

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
January 23, 2014
Charleston, South Carolina

President Mike Allen called the EXCOM to order at 3:30 pm. President Allen thanked Mendy Willis for assisting with putting the briefing book together. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Allen called roll and the following proxies were identified: Arkansas (Jeffrey Williams), Florida (Drew Dutterer), Louisiana (Robby Maxwell), Mississippi (Stephen Brown), North Carolina (Christian Waters), and Virginia (Vic DiCenzo). Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Mike Allen; Past-President, Brian Murphy; President-Elect, John Jackson; Vice-President, Dennis Riecke; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds). President Allen acknowledged AFS President, Bob Hughes, and Executive Director, Doug Austen, who were absent at the beginning of the meeting. President Allen informed the EXCOM that he expected their arrival and encouraged the group to engage them during the Division meeting. President Allen recognized SDAFS Past Presidents Pat Mazik and Steve Lochmann.

SDAFS President Report

President Allen stated his report was covered in the briefing book, copies of which were distributed to the EXCOM on portable USB drives. President Allen thanked the Division officers for their service during the year. He updated the group on the Society's hiring of Doug Austen as AFS Executive Director. President Allen concluded by stating he would save the details of his report for the Business meeting.

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect John Jackson provided his report. John was able to attend two Chapter meetings during the year (AR and NC). He attended monthly Society Management Committee meetings as the SDAFS representative and explained the working functions of the committee. John reported increased efficiencies resulting from changes to the organizational structure and how the Management Committee and Governing Board operate. John will represent the Southern Division at the Western Division Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. The Division will help cover his travel expenses. John mentioned that a couple of other Division members received travel grants to attend the meeting. The Southern Division contributed \$500 to the travel grant pool.

Vice-President Dennis Riecke attended the MS and LA Chapter meetings. He has been forwarding job postings and general announcements to the Division listserv until it lost functionality.

Past-President Brian Murphy fulfilled his role as chair of the Nominating Committee. Brian mentioned the recent passing of Dave Willis (Professor, South Dakota State) and informed the EXCOM that the officers plan a special remembrance and recognition of him at the Business meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2013 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2013 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 (Dave Coughlan), and the 2013 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Bonds reported the 2012 Division tax return was submitted prior to the deadline. The 2013 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2013 with \$11,927.86 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Nashville Meeting (\$5,463.61) and the AFS dues rebate (\$7,760). The Division received \$5,000 from the John F. DeQuine Trust and \$3,000 from the Mississippi Chapter as repayment from Hurricane Katrina assistance. The Division received \$296 from the Society for book sale rebates, which were dispersed to appropriate Technical Committees. The Division's checking account received the balance (\$6,768.12) from closing the Student Affairs account. Closing the Student Affairs account would increase efficiency and eliminate hassles associated with bank account transfers following Student Affairs Committee leadership changes. Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. The SDAFS provided financial support to the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee (\$5,500); the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (\$500); the Division's Black Bass Conservation Ad-Hoc Committee (\$1,000 in support of special symposium); the American Cancer Society (\$100 in memory of former member Jerry Finke); Mississippi State University Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Aquaculture (\$500 to support the Southeastern Natural Resources Graduate Student Symposium); the Western Division (\$500 to support travel grants to 2014 Mazatlan meeting); and the Puerto Rico Chapter (\$3,000 in seed money for the new unit). Various other expenses (e.g., awards, plaques, internet service, conference calls, postage, SDAFS expenses at the Nashville Meeting, officer travel, archiving historical information, etc.) have been expensed as received. The total assets in the Southern Division's checking account as of 31 December 2013 were \$21,478.92 and \$6,000 of this is set aside in a Strategic Reserve Fund. Accounting for an outstanding check for \$75, year-end checkbook and financial statement balances are in agreement. An audit of the 2013 financial information was completed 21 January 2014 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Allen. Past-President Murphy made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded by Vic DiCenzo. Motion passed.

The Proposed 2014 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2014 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2014 while still leaving enough cash for early 2015 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2015 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Charleston Meeting. Projected income in 2014 is \$28,606 and expenses are projected at \$21,350 for an end of year balance of \$7,256. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Vic DiCenzo) and seconded (Tim Bonvechio) to approve the 2014 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2014 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

AFS President Bob Hughes Remarks

President Allen welcomed AFS President Bob Hughes and invited him to address the EXCOM. President Hughes mentioned the Society is seeking candidates through the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program, which would fund part of their travel to participate in Society governance. He encouraged prospective applicants. Each applicant would need a supporting letter from a Governing Board member (e.g. Section or Division officer). Bob encouraged units to consider investing part of their money in the Society's investment account in order to earn a greater long-term return. Interested units should consult AFS Executive Director Doug Austen. Bob expects the development of an amendment to the Society constitution to state that each Division would supply one individual to serve on the Society's Audit Committee. He encouraged the Southern Division to consider providing an individual to serve on this committee. Bob mentioned the Society is soliciting another individual from either the Northeast or Southern Division to serve on the Society's Investment Committee.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks

President Allen welcomed AFS Executive Director Doug Austen and invited him to address the EXCOM. Doug stated it was his first Southern Division meeting and he was glad to be there. He updated the EXCOM on Society changes, including website redesign and re-visioning office staff organization and function. The Society is bringing on a new staffer (Policy Director) next month. Society leaders met in Washington D.C. with agency and NGO leaders across the fisheries spectrum to try and re-engage AFS as the leading voice in fisheries issues and policy. Doug concluded by extending an invitation to members to come and visit the Bethesda office.

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, updated the EXCOM on the status of the resolution on off-highway vehicle use in stream beds. The LA Chapter passed a policy statement on off-road vehicle use in stream beds in September 2013, which was built off of a TX Chapter policy statement passed in 2002. The LA Chapter asked Chair Riecke to use their policy statement as the basis for a Division resolution addressing this issue. Chair Riecke combined elements of those two statements into a Division draft resolution. The draft was posted on the Division website in mid-December with a 30-day comment period. One editorial comment was received. Our bylaws require posting resolutions in the newsletter prior to voting. Issues with the listserv crashing precluded our ability to publish and distribute our fall newsletter. Once our listserv functionality is restored, the resolution will be published for another comment period prior to an online vote. The draft resides on the Division website. No action was taken on this update.

Chair Riecke notified the EXCOM that a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2014 Meeting in Charleston would be presented at the Business Meeting for membership consideration.

President Allen reported that Archiving Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Greg Summers, will be working on electronically cataloging old newsletters and other archived information. No action was needed on this update.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas – Report stands as written.

Auburn University – Did not submit a written report to the Briefing Book. Noted they want to reconnect with the Division. They conducted fundraising to assist five students to attend the Division meeting. They also conducted community outreach and held monthly meetings, largely focused on professional development activities. Some discussion ensued regarding the possibility of an Alabama Chapter being established in the future. President-Elect Jackson requested that they communicate further and offered to attend one of their meetings.

Florida – Report stands as written. Noted the FL Chapter bid to host the Society meeting in Tampa in 2017.

Georgia - Report stands as written. Joey Slaughter noted the 2015 Division meeting will be held in Savannah, January 28 through February 1, at the Hyatt Regency Savannah Riverfront. Marketing for the meeting will begin soon through social media. The program committee is largely in place. Tim Bonvechio updated EXCOM on HR 996 bill (Invasive Species Screening Act) and the solicitation for GA Chapter support. Several GA Chapter members expressed concerns about wording in the bill. Tim solicited advice from the Division officers, who elevated the issue to the Society level. The Society issued comment, making it easier for the Chapter to respond. President Allen reported that this was a good example where the Society dealt with fisheries policy in a constructive way. Details are in the briefing book.

Kentucky – Report stands as written.

Louisiana – Report stands as written. Robby Maxwell described the process involved with developing the LA Chapter's policy statement on off-road vehicle use in streams and its influence on LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and state legislative actions relevant to the issue.

Mississippi - Report stands as written.

North Carolina - Report stands as written.

Oklahoma – Report stands as written.

Potomac – Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Miguel Garcia thanked the Division for the \$3,000 donation, serving as seed money for the new Chapter. He expressed the desire of his Chapter to host a future Division meeting, which was warmly received by the EXCOM.

South Carolina – President Allen recognized and thanked the South Carolina meeting planning leadership and committee for their work hosting a successful Division meeting. Report stands as written. Noted the 2014 Division meeting attracted 525 registrants, which is one of the higher attendances for a Division meeting. (*Secretary's Note: By the end of the meeting, registered attendees totaled 561.*)

Tennessee – Report stands as written.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater – Report stands as written.

Virginia - Report stands as written. Vic DiCenzo thanked Gloria Schoenholtz for her work in converting their Chapter website over to WordPress platform and encouraged other units to utilize her skills in a similar fashion.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as written.

West Virginia – Report stands as written.

Other Old Business

President Allen reported Gloria Schoenholtz has done an outstanding job as webmaster and converting Division and unit websites to the WordPress platform. Vic DiCenzo asked whether any Division officers had administrator access to the website. President Allen replied that it was just Gloria. Vic recounted how advantageous it was for multiple VA Chapter members to have administrator rights in order to make their own updates to their Chapter website. Secretary-Treasurer Bonds noted that is an advantage and a goal to have multiple administrators for each website to remove some of the burden off of Gloria long term.

Past-President Murphy noted challenges associated with getting people to agree to run for office. He advocated getting an early start in soliciting nominations and to contact President Allen with suggestions for candidates. Society President Hughes mentioned it is critical to have the Division's representative to the AFS Nominating Committee in place by August. President Allen solicited volunteers to serve on the Ballot Committee. He thanked Vic DiCenzo for chairing the committee in 2013.

New Business

Future meeting locations were discussed. President Allen noted that the 2015 meeting location (GA) had already been discussed. He noted the 2016 Division Meeting will be held in West Virginia. Pat Mazik confirmed the dates (February 17 - 21) and location (Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling). Oklahoma Chapter has discussed hosting in 2017, but has not been finalized. AFS President Hughes noted the Society's 2017 annual meeting will be held in Tampa, FL. Jim Long inquired what the OK Chapter needed to do to finalize their host bid. President Allen suggested that the OK Chapter discuss, decide and formally inform the Division President in writing. Jim said the OK Chapter would vote on this at their upcoming business meeting. President Allen noted the Division procedures could provide more detailed guidance on this process.

President Allen discussed his dealings with the Division listserv issues. He reported that Sarah Gilbert-Fox at AFS has been extremely helpful in assisting us restore functionality, but operational details are still a work in progress. Gail Goldberg (AFS) quickly generated a Division email address list (> 1,600 members). AFS paid the initial fee for the new listserv platform (emaillodo), and it is now operational. Several minutes of discussion followed addressing listserv operational topics such as future administrators/moderators, testing functionality, member email list updating, member opt-out, supporting software upgrades, and merging non-AFS Chapter members. AFS Executive Director Austen reported Eva (AFS staff) will send email mailing lists monthly to units. He noted that if units would submit their complete member lists to Bethesda, the Society's staff would track both AFS and non-AFS chapter members for the units. This would allow units to maintain updated listserv lists and provide the Society a tool for marketing memberships to non-members. President Allen reported that the listserv operation kinks aren't worked out, but the Division officers would continue to work closely with the Society's staffs to work through details.

President Allen reminded units and committees to submit their change-of-officer forms to Gail Goldberg (AFS Bethesda) and Division officers so that website contact information can remain current.

AFS Executive Director Austen reminded all units that the Society offers insurance. He also stated that the Society plans to hold semi-annual Chapter calls to discuss business. He mentioned it was a challenge to find current officer contact information and reiterated the importance of submitting change-of-officer forms. Gail Goldberg serves as the Society's point of contact for chapters for answering questions and updating contact information.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Brian Murphy) and seconded (Dave Coughlan). Hearing unanimous support, President Allen adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 4:57 pm.