

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
January 29, 2015
Savannah, Georgia

President John Jackson called the EXCOM to order at 1533 hrs. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Jackson mentioned that the EXCOM consists of officers and Chapter Presidents (within the Division), as well as the recent addition of a student representative (resulting from a recent bylaws change). President Jackson mentioned that Brandon Peoples would be installed (as a result of being elected by students) as student representative on the EXCOM at the business meeting the following day. President Jackson called roll and no proxies were identified. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, John Jackson; Past-President, Mike Allen; President-Elect, Dennis Riecke; Vice-President, Dave Coughlan; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds). President Jackson acknowledged special AFS guests, including 2nd Vice President (and Division Past President), Steve McMullin, and Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker. AFS President Donna Parrish was announced as expected to attend, but was absent at the beginning of the meeting.

SDAFS President Report

President Jackson stated his report was covered in the briefing book and will also be covered in the business meeting. President Jackson informed Chapter Presidents that Division officers would be sending representatives to Chapter meetings. He stated one of the main tasks officers initiated during the year was a complete revision of the Division procedures. President Jackson will ask several past presidents (e.g. Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, and Cecil Jennings) to review. Once revised draft is completed, the entire EXCOM will have a chance to review and approve. The goal is to complete by next year's meeting. President Jackson mentioned Division Webmaster role passed from Gloria Schoenholtz to Zack Martin. Newsletter editor passed from Brandon Peoples to Sasha Doss. The Division will now pay Virginia Tech Chapter \$1,000 to perform both tasks. Jessica Baumann has taken over podcasting duties.

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect Dennis Riecke stepped out to locate AFS President, Donna Parrish. President Jackson stated he would proceed down the agenda to the Vice-President report.

Vice-President Dave Coughlan reviewed the Technical Committees (TCs) portion of the procedures manual during the year. Coughlan concentrated on content to make sure all TCs format was consistent in listing their purpose, goals, membership, officer responsibilities, and quorum determination. He also reviewed TC websites and recommended appropriate information updates.

Past-President Mike Allen fulfilled his role as Chair of the Nominating and Ballot Committees. Mike will report the results at the Business meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2014 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2014 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Chris McDonough), and the 2014 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Bonds reported the 2013 Division tax return was submitted prior to the deadline. The 2014 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2014 with \$15,478.92 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Charleston Meeting (\$4,596.95) and the AFS dues rebate (\$6,656.00). The Division received \$181 from the Society for book sale rebates, which was dispersed to appropriate TCs. The Division's checking account received the balance (\$9,533.98) from the temporary closing of the Catfish Management TC account. Bonds discussed the challenges associated with opening a new non-profit bank account, and recommended transferring existing accounts rather than closing and re-opening accounts with officer churn. The Catfish Management TC will move their money back into their own account once issues are resolved with opening a new account. Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. The SDAFS provided financial support to the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee (\$2,771); the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (\$500); the Instream Flow Council meeting (\$500); the Southeastern Fisheries Council meeting (\$500); and the SEAFWA conference (\$1,000 to support plenary speaker travel). Various other expenses (e.g., awards, plaques, internet service, conference calls, postage, SDAFS expenses at the Charleston Meeting, officer travel, podcasting coordinator travel, etc.) were expensed as received. Total assets in the Southern Division's checking account as of 31 December 2014 were \$23,299.91 and \$6,000 of this is set aside in a Strategic Reserve Fund. Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker, described how his division invests a portion of their annual income into an investment account (with the same person who manages the Society's account) and recommended that the Southern Division consider investing at least the strategic reserve fund into an income-generating fund. Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances are in agreement. An audit of the 2014 financial information was completed 8 January 2015 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Jackson. Bonds made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded (Patrick O'Rourke). Motion passed.

The Proposed 2015 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2015 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2015 while still leaving enough cash for early 2016 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2016 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Savannah Meeting. Projected income in 2015 is \$19,968.43, and expenses are projected at \$17,400.00 for an end-of-year balance of \$2,568.43. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Dave Coughlan) to approve the 2015 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2015 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

President-Elect Dennis Riecke attended the joint MS/TN and the LA Chapter meetings, assisted in planning the past-presidents' lunch at the Division meeting, and sent out listserv messages.

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, notified the EXCOM that a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2015 Meeting in Savannah was drafted. Past-President Allen moved to take the resolution to the business meeting to be presented to members. Vice President Coughlan seconded. No discussion followed and the motion passed. Chair Riecke updated the EXCOM on the status of the resolution on off-highway vehicle use in stream beds (a history of this resolution's development is contained within the 2014 EXCOM meeting minutes). The revised resolution was published for a second comment period on the Division website. Mike Kaller moved to approve the resolution to be presented to membership at the business meeting. Motion was seconded by Dave Coughlan and discussed. Wes Neal asked whether a resolution was strong enough or would a position statement be more appropriate. President Jackson stated membership could vote to elevate to the Society to consider. Riecke stated the Society has multiple forms of advocacy and could decide on an appropriate form of response. Motion was put to vote and passed unanimously.

Chapter Reports

Georgia (Host Chapter) - Patrick O'Rourke welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported the pre-registration number of 625 broke the Division meeting record and more are expected to register as walk-ins. Patrick covered several meeting and housekeeping announcements. He also described the new meeting mobile device app, how it can benefit attendees, and the contract software company that developed it. The rest of Georgia's report stands as written.

Arkansas – Report stands as written. Ben Batten noted the Chapter is preparing for its 28th annual meeting where Mike Allen will teach a workshop on population dynamics using Excel and members will be treated to a special symposium on supplemental stocking. He also noted the Chapter added its sixth student subunit during the previous year.

Auburn University – Report stands as written. Jessica Quintana noted the Chapter is mainly run by students. Members have been successful raising funds and have established the first student scholarship.

Florida – Report stands as written. Mike Allen noted the Chapter has been planning to host the 2017 AFS meeting in Tampa.

Kentucky – No report.

Louisiana – Report stands as written. Mike Kaller noted Dennis Riecke won an award at the previous Chapter meeting and appreciates his involvement. Mike explained the Chapter's rationale for moving their annual meeting to May (to avoid Mardi Gras).

Mississippi - Report stands as written.

North Carolina - Report stands as written. Brena Jones noted the Chapter has been updating their procedures manual. She noted a new Communications Committee was formed to incorporate webmaster, newsletter, and social media roles into one team. Chapter has taken advantage of the Society's offer to host subunit webpages on their

WordPress platform at no charge. Sarah Gilbert-Fox (AFS) has been very helpful in the website revamping and migration processes. Brena also noted the Chapter's continuing education workshop topic at their upcoming annual meeting will cover crayfish identification.

Oklahoma – Not Present. Report stands as written.

Potomac – Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Miguel Garcia noted the Chapter held its first meeting. Their webpage is up and running, containing several recent updates. He expressed the desire of his Chapter to host a future Division meeting.

South Carolina – Report stands as written. Chris McDonough noted their Chapter's annual meeting will be coming up in March. A workshop on population stock assessment will be held.

Tennessee – Report stands as written. Travis Scott noted the Chapter will be investing some funds with the Society's investment account.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater – Report stands as written. Jessica Thompson noted the Chapter is revising their bylaws to shed inactive student subunits. She also noted they're redoing their email listserv. Chris McDonough (SC) noted complexities involved with an inactive Clemson student subunit and dealing with derelict bank accounts. Vice President Coughlan mentioned there should be a dissolution clause in the bylaws.

Virginia – Not present. Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as written. AFS 2nd Vice President Steve McMullin noted that the Virginia, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia chapters would be holding a joint meeting in Blacksburg.

West Virginia – Not Present. Report stands as written.

Technical Committee Reports

President Jackson noted no technical committee chairs were present, but extended the offer for anyone serving on a technical committee to provide an update. Wes Porak (incoming Division VP and Black Bass Ad Hoc Committee member) noted the book from the Black Bass Ad Hoc Committee's special symposium will be coming out in the next couple of months.

Other Old Business

President Jackson reminded members to be careful using photos derived from the internet in unit websites and newsletters. He described the recent incident involving the Division using a copyrighted digital photo in a newsletter meeting announcement header. The Division was forced to remove the photo, negotiate a settlement, and pay a penalty. Jackson recommended that units not use digital photos in their published media unless the photo's source is known.

President Jackson noted AFS Executive Director, Doug Austen, has been conducting periodic conference calls with chapter presidents. He encouraged chapters to make sure their officer contact information is current and to participate in the conference calls.

New Business

Past President Mike Allen brought up the issues related to the timing of the election of the Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Our Division election occurs during the summer, often during or after the AFS Nominating Committee is active. The Society's committee typically contacts our representative from the previous year, as our new representative is not typically elected or installed by the time he/she is needed to serve. Mike proposed two changes in the form of a motion. He moved that the Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee start service at the Division meeting following the Division election (at the moment officers change) and to change the service term duration from one to two years (in synch with Secretary-Treasurer term). Mike noted that this would be a procedural issue and not a bylaws change. The EXCOM could approve and the change could be presented as an informational item to the members at tomorrow's business meeting. Motion was seconded (Vice President Dave Coughlan). Mike noted that the incoming Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, Kyle Hartman, is willing to serve two years should the motion pass. Mike further clarified that Kyle would assume his role at tomorrow's business meeting and then serve for two years. No further discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Mike noted that the change needed to be included in the procedures manual revisions.

Past President Allen mentioned that Noreen Clough, former B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, USFWS Regional Director, and long-time supporter of warmwater fisheries conservation (especially black basses), passed away recently. In her memory, the Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee (BBCAHC) created a scholarship for female students in the conservation field. Scholarship parameters are being developed. Dave Coughlan inquired when the BBCAHC would graduate to a TC status. Wes Porak noted the BBCAHC is in transition and part of the National Black Bass Initiative started with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding through the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP). Wes noted the committee is considering transitioning to be housed underneath SARP's umbrella and out from within the Southern Division AFS. Wes noted the committee would like to avoid overlap with the Warmwater Streams TC. President Jackson asked Wes Porak if the ad hoc committee would like the incoming president to extend the ad hoc committee appointment another year. Wes responded in the affirmative.

President Jackson mentioned that the previously disbanded Pollution Committee has recently been reinstated in an ad hoc status. Incoming President, Dennis Riecke, will reappoint them as an ad hoc committee.

Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker, provided an update on the AFS 2015 annual meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon. The planning team received 112 symposium proposals and selected 104 to include. They expect approximately 3,500 attendees and up to 40 concurrent technical sessions. Presentations will be podcasted and presenters will be signing copyright waivers.

Jim Bowker also updated the EXCOM on the Society's Emerging Leader Mentorship Program. Society leaders would like to see one good applicant per Division each year. Selected candidates receive \$500 from the Society to attend the Governing Board retreat.

President Jackson clarified that this is open to students and professionals. Chris Bacey and Jessica Thompson both participated and gave the experience high marks.

AFS 2nd VP, Steve McMullin, mentioned the Society recently contracted with a consulting firm specializing in communications. The firm will be interviewing current and lapsed members to collect their feedback on how the Society can enhance communications among members. Steve also mentioned the Society recently hired a Deputy Executive Director with a strong background in non-profit management. The new position will concentrate on the “nuts and bolts” management of the Society while Executive Director Austen will focus more on external outreach.

President Jackson updated the EXCOM on future meeting locations. Planning Co-Chairs, Pat Mazik and Stuart Welch, will provide an update on the 2016 Division meeting at tomorrow’s business meeting. President Jackson noted the meeting will be held at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, February 20-24, 2016. Oklahoma Chapter will be hosting the 2017 Division meeting, but details will be forthcoming. Puerto Rico Chapter President, Miguel Garcia, updated the EXCOM on potentially hosting the 2018 Division meeting in San Juan. President Jackson encouraged Miguel to present a letter, containing a proposal plan, to the Division officers. Discussion ensued relevant to student travel assistance. President Jackson mentioned the Division could plan ahead and budget more for student travel assistance. Jim Bowker recommended following the Western Division’s Mazatlan, Mexico, travel support fund model, which included a Society match component.

Society President, Donna Parrish, joined the meeting and shared a few words. She reiterated the expectation of a large Society meeting in Portland. She expressed her excitement to have the Governing Board meeting attached to this Savannah meeting. This allowed her and other Society officers the opportunity to arrive early and participate in the Southern Division’s meeting. This was her 1st Southern Division to attend. She closed by stating she will share a few words at tomorrow’s business meeting.

President-Elect Riecke shared the advantages of AFS membership in response to an earlier comment. Society President Parrish mentioned AFS membership costs are less expensive compared to other natural resource professional societies. She reminded the group of the costs involved in running the Society. She mentioned that the Governing Board will be discussing the option of extending the time available for the young professionals membership category. President Jackson mentioned the functional cost of membership has gone down due to the cheaper online journal subscription rates. Jim Bowker mentioned the value of return on investment in the form of travel grants, scholarships, etc., but members have to pursue those opportunities. Wes Neal mentioned the target audience for communicating Society involvement benefits should also include employers, so they support employee participation and certification. Miguel Garcia noted the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources pays employee membership dues to the Society.

Following no further new business or discussion items, President Jackson adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 1718 hrs.