribute those funds where it is needed – more effective. Examples of professional assistance that can be provided with these funds are AFS/SDAFS/Chapter meeting registrations, AFS/Chapter memberships, and donations of professional journals or equipment. Pat Mazik provided some insight on what was done in the past to help members following Hurricane Katrina. Each AFS chapter was given \$2500 which was distributed based on a 3-tier system. This money was used for AFS membership, registration for AFS meetings, and the like. There was also a coordinated effort to collect and distribute supplies, such as books and boats, to affected fisheries offices.

Wes Neal, Fundraising Chair for the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico, made a formal donation request to all SDAFS technical committees and chapters for that meeting.

President Coughlan brought up the idea of honoring two AFS staff members (Beth Beard for website help and Shawn Johnston for meeting planning help) at the Florida Chapter business meeting in Tampa. He proposed to make them honorary SDAFS members and provide them each with a \$50 gift card. Lawrence Dorsey made a motion to honor the two staff members at the Tampa AFS meeting with an honorary SDAFS membership and gift card. John Taylor seconded. Discussion ensued about ethics rules involved in an AFS employee accepting gifts of this sort. John Taylor moved to amend the original motion to be contingent upon AFS guidelines, and that was seconded by Robby Maxwell. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. The amended motion passed by unanimous vote.

Following no further new business or discussion items, President Coughlan adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 1730 hrs.