

Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2007
Memphis, Tennessee

The 2007 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1700 hrs by President Bob Curry. It was determined that there was a quorum present. President Curry introduced the current SDAFS officers; Fred Heitman, President-Elect; Steve McMullen, Vice President; Pat Mazik, Past President; and Greg Summers, Secretary/Treasurer. President Curry then introduced AFS Executive Director, Gus Rassam; current AFS President, Jennifer Nielsen; AFS First Vice President, Bill Franzin, and. Past SDAFS Presidents: Larry Aggus, Jeff Boxrucker, Larry Connor, Steve Filipek, Bill Fisher, Bobby Grinstead, Rich Noble, Nick Parker, Don Jackson, Barry Smith, Mike Van Den Avyle, and Scott Van Horn were also introduced.

AFS President Nielsen's Remarks: President Nielsen commented that she is enjoying her tenure as AFS President as it allows her to attend each Division's Annual Meeting and meet many AFS members. She is looking to formalize a disaster relief procedure and AFS Second Vice President, Don Jackson, is leading that effort. She also has an interest in increasing student participation in AFS governance and the committee structure. Certainly the very cheap dues structure for students should not be an obstacle to AFS membership.

Executive Director Rassam's Remarks: Gus and several AFS Presidents will soon be meeting with new Congressional staff members to map fisheries activities for the future. A new AFS journal of Marine and Coastal Fisheries will soon be published; it will be open-access and only available online. To date, all AFS journals are available electronically in Fisheries InfoBase and soon all issues, even USFWS-produced issues, of the Progressive Fish-Culturist will be available there as well. Gus noted that the Potomac Chapter was not represented at the EXCOM meeting this morning and has recently had some difficulties; he commented that the Tidewater Chapter might be a nice place for these members to call home.

President Curry's Address: Bob's program of work included five areas of focus: 1) improve communication with units – he has done a lot of e-mailing in support of this objective!; 2) form an Ad Hoc Procedures Manual Revision Committee led by Chair Jeff Boxrucker – the Procedures Manual was approved at the EXCOM Meeting earlier today and the Bylaws will be voted on shortly by the membership; 3) work with the various units to update their Bylaws – Bob will, as Past President, work with the units in the coming year to review their Bylaws and Procedures, helping them revise where needed; 4) provide Leadership Training – training was presented the previous night to 42 attendees; and 5) lead the SDAFS Disaster Relief effort – this has been his main focus since the task was delegated to the SDAFS in March 2006. Disaster Relief will continue, in some fashion, through December 2007. Bob thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve them and the SDAFS!

Secretary-Treasurer Summers' Report: Minutes from the San Antonio Business Meeting were approved and published in the SDAFS Newsletter. President Curry asked for corrections; hearing none the Business Meeting minutes were approved.

President-Elect Heitman's Chapter Activity Report: Chapter reports from the EXCOM Briefing Book were summarized.

President Curry's Technical Committee Report: The nine SDAFS Technical Committees have experienced various levels of activity in the last year. Notable highlights include drafting of a BMP plan to meet the needs of new EPA guidelines for Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production (Aquaculture), planning for the Second International Catfish Symposium to be held in 2010 in Memphis (Catfish Management), making the final preparations for the Fourth Reservoir Symposium to be held June 6-9, 2007 (Reservoir), conducting a 'Pond Management 101' continuing education class at this meeting (Small Impoundments), continuing southern Appalachian brook trout management activities (Trout), and preparation of a symposium for mitigation activities on streams and river (Warmwater Streams).

Resolutions Committee Report: Dennis Riecke noted that two resolutions have been developed by the Resolutions Committee. They are "Resolution on the Development of Instream Flow Programs" and "Resolution Supporting the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership & the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan". Both have been published in the June 2006 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS Webpage in November 2006. Dennis made a motion for that both resolutions be accepted. Following no discussion, both passed unanimously, and will be forwarded to the AFS.

Resolution of Appreciation and Thanks: President Curry presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Tennessee Chapter, specifically Phil Bettoli and Dave Rizzuto, for their efforts to graciously host an informative and well-planned 2007 Spring Meeting.

SDAFS Bylaws Revision Report: Pat Mazik noted that the SDAFS Bylaws and Procedure Guidelines were in need of revision. She and Jeff Boxrucker made the revisions, which have been posted to the SDAFS webpage and the December 2006 issue of the SDAFS Newsletter. Pat made a motion that these Bylaws changes be accepted and the motions were accepted by unanimous vote. These changes will not take effect until approved by the AFS Governing Board and a signed acceptance letter is received from AFS Executive Director Rassam.

SDAFS Disaster Relief Presentation: President Curry delivered a slide and video presentation of the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He also discussed the role of AFS and SDAFS in the relief efforts. There is still a need for equipment and financial assistance. Many organizations and subunits have stepped up to the plate with donations but more are encouraged. Quenton Fontenot, LA, and Jerry Brown, MS, both expressed, on behalf of their respective chapters, their gratitude and appreciation for all the support received.

Ballot Committee Report: Vice President McMullen noted that Cecil Jennings, Dave Coughlan, and John Odenkirk received the most votes for their prospective offices – Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, respectively.

Presentation of Awards: President-Elect Heitman announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Curry made the presentations:
SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Awards went to Phil Bettoli of Tennessee Tech.

The SDAFS Distinguished Service Award went to John Galvez for his six years of service as SEAFWA fisheries editor.

A second SDAFS Distinguished Service Award went to Mike Van Den Aayle for his 30 years of service to the SDAFS and to SEAFWA.

The 2006 SEAFWA Jack Dequine Best paper award went to C. Craig Bonds and J. Warren Schlechte (Texas Parks & Wildlife). The runner-up award went to George C. Palmer and Melanie Culver (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries).

The Outstanding Chapter Award went to the North Carolina AFS Chapter.

The Outstanding Student Subunit Award went to East Carolina University.

The best student paper award from the 2006 SDAFS Spring Meeting went to Kathryn Mickett of Auburn University; second and third place went to Jodie Rummer (University of British Columbia) and John Flinders (University of Arkansas), respectively. Best student poster went to Steven Dombauer (Arkansas Tech University).

The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award of the Warmwater Streams Committee went to Jessica Brewster.

The Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships of the Reservoir Committee went to Bradley Ray and Christopher Bodine.

Old Business: None received.

Installation of 2007 Officers: Past President Pat Mazik received a well deserved reward as she exited the EXCOM. Secretary-Treasurer Summers was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by President Curry for his two years of dedicated service to the SDAFS and the Disaster Relief Fund. Newly installed officers Dave Coughlan, Secretary-Treasurer; Cecil Jennings, Vice President; Steve McMullen, President-Elect; and Fred Heitman, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Bob Curry presented the Presidential gavel to Fred Heitman.

Newly Installed President Heitman's Remarks: Outgoing Past-President Bob Curry was recognized for his service to the SDAFS and the Disaster Relief effort. Fred stressed the need for AFS Professional Certification and urged non-certified members to pursue. President Heitman would also like to continue our strong presence with the Disaster Relief process and has asked both Bob and Greg to continue in their Disaster Relief roles until the end of 2007. Fred noted that one of his goals is to develop a Mission Statement for the SDAFS.

New Business: President Heitman then stressed the need for technical committees to submit financial statements to the Secretary-Treasurer by the end of February. The Fourth Reservoir Symposium will be in Atlanta in June.

Steve Filipek requested that an Ad Hoc committee be established to work with the SD Representative to SEAFWA to set up an electronic publication submittal template and other conference assistance.

Dennis Riecke, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, thanked all the states and hatcheries that supplied fish to Mississippi after the hurricanes.

The 2008 SDAFS Spring Meeting will be held Feb. 28 – Mar. 2 at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Pat Mazik, WVa Chapter, invited everyone to join her at next year's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1832 hrs.