

## Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2014

Charleston, South Carolina

The 2014 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1730 hrs by President Mike Allen. Secretary/Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Allen recognized the current SDAFS officers; John Jackson, President-Elect; Dennis Riecke, Vice-President; Brian Murphy, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Allen recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Reggie Harrell, Fred Heitman, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, and Steve McMullin. President Allen recognized special guest Olaf Weyl of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity.

President Allen announced a slight deviation from the agenda. Past-President Brian Murphy offered a special resolution for membership consideration, posthumously honoring recently-deceased Dave Willis (distinguished fisheries biologist and former Professor and Head of the Natural Resources Management Department; South Dakota State University) with the first ever Southern Division Amazing Career Award. Murphy gave a tribute, through words and pictures, to the life and professional contributions of Dave. Murphy read and moved to approve the resolution, and Fred Heitman seconded. Motion passed unanimously followed by a standing ovation.

Allen introduced AFS President Bob Hughes and Executive Director Doug Austen.

**AFS President Bob Hughes's Remarks:** President Hughes mentioned it was his first trip to a Southern Division meeting. He was impressed with the continuing education workshops and the level of Technical Committee activity. Hughes applauded the Southern Division for supplying both candidates for the Society's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President office.

**AFS Executive Director Doug Austen's Remarks:** Executive Director Austen expressed his appreciation for the invitation to attend his first Southern Division meeting and for the resolution and award recognizing Dave Willis. Austen gave a brief history of his involvement in AFS. His goal is for AFS to serve as the "center of gravity" for fisheries issues in Washington D.C. He mentioned several actions which will help the Society move that way. One is the hiring of Tom Bigford (NOAA retiree and *Fisheries* habitat column contributor) as Policy Director. The Society officers recently held a Fisheries Leadership Dialogue with a broad spectrum of agency and NGO top leaders with a goal of using AFS as the vehicle for engagement on fisheries issues. Austen announced plans for a Policy Internship Program. A Co-Chief Science Editor for *Fisheries* will be added. The Society plans to ramp up the level of engagement with members through an enhanced social media presence. AFS plans to assist with convening a Global Inland Fisheries Conference to be held in Rome, Italy, in 2015. AFS will be publishing the conference proceedings. AFS hosts the World Fisheries Council and the next World Fisheries Congress convenes in South Korea in 2016. Austen reminded members that the next Society meeting will be held in Quebec City in August.

**President Allen's Address:** President Allen has invested considerable effort towards restoring functionality to the Division listserv. He reported on Gloria Schoenholtz's outstanding work to update and manage the Division website and assist Chapters with website enhancements and

migration to WordPress platform. Her work has been funded through an approved Division budget line item. The Ad-Hoc Pollution Committee plans to revise the book on investigations and monetary values of fish and mussel kills. Allen will submit a request to Executive Director Austen to ask the Society to initiate the process of revising the book. The previous revisions (approximately 10 years ago) were contracted through Southwick Associates.

The Western Division Meeting will be held in Mazatlan, Mexico, this year. The Southern Division will support this meeting by providing up to \$1,500 in travel funding for President-Elect John Jackson to attend, as well as providing \$500 to the meeting's travel grant pool. President Allen served on the travel grant committee to select recipients. Two Southern Division members received travel grants. Allen reported the Puerto Rico Chapter is up and running, and advocated holding a future Southern Division meeting there.

Through his role as Division President, Allen observed opportunities and gained an appreciation for how AFS can be involved in influencing policy. Following a request from the Georgia Chapter, the Division facilitated an AFS response (from the Introduced Fish Section through President John Boreman) on the Invasive Species Screening Act bill. This comment letter is available for view on the Division website.

**Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' Report:** Minutes from the 2013 Nashville Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2013 SDAFS Newsletter and posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Brad Ray) and the 2013 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds presented the 2013 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year (note: the financial statement is a report and does not require a motion for approval). Bonds noted the Division 2012 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15<sup>th</sup> reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2014 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported the Audit Committee completed their audit on 21 January 2014, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Dave Coughlan) to approve the 2014 budget. Motion passed.

**Host Chapter Report:** South Carolina Chapter President and Division General Meeting Chair Shane Boring welcomed members to Charleston. Boring noted registered attendees totaled approximately 550. He thanked the Planning Committee, including Marcel Reichert (Local Arrangements Chair), Tanya Darden and Cathy Marion (Finance Co-Chairs), Amy Dukes and Leo Lentsch (Fundraising Co-Chairs), Chris McDonough (Program Chair), and meeting sponsors. The host Chapter raised approximately \$40,000 to support the meeting.

**President-Elect John Jackson's Chapter Activity Report:** Highlights from the various state chapters shared five commonalities, including 1) exchange of information and fellowship facilitated through meetings (especially joint meetings), 2) recognition of members through awards, 3) communication among members (e.g. websites, social media, etc.), 4) support for students and their sub-units (e.g. scholarships, travel grants, awards, etc.), and 5) community connection and involvement. Jackson encouraged members to download the briefing book from the Division website and read about Chapter activities and accomplishments.

**Vice President Dennis Riecke's Technical Committee Report:** Six of the nine Technical Committees (TCs) held meetings in Charleston. Riecke was impressed by their ability to help colleagues, better understand fisheries, and contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. The Alligator Gar TC assisted the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation

Cooperative develop a habitat model for the species. The Catfish Management TC created a database containing all state regulations for recreational and commercial catfish fisheries and posted it on their website. The Small Impoundments TC published their book, *Small Impoundment Management in North America*, during the past year. The Warmwater Streams TC sponsored an Instream Flow workshop at the Charleston meeting. The Reservoir TC has been updating their habitat manual.

**President Allen's Standing Committee Report:** Allen recognized Dennis Riecke as chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke updated the membership on the status of the draft resolution on off-highway vehicle use in streams. The resolution originated from policy statements written by Texas (2002) and Louisiana (2013). The draft newsletter was posted on the Division website in mid-December. Chair Riecke received one comment. Our bylaws state resource resolutions must be published in the Division's newsletter prior to voting. Issues surrounding loss of our listserv functionality precluded publication and dissemination of the fall newsletter. Once listserv functionality is restored, the draft resolution will be published in the newsletter. Following a 30-day comment period, the resolution will be put to an electronic vote of the membership. If passed, members will need to decide whether the resolution should advance to the Society's Resolutions Committee for consideration.

Ballot Committee Chair, Vic DiCenzo, noted other committee members were Past-President Murphy and Brad Ray. Division elections were held electronically in 2013 using Survey Monkey. Eric Nagid and Dave Coughlan were candidates for Vice President and Kim Bonvechio and Nancy Brown-Peterson were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. DiCenzo announced Dave Coughlan as incoming SDAFS Vice President and Kim Bonvechio as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. President Allen noted that members will be receiving e-ballots this year containing three candidates, including Secretary-Treasurer.

**Presentation of Awards:** President Allen recognized Gene Wilde as the Awards Committee Chair and Tim Bonner, out-going Awards Committee Chair, for assisting. Neither Gene nor Tim was able to make the meeting. President-Elect Jackson announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Allen congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2013 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Kim Bonvechio (R. Eric Sawyers, Erin Leone and Steve Crawford, co-authors) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. First place was given to Wes Neal of Mississippi State University. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

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

The Best Poster Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting in Nashville went to Hilary Glenn (Dannielle Kulaw and James H. Cowan, Jr., co-authors) of Louisiana State University. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting was given to William Pruitt (James T. Peterson and Cecil A. Jennings, co-authors) of the University of Georgia. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Tim O'Donnell (Michael R. Denson and Tanya Darden, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

Brian Alford, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Augustin (Gus) Engman of North Carolina State University.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snellings (Auburn University; not present) and Kristopher Stahr (Oklahoma State University).

Riecke presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the South Carolina Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Shane Boring, General Meeting Chair; Chris McDonough, Program Chair; Marcel Reichert, Local Arrangements Chair; Amy Dukes and Leo Lentsch, Fundraising Co-Chairs; and Tanya Darden and Cathy Marion, Finance Co-Chairs; for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2014 meeting. Riecke made a motion, and seconded by Lochmann, to pass the resolution. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** President Allen brought proposed bylaws changes (see 2013 EXCOM New Business minutes and 2013 Summer Newsletter) to the membership for vote. Proposal included: Change (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”; and change (Section X; Amendment of Bylaws) 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”. Motion to approve bylaws change was made (Brad Ray) and seconded (Reggie Harrell). President Allen called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**Installation of 2014 Officers:** Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; Dave Coughlan, Vice President; Dennis Riecke, President-Elect; and John Jackson, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Mike Allen presented the Presidential gavel to John Jackson.

**Newly Installed President Jackson’s Remarks:** After a brief reminiscence from their graduate school days, Jackson thanked Allen for his service and guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past-President’s plaque and a bottle of 18-year-old bourbon. His plan of work in 2014 includes facilitating connections among the network of the Society, Division, Student Sub-units, Chapters, and Technical Committees, and providing the tools necessary to do their work. President Jackson closed by encouraging members to contact him with suggestions on how he can better facilitate connections among members.

**New Business:** None.

A motion to adjourn was made (Brad Ray) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the meeting concluded at 1855 hrs.