

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
February 7, 2013
Nashville, Tennessee

President Brian Murphy called the EXCOM to order at 5:32 pm. President Murphy asked Dave Rizzuto (General Meeting Chair) and Phil Bettoli (Program Chair) to provide an update on the general meeting. Dave stated the general meeting received 378 paid and 11 complimentary registrations. He expected a total of approximately 410 registrations. Phil stated 171 oral presentation and 48 poster abstracts were accepted into the meeting program. President Murphy extended thanks to the entire Tennessee Chapter host committee. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Murphy called roll and the following proxies were identified: Florida (Eric Nagid), Louisiana (Craig Gothreaus), Mississippi (Stephen Brown), Puerto Rico (Craig Lilyestrom), Virginia (John Copeland), and Virginia Tech (Brandon Peoples). President Murphy recognized AFS President, John Boreman. AFS President Boreman thanked the Southern Division for the invitation and sent regards from AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam. President Murphy recognized SDAFS Past Presidents Fred Heitman, Pat Mazik, and Larry Olmstead. SDAFS officers (President, Brian Murphy; Past-President, Steve Lochmann; President-Elect, Mike Allen; Vice-President, John Jackson; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds) were introduced.

SDAFS President Report

President Murphy stated his report was covered in the briefing book, copies of which were distributed to the EXCOM on portable USB drives. Highlights included progress on the “3 Cs” (Chapters, Committees, and Communications). Puerto Rico Chapter was welcomed as a new sub-unit, the Potomac Chapter reactivated, Austin Peay University became a new student sub-unit of the Tennessee Chapter, and the Clemson University Student Sub-unit revived after a period of inactivity. The Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee reactivated under the leadership of Mark Thurman. The Small Impoundments Committee completed their book publication. President Murphy updated the EXCOM on the Division’s new website utilizing the WordPress platform. The Division spent considerable effort negotiating with the Society on migrating the Division’s site over to the Society’s server, but issues related to cost and template compatibility precluded this move. Gloria Schoenholtz has been serving as Division webmaster and is available to assist Division sub-units migrate their information to the WordPress platform and/or attach their web pages to the Division’s site. President Murphy asked Craig Bonds and Michelle Klopfer to investigate web-conferencing options to facilitate enhanced communication within the Division and remote participation on committees. Craig and Michelle prepared a proposal containing a variety of options for use and reported to the Division Officers. That report will be posted on the Division’s website. Members are encouraged to contact Craig with questions (craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us; 903-566-1615).

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect Mike Allen provided his report. The Western Division is hosting their 2014 meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. They asked other divisions and sub-units to provide financial support for this meeting. President-Elect Allen informed the EXCOM there would be a related budget item for discussion later in the meeting. Julie Harris was recognized and thanked for her service as the Student Affairs Committee Chair. President-Elect Allen worked with her to schedule several student-related activities at this meeting, including the student-mentor lunch on Friday, free registration for one officer from each student sub-unit, reduced registration (i.e. \$35 rebate) for undergraduate students (must be Society member), and a student leadership luncheon on Sunday. At this luncheon, Steve McMullin will talk with them about leadership in AFS, and a discussion will be held among students and Division officers concerning the future of the Student Colloquium.

Vice-President John Jackson reviewed the Non-Game Aquatics Technical Committee meeting. Mark Thurman is spearheading the effort to resurrect the committee. The committee discussed the possibility of hosting a special symposium at next year's meeting dealing with State Wildlife Action Plans. His report stands as written.

Past-President Steve Lochmann's report stands as written. He did want to remind the EXCOM that the Society's 2013 annual meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 8 - 12. President Murphy reminded the EXCOM that future Society annual meetings will be held in Quebec City (2014) and Portland, Oregon (2015).

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2012 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Lochmann), and the 2012 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

The 2012 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2012 with \$11,658 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Spring Meeting in Biloxi (\$12,152.63) and the AFS dues rebate (\$8,216). Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. Bonds noted a non-budgeted expense of \$2,000 was paid to the Division webmaster for website redesign and content migration. Donations were made to the following: Black Bass Conservation Ad-Hoc Committee (\$1,500), AFS-EOS (\$500), North Carolina Chapter (\$250; 2011 Membership Challenge), AFS Education Section's Skinner Memorial Award (\$250; on behalf of NC Chapter's Membership Challenge Award), SDAFS Small Impoundments Committee (\$500), and SIU (\$400) to support the publication of the book *North American Freshwater Fishes*. The Student Affairs Committee was provided \$5,500 for student lodging at SDAFS and SEAFWA Meetings. The Division ended the year with \$11,927 in cash with an additional \$6,000 maintained in the Strategic Reserve Fund. An audit of the 2012 financial information was completed 10 January 2013 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Murphy. Bonds made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded by Mike Allen. Motion passed.

The Proposed 2013 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2013 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2013 while still leaving enough cash for early 2014 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2014 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Nashville Meeting and \$2,000 from the John F. DeQuine estate. Bonds noted that an additional, larger donation is expected from the DeQuine estate once remaining assets (e.g. real estate holding) are liquidated. Murphy noted the estate donation is meant to support communication within the Division. Projected income in 2013 is \$27,299 and expenses are projected at \$26,220 for an end of year balance of \$1,079. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Mike Abney) and seconded (Pat Mazik) to approve the 2013 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2013 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, presented a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2013 Spring Meeting in Nashville. A motion to send the resolution to the Business Meeting for membership consideration was made by Jackson and seconded by Bonds. The proposed resolution was approved to proceed to the membership for consideration by a unanimous vote.

Chair Riecke then presented a resolution to support federal funding of the Asian Carp Control and Management Plan. The resolution has been presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2012 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment). One editorial comment was received and the resolution was revised accordingly. Motion was made (Jackson) to approve for presentation to the membership at the Business Meeting and seconded (Lochmann). The motion was approved unanimously.

Archiving Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Greg Summers, recognized committee members Jeff Boxrucker and Mike Van Den Avyle. Greg summarized accomplishments of the committee to bring this task to a successful conclusion. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Greg provided examples of over 2,800 digital images (e.g. newsletters, pictures, proceeding abstracts, and correspondence) cataloged and archived online.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas – Report stands as written.

Auburn University – Report stands as written.

Florida – Report stands as written.

Georgia - Report stands as written.

Kentucky – Report stands as written.

Louisiana – Report stands as written.

Mississippi - Report stands as written. President Murphy commended the chapter for the exceptional job they performed in fundraising for the 2012 Biloxi Meeting.

North Carolina - Report stands as written.

Oklahoma - Report stands as written. Jim Long noted that the Oklahoma State University Student-Subunit will host a regional (Great Plains area) student colloquium at Lake Texoma. Vice-President Jackson noted the decline in student

participation in the Division student colloquium and that President-Elect Allen has organized a student luncheon on Sunday (February 10) to obtain input from students and to discuss the future of the student colloquium. President Murphy noted he attended the last student colloquium in West Virginia, which only drew students from a limited geographical area. He stated that a regional model, rather than a Division-wide approach, for student colloquiums might be more ideal. Jackson noted the Wildlife Student Colloquium uses a different model, including competitions (e.g. quiz bowl) and is more focused on attracting undergraduates.

Potomac – Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Craig Lilyestrom introduced Miguel A. Garcia, Interim Chapter President and Director of Fisheries and Wildlife for the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Puerto Rico recently joined the Division as a Chapter.

South Carolina - Report stands as written. Noted the 2014 Southern Division meeting will be held in Charleston, January 23-26, at the Francis Marion Hotel.

Tennessee – Report stands as written.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater – Report stands as written.

Virginia - Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as written.

West Virginia – Report stands as written.

New Business

Future meeting locations were discussed. President Murphy briefly explained some confusion surrounding the meeting host bid-proposal process. The officers will be working to update the Division procedures to improve this process. President Murphy noted the 2015 Division Meeting will be held in Georgia. Meeting location is yet to be determined at this time. West Virginia is confirmed for the last week of February, 2016, at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling. The Oklahoma and Puerto Rico chapters have discussed hosting in 2017, but neither have committed to date.

President Murphy stated that Phil Bettoli recommended the Division consider employing an abstract submission service. Murphy stated this service may cost approximately \$1,800 - \$2,000. For host chapters interested in utilizing this service they should build it into the meeting expenses budget as opposed to a Division expense. Pat Mazik spoke in favor of using this service provided it fit within a meeting budget.

President Murphy passed along a suggestion from the Mississippi Chapter's 2012 Biloxi Meeting Planning Committee. They recommended selecting all weekdays for meetings to take advantage of cheaper hotel rates.

Past-President Lochmann explained the differences associated with bylaws and procedural changes, and several modifications were proposed and discussed. Proposed changes were intended to ease difficulties associated with conducting Technical Committee meetings under restricted travel circumstances. Lochmann made a motion to change the Division procedures relevant to the way quorums are determined for

conducting Technical Committee business. Specifically, Lochmann moved and Jackson seconded to change all Technical Committee procedures to state, “A quorum consists of five committee members, including the chair, or the chair’s proxy.” Lochmann noted that several Technical Committees met but could not conduct business because many required ten or one-half of all voting members to be present to establish a quorum. Pat Mazik spoke in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lochmann made a motion to change the Division procedures relevant to all Technical Committee meeting frequency and location to state, “The committee will meet at least one time per year, and electronic participation is acceptable.” The motion was seconded by Eric Nagid and discussed. Greg Summers asked whether the motion should include explicit reference to “real-time” participation because email is considered “electronic”. Summers moved to amend the motion to state, “The committee will meet at least one time per year, and synchronous electronic participation is acceptable.” Mazik seconded. The motion to amend was discussed. Motion to amend passed by unanimous vote. Amended motion was further discussed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lochmann moved to make a procedural change to the tenure of Technical Committee member appointments from one to two years. Motion seconded by Bonds. Motion was discussed. Lochmann noted that by the time agency fisheries chiefs provide the Division president their committee appointments, it is typically well into the calendar year. This change would allow the Division to approach fisheries chiefs once every two years rather than every year. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lochmann noted changes to bylaws must be reviewed by the EXCOM and proposed to the membership through announcements in the Division newsletter prior to voting at the next business meeting. Lochmann noted that the Division officers would like to propose a change to the Division bylaws in Section VI (Executive Committee) from, “The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, and the President of each chapter within the Division” to “The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, a student representative elected by students, and the President of each chapter within the Division.” Lochmann noted that the Western Division recently implemented a similar change to be more inclusive to students. He also noted that any subsequent changes to the Division procedures to facilitate the election a student representative will only be made following a bylaws change.

Lochmann noted a proposed bylaws change will be presented to the membership relevant to Section X (Amendment of Bylaws), changing verbiage from, “...and published in the Division newsletter at least 30 days prior to consideration by the membership” to “...and provided to the membership at least 30 days prior for consideration by the membership”. The Division is currently constrained by having to include proposed bylaws changes in the newsletter. This change would enable the bylaws change proposals to be presented to the membership by a variety of electronic distribution channels, allowing at least 30 days for consideration prior to voting. This proposal was discussed. No motion was required.

Other Business

Division Representative to SEAFWA, Pat Mazik, requested incoming President Mike Allen to appoint an ad hoc committee, consisting of Mazik, Gene Gilliland, Bob Curry, and Gary Saul, to investigate potential collaborative enhancements, communication, and joint meeting opportunities between SEAFWA and the Southern Division. This ad hoc committee will report their findings to the Division.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Dennis Riecke) and seconded (Mike Abney) and, hearing unanimous support, President Murphy adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 7:10 pm.