

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
February 26, 2010
Asheville, North Carolina**

President Jennings called the EXCOM to order at 10:03. President Jennings called roll and the SDAFS EXCOM and all participants identified themselves and their affiliations. Proxies were identified for Louisiana (Kaintz), Tennessee (Henegar), West Virginia (Mazik), Reservoir (Abney), Trout (Rash) and the ad hoc Alligator Gar Technical (Fontenot). Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan announced that there was a quorum. SDAFS Past Presidents Curry, Mazik, Jackson, and Coutant were recognized. President Jennings then introduced AFS President Don Jackson.

AFS President Don Jackson addressed the EXCOM with several brief remarks. He noted that opportunities and challenges abound in AFS and stated repeatedly that the society is a professional science-based organization. He thanked the TN Chapter for putting on a great 2009 National Meeting in Nashville and then turning around and agreeing to host a SDAFS Spring Meeting there in 2013, thereby saving AFS a large sum of money. Don briefly discussed a resolution by the Western Division and some upcoming AFS Policy statements. The 2010 National Meeting in Pittsburgh was progressing nicely and should include an outstanding Plenary Session.

President Jennings then discussed his three goals as President. The first was to evaluate and improve the various chapter and technical committee webpages. An ad hoc committee, headed by Taconya Goar (Auburn University) and staffed by UGA personnel, was enlisted to survey 37 potential web pages and report on their content. Eighty-one percent had some web presence though content was variable and links to social media were few. A PowerPoint presentation of the results will be made at the Annual Business Meeting. Cecil's second goal was to align the SDAFS's Strategic Plan with the 2010-2014 AFS Strategic Plan. As the AFS plan was only recently approved, there was little time to implement an effective SDAFS response. The third goal was to put into operation a mechanism in the SDAFS Newsletter whereby personal happening, new hires, retirements, etc. could be posted. A form was generated for the collection of "Alumni News" and the first items published in the December 2009 SDAFS Newsletter. Additional details of the President's report can be found in the Briefing Book.

SDAFS Officer Reports were then requested. The President-elect, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President reports stood as written. Vice-President Lochmann noted that he reviewed the Catfish Management Technical Committee and they received high marks on all accounts. He did note though that all technical committees might better align with SDAFS procedures if they produced an annual goals statement.

Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the Spring 2009 EXCOM Meeting in New Orleans, LA, were published in the August 2009

SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book. Hearing no questions or revisions, the 2009 EXCOM minutes were then approved.

The 2009 SDAFS budget was discussed and extra hard copies were supplied. The Division started 2009 with \$9,244 and \$2,000 in our reserve contingency (rainy day) fund. We received income from the Spring Meeting in New Orleans (\$1,688) and the AFS dues rebate (\$8,284). AFS President Bill Franzin donated \$100 after his visit with us at the New Orleans Spring Meeting. Total income in 2009 was \$22,215. Expenses totaled \$15,077 and these were briefly discussed. Income less expenses in 2009 totaled \$11,138, of which \$4,000 was allocated to the reserve expenditure fund. A motion to pass the 2009 Budget was made by Lochmann and seconded by McMullin. The budget was unanimously approved by the EXCOM.

The Proposed 2010 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Concerns about income due to the downturn in the economy indicate some need for fiscal restraint in 2010. Projected income in 2010 is \$21,841 and expenses are projected at \$22,280 (and include the maintenance of \$4,000 in our reserve expenditure fund) for an end of year balance of -\$439. President Jennings provided additional perspective on the budget, asked for suggestions, and assured the EXCOM that the officers would keep these issues in the forefront as the year progressed.

Pat Mazik discussed the difficulties of getting the annual USFWS donation to the chapter hosting the Spring Meeting. In the future there will be 5-yr contract between AFS and USFWS with the chapter renewing the grant each year. AFS will hold back \$100 each year as a processing fee and John Galvez will be the single point of contact for USFWS.

Vice-President Lochmann and Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan discussed the use of the Rainy Day Fund in the budget. It is a cash reserve to guarantee funds remain at the end of the calendar year for the numerous routine (e.g., internet hosting, conference calls, bank service fees, etc.) and Spring Meeting related (Student Affairs Committee donation, awards and plaques, EXCOM expenses, etc.) expenses that occur at the start of the subsequent calendar year. The fact that the SD should have funds to support the hosting chapter in the event of fiscal shortcomings was also noted.

After no further discussion, a motion was entertained to pass the 2010 Proposed Budget (made by McMullin, seconded by Kurzawski). The proposed 2010 budget was accepted by vote.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas – No report.

Auburn University - Report stands as written.

Florida - Report stands as written, they will host the 2011 SDAFS Spring Meeting.

Georgia - Report stands as written.

University of Georgia Student Subunit - Report stands as written.

Kentucky - Report stands as written.

Louisiana- Report stands as written.

Mississippi - Report stands as written. They will host the 2012 SDAFS Spring Meeting. All MS meetings and minutes have been put in PDF format and placed on their website. Representatives of the MS AFS Chapter and MS Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks graciously presented President Jennings with checks of \$500 and \$1,625, respectively, as tokens of thanks for SDAFS support following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Mississippi AFS Chapter members Kevin Hunt (L) and Tom Holman (R) present SDAFS President Cecil Jennings with checks from the Mississippi AFS and the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks Foundation in recognition of SDAFS Support following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

North Carolina - Report stands as written. Chad Thomas thanked the various Spring Meeting chairs. NC has had a successful year with 'Shad in the Classroom' and also by providing \$1,300 to NC students for travel to the national AFS meeting.

NCSU Student Subunit - Not present; report stands as written.

Oklahoma - Report stands as written. They recently held a joint meeting with Arkansas and most of the presentations have been recorded as podcast on their website.

South Carolina - Report stands as written.

Tennessee - Report stands as written. They recently entertained 1600 participants at the 2009 AFS Meeting in Nashville and will host the 2013 SDAFS Spring Meeting there as well.

Texas - Report stands as written. The Texas Chapter just hosted an International Golden Alga Symposium and provides 4 – 5 scholarships per year to student members.

Tidewater – No report; not represented.

E. Carolina Student Subunit - No report; not represented.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore Student Subunit - No report; not represented.

Virginia - Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech – Not present; report stands as written.

West Virginia - Report stands as written.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee - The report was submitted to President Jennings this week. The audit found the 2009 SDAFS finances to be satisfactory.

Awards Committee - Report stands as written. Awards will be distributed at the Annual Business Meeting later this afternoon.

Ballot Committee – Report stands as written.

Nominating Committee - Report stands as written.

Resolutions Committee - Report stands as written.

Student Affairs Committee – Report stands as written. A new symposium has been instituted at the Spring Meeting to fairly and uniformly judge student presentations.

Technical Committees - Reports for the Aquaculture, Catfish Management, Reservoir, Small Impoundments, Striped Bass, Trout, and Warmwater Streams committees stood as written in the Briefing Book. The Catfish Management Committee will host Catfish 2010 (the second Catfish Symposium) in June. The Striped Bass Committee hopes to have the Proceedings of their recent Nashville Symposium ready by the end of 2010. The ad-hoc Alligator Gar Technical Committee will host a Gar Symposium in Thibodaux, LA, this May. They would like to become a formal SDAFS Technical Committee and will develop bylaws and seek guidance from the EXCOM.

Newsletter Editor - No report; not represented.

SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor – No report.

SEAFWA Directors Liaison – No report.

Webmaster Report – No report.

Unfinished Business

Ad hoc Archiving Committee – Greg Summers (for Boxrucker and Van Den Avyle) noted that they continue to receive SD material and will work on methods of how and where to store. They will also consider what materials to store going forward.

Pat Mazik discussed judging of fishery papers for the Dequine Award at the SEAFWA Meeting. Currently, papers must be published to be considered for the award. The relative contributions of the presentation and the final manuscript to the final award score were unclear and left as a matter for EXCOM to deliberate. Manuscript submission and future issues of the SEAFWA Proceedings will be online.

New Business

Bob Curry discussed the desire of the SEAFWA Directors to get a larger fishery presence at their meeting and asked everyone to consider possible ideas. The Directors like our SEAFWA liaison (Pat Mazik) and the SDAFS President's report at each meeting. Bob hinted that it might be as easy as scheduling summer/fall SDAFS Technical Committee meetings in conjunction with the SEAFWA Meeting. Both Bob and Pat Mazik noted that the SEAFWA Directors relish SD participation at the SEAFWA Meeting.

Other Business

Don Jackson noted that SDAFS Past-President Bob Curry was on the 2010 ballot as a future candidate for AFS President.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Lochmann) and seconded (McMullin) and, hearing unanimous support, President Jennings adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 11:49.