

Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2012

Biloxi, Mississippi

The 2012 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1721 hrs by President Steve Lochmann. It was determined a quorum was present. President Lochmann recognized the current SDAFS officers; Brian Murphy, President-Elect; Mike Allen, Vice President; Elizabeth Osier Moats, outgoing Secretary-Treasurer; and Craig Bonds, incoming Secretary-Treasurer. It was noted that Craig Bonds would be installed by appointment to fill unexpired term (ending at 2013 business meeting) of departing Secretary-Treasurer Osier Moats. President Lochmann introduced SDAFS Past Presidents: Jeff Boxrucker, Steve Filipek, William (Bill) Fisher, Fred Heitman, Donald C. Jackson, Cecil Jennings, and Steve McMullin. President Lochmann introduced AFS President Bill Fisher and Executive Director Guss Rassam.

AFS President Bill Fisher's Remarks: In concert with the AFS mission and 2020 Strategic Plan, he wanted to concentrate on three goals: 1) Global Fisheries Leadership, 2) Continuing Education, and 3) Membership Value. Under goal 1, AFS will hold its annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, 19-23 August 2012. A policy statement on the need for an immediate-release fish anesthetic was approved, and a policy statement on lead in sportfish tackle was adopted. For goal 2, President Fisher stated that a coalition of natural resources societies (AFS, The Wildlife Society, Society of American Foresters, and Society for Range Management) held a conference to address mismatches between university curricula and hiring needs. Under goal 3, the Governing Board will address affiliate memberships (Chapter members only). The Parent Society would like to enumerate affiliate members and determine proportion in relation to Society members. Parent Society leaders desire to add affiliate members to the Parent Society database. He concluded by recognizing SDAFS leadership in presentation podcasting and expressed the desire to further enable virtual attendance at the 2012 Parent Society Meeting.

AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam's Remarks: AFS cares about its members' welfare and professional development. He provided several notable examples, including recovery from Hurricane Katrina and solidarity with Japan following the tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster. He discussed three talking points. First, the 6th World Fisheries Congress will meet this May in Edinburg, Scotland. Second, he updated group on AFS publications and information access issues. The Parent Society publishes six journals, with the online Marine/Coastal journal being the newest addition. He mentioned social media and the open access movement threaten the established journal business model. This area is moving fast, and AFS needs to be ready to address it. AFS will experiment with open access information by allowing members to upload gray literature. Third, the SDAFS stepped up to host the AFS Annual Meeting in 2013. He recognized the value in the volunteer model for meeting planning and execution.

President Lochmann's Address: Steve recognized the breadth of knowledge represented by the journals. Taylor Frances put a dollar figure on the value of AFS journals at over \$1M. Steve reported on his "No Biologist Left Behind" initiative. He discovered less than 30% of state agency biologists have free online access to AFS journals through their employer. Lochmann stated he was unsuccessful at persuading more state agencies to provide this valuable literature search service for their professional staff. He also reported on his efforts to encourage fisheries students to follow good scientific methods. Lochmann appointed Wes Porak Chair of the new

Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee. Lochmann represented SDAFS at the SEAFWA Conference and at the Parent Society's Governing Board. He reported 2013 and 2014 SDAFS meetings would be held in Nashville, Tennessee, and Charleston, South Carolina, respectively. The 2013 Parent Society Annual Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Steve closed by stating it was a privilege observing good people doing good work on behalf of the Division.

Secretary-Treasurer Osier Moats' Report: Minutes from the 2011 Tampa Business Meeting were published in the Winter 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, President Lochmann asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made (Mike Allen) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the 2011 Business Meeting minutes were approved. Liz presented the 2011 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year. Fred Heitman noted that the 2011 financial statement was a report and did not require approval. Liz presented the 2012 budget, including expected donations. She explained the Audit Committee would complete their work the following day. Motion was made (Dave Rizzuto) and seconded (Fred Heitman) to approve 2012 budget. Motion passed.

President-Elect Murphy's Chapter Activity Report: Reports from the various state chapters and their student subunits, as compiled in the EXCOM Briefing Book, were summarized.

President Lochmann's Standing Committee Report: Audit Committee will meet the following day. The Student Affairs Committee did not hold a Student Colloquium in November 2011, because it was moved to coincide with the NEAFWA Conference in April 2012. Committee has yet to determine whether a second event will be held this coming fall in order to return to a more traditional November schedule. We provided 30 students with free rooming at the 2011 Tampa SDAFS meeting and 2 students with free rooms at the Nashville SEAFWA meeting. Pat Mazik represented SDAFS at the SEAFWA meeting and hosted a student workshop on interviewing for jobs. Steve Sammons served as SEAFWA fisheries technical editor. Our Webmaster, Jerry Finke, will return to his role following a brief reprieve due to an illness. Shannon White will continue to lead efforts to fulfill Virginia Tech's commitment to publishing two newsletters in 2012.

President-Elect Mike Allen's Technical Committee Report: Mike highlighted a few points. The newly appointed Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee will hold a special symposium at the 2013 SDAFS meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. A book will be published following the symposium. Mike reported a review of the Pollution Committee was conducted and reported in the Briefing Book. The Division EXCOM voted to disband the committee due to inactivity, but the possibility exists to carry out its duties as an ad hoc committee when the need arises. The Reservoir Committee will be revising their habitat manual and will continue working with the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. The Small Impoundment Committee will be publishing a small impoundment textbook in 2012. The Striped Bass Committee is nearly complete in publishing their symposium proceedings. They hope to collaborate with the Reservoir Committee on addressing stocking and prey fish evaluation issues. The Trout Committee published a manuscript on depletion methods for trout. Catfish Management Committee, in combination with the North Central Division, completed publication of a proceedings book from the Second International Catfish Symposium. The Catfish Management Committee also hosted a sampling workshop at this Division meeting. The Alligator Gar Committee hosted an International Conference for gar species in 2011 and held a workshop at this Division meeting.

Resolutions Committee Report: President Lochmann presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Mississippi Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Mark Peterson, General Meeting Chair; Kevin Hunt, Program Chair; and Nancy Brown Peterson, Local Arrangements Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2012 Spring Meeting. Chair Dennis Riecke presented a resolution on Federal Funding on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. Funding has been stagnant for a number of years. The resolution explains the background of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program and cost of managing aquatic nuisance species. Resolution calls for increased funding for each regional panel, funding directed toward zebra and quagga mussel control and increased funding for each state with an aquatic nuisance species plan. Despite the difficult financial and economic status in the country, this resolution outlines the importance of adequate funding to control aquatic nuisance species. The resolution was presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2011 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment, though none were received) and approved by the EXCOM to bring before the membership for consideration. Motion was made (Steve Filipek) to accept the resolution and seconded (Dave Rizzuto). The motion was approved. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Mark Peterson) to forward the resolution to the Parent Society for consideration. Motion was approved.

Ballot Committee Report: President Lochmann noted that John Jackson and Tom Holman were the candidates for the position of Vice President in 2011. Melissa Kaintz and Anthony Overton were candidates for the position of SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee in 2011. Through the use of Survey Monkey, e-mail ballots were sent out. Steve noted that Survey Monkey tool is available to all units and committees for facilitating elections. Votes cast in 2011 were 321. Lochmann recognized John Jackson as the new SDAFS Vice President and Anthony Overton as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

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

The SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Award was awarded to Dr. Neil Douglas and will be presented to him on Saturday afternoon during the Floodplain Symposium.

Vice President Mike Allen led a memorial presentation in honor of recently-deceased John F. “Jack” Dequine. Jack was the first president of the Division, and is considered its founding “father”. Jack served the Division for nearly 60 years. He was the longest serving fisheries scientist in the state of Florida, serving as mentor for countless professionals. He was influential in first incorporating fisheries papers as part of the SEAFWA Conference Proceedings, later becoming the namesake for its best paper award. Prior to his death at age 94, he arranged for his will to bequeath a substantial sum (undetermined at meeting time) of money to the Southern Division and the Florida Chapter AFS. Jack’s service to the Division was uniquely honored by having members stand until their individual service durations were called in multiples of 5 years. A moment of silence was held following the announcement of 60 years of service in honor of Jack.

The 2011 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award went to Patrick O’Rourke and Christopher Martin of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The second place award went to Thomas Reinert (University of Georgia) and Cecil Jennings. Checks for \$100 and \$50 were given to first place and runner up, respectively.

The Outstanding Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University.

The Best Student Presentation Award from the 2011 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Tampa went to James H. Roberts (Virginia Tech University). Second place was awarded to Michael W. Waine of the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The best student poster from the 2011 SDAFS Spring Meeting was awarded to Beverly K. Barnett (University of West Florida).

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Ryan Lothrop (Auburn) and Jonah Dagele (Mississippi State University).

The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award (\$300 and 1-year Parent Society membership) was presented by Paul Balkenbush of the Warmwater Streams Committee to Ms. Laurie Early of Auburn University. Ms. Early was selected for her commitment to student excellence in warmwater streams-related research, education, and professional and public service.

Appreciation plaques were given to Mark Peterson, General Meeting Chair; Kevin Hunt, Program Chair; and Nancy Brown Peterson, Local Arrangements Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2012 Spring Meeting .

The SDAFS Membership Challenge winner was the North Carolina Chapter with 83% of its members also paying dues to the Parent Society. The winning chapter received a \$250 check and is able to donate another \$250 to an AFS cause of their choosing.

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2012 Officers: Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; John Jackson, Vice President; Mike Allen, President-Elect; and Brian Murphy, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Steve Lochmann presented the Presidential gavel to Brian Murphy.

Newly Installed President Murphy's Remarks: Brian thanked Steve for his guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past President's plaque and a bottle of single-malt scotch. Brian also thanked Liz Osier Moats for her service and awarded her with an outgoing Secretary-Treasurer's plaque. Brian acknowledged his escorts, noting that they book-ended his career from beginning (Dave Terre) to current (Patrick Snellings). His plan of work in 2012 included protecting and strengthening the "Three Cs": 1) Chapters, 2) Committees, and 3) Communication. Strategies included sending a Division officer to every Chapter meeting, implementing mentorship awards for EXCOM (modeled after Parent Society), establishing network for uploading gray literature into online database, enhancing fisheries chiefs' input on committee work, expanding committee participation, further enabling electronic meeting participation, and providing monthly communication contact.

New Business: None.

A motion to adjourn was made (Cecil Jennings) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the meeting concluded at 1914 hrs.