

## **Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes**

**January 30, 2015**

**Savannah, Georgia**

The 2015 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1735 hrs by President John Jackson. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Jackson recognized the current SDAFS officers: Dennis Riecke, President-Elect; Dave Coughlan, Vice-President; Mike Allen, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Jackson recognized AFS officers: Donna Parrish, President; Ron Essig, President-Elect; Steve McMullin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Division Past President; Bob Hughes, immediate Past President; and Jim Bowker, Western Division President-Elect. President Jackson mentioned the Society's Governing Board will be meeting immediately following the Division meeting, giving Board members from around the country the opportunity to come early and participate in the Division meeting. President Jackson also recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Bob Curry, Fred Heitman, Cecil Jennings, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, Brian Murphy, and Nick Parker. President Jackson recognized Society staff Tom Bigford and Beverly Pike.

President Jackson introduced AFS President Donna Parrish.

**AFS President Donna Parrish's Remarks:** President Parrish mentioned she was thrilled to visit a warmer area of the country and thanked the Division meeting planning team for accommodating Society staff. She mentioned Executive Director Doug Austen is still in a meeting in Rome, Italy, but would be joining the Division meeting later in the week. She reminded attendees that Chapter presidents are non-voting members of the Governing Board and welcomed them to attend their Monday meeting. Donna informed attendees of the Society's efforts to address and analyze communication strategies within the Society. A media firm has been contracted to facilitate the Governing Board retreat. Topics of discussion will include how the Society communicates, how it can enhance communication, and how members can provide their input into these strategies. Donna extended an invitation to attend the 2015 Society meeting in Portland, Oregon, from August 16 – 20. She anticipates high attendance. Meeting planners will limit presentations to one per attendee, and a push will be made to include at least one student talk per symposium.

**President Jackson's Address:** President Jackson mentioned his opportunity to attend the Western Division Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. Jackson highlighted the Division officers' efforts to revise the procedures manual. Great progress was made throughout the past year. One of Jackson's main tasks as immediate Past President will be to complete this effort. Jackson mentioned turnover in several roles. Zack Martin will take over the webmaster role from Gloria Schoenholtz, and Sasha Doss will take over the newsletter editing role from Brandon Peoples. Jackson mentioned the prior change to bylaws to include a Student Representative on the EXCOM as a voting member. Brandon Peoples was elected (by students) to serve in that new role and will be installed at this meeting.

**Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' Report:** Minutes from the 2014 Charleston Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2014 SDAFS Newsletter and posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Marcel Reichert) and the 2014 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds

presented the 2014 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 2013 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15<sup>th</sup> reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2015 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported that the Audit Committee completed their audit on 8 January 2015, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Bonds moved to approve the 2015 budget. Motion was seconded (Bob Curry) and passed by unanimous vote.

**Host Chapter Report:** Georgia Chapter General Meeting Chair Joey Slaughter welcomed members to Savannah. Slaughter noted registered attendees totaled approximately 674 (at time of business meeting), which is believed to be a Division record. He thanked the meeting sponsors and the Planning Committee, including Chris Harper (Local Arrangements Chair), Joel Fleming (Local Arrangements Committee member), Chris Kalinowski (Audio/Visual), Rebecca Brown (Registration/Finances), Nicole Rankin (Registration/Information-Technology), Steve Sammons and Cecil Jennings (Program Co-Chairs), Tim Bonvechio (Continuing Education Workshops), Bryant Bowen (Poster Session), John Kilpatrick (Symposia), Cindy Williams (Volunteers/Miscellaneous), and Amy Dukes (Trade Show). The host Chapter raised approximately \$62,000 to support the meeting.

**President-Elect Dennis Riecke's Chapter Activity Report:** Riecke mentioned briefing book reports contained a lot of information related to Chapter meetings, awards, and student scholarships. Riecke highlighted a few. Past President Allen will teach a continuing education course on fish population dynamics using Microsoft Excel to Arkansas Chapter members at their annual meeting. Riecke commended the Arkansas Chapter for their six student sub-units. The Auburn Chapter raised \$6,500 to support member activities, setting their own Chapter's fundraising record. The Mississippi Chapter reported 81% of their members were also Society members. They also digitally archived past meeting minutes and abstracts and passed a resolution taking a position on the sale of game fish in Mississippi. Oklahoma Chapter's Environmental Concerns Committee completed a position statement on the sustainable use of water resources in their state. The Puerto Rico Chapter held its first meeting. The Virginia Chapter is working on a water-proof, quick field fish identification key.

**Vice President Dave Coughlan's Technical Committee Report:** Coughlan commended TCs on the quality of their websites and encouraged attendees to visit them online. Coughlan mentioned the Striped Bass TC is developing their web pages. The Alligator Gar TC, besides maintaining an excellent website, is experimenting with alternative meeting sites in an effort to boost membership and participation. The Aquaculture TC maintains a comprehensive list of hatcheries and staff contact information located in the Division's geographic footprint. The Catfish Management TC conducted a catfish aging workshop at last year's Division meeting and maintains an excellent website. The Reservoir TC has been working with the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership on scoring project proposals. They are also working on updating their habitat manual and awarded one Robert Jenkins student scholarship. The Trout TC meets outside the Division meeting. Several of their members attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture in Shepherdstown, WV. The Warmwater Streams TC maintains an excellent website, containing videos and publications. They also manage their own Facebook page. They hosted a continuing education workshop at the 2015 Division meeting on data standardization for rivers and streams in the Southern U.S., as well as a special symposium entitled, "Meeting our Data Needs with Limited Resources: Recent Advances in Stream Sampling Techniques". The Pollution Ad Hoc Committee is updating monetary values of freshwater mussel and fish kills.

**President Jackson's Standing Committee Report:** Jackson recognized Dennis Riecke as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. He mentioned the EXCOM had previously approved it and called for a motion to approve by members. Gene Wilde moved to approve the resolution of appreciation to the Georgia Chapter. Steve McMullin seconded; motion passed unanimously. 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 2013. 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 in 2014 precluded publication and dissemination of the 2014 fall newsletter. Listserv functionality was restored, the draft resolution was published in the newsletter. Gene Wilde moved to approve resolution and was seconded by Dave Coughlan. Wilde offered a friendly amendment specific to the clause mentioning state agencies and permitting agencies promulgating laws to include state legislatures in that group, but specify that agencies promulgating regulations and legislatures enacting laws. Motion to approve the resolution (as amended) passed unanimously. Brad Ray moved the Division elevate the resolution up to the Society's Resolutions Committee for consideration. Gene Wilde seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ballot Committee Chair, Pat Mazik, noted other committee members were Past-President Allen and Vic DiCenzo. Division elections were held electronically in 2014 using Survey Monkey. Wes Porak and Craig Bonds were candidates for Vice President; Kim Bonvechio and Jill Hendon were candidates for Secretary-Treasurer; Kyle Hartman and Mike Kaller were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee; and Brandon Peoples and Zach Siders were candidates for Student Representative to the EXCOM. Mazik announced Wes Porak as incoming Vice President, Kim Bonvechio as incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Kyle Hartman as incoming Representative to the Society's Nominating Committee, and Brandon Peoples as incoming Student Representative to the EXCOM. President Jackson notified members of a decision by the EXCOM to clarify/simplify election, term duration, and installation of the Division's Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee (see 2015 EXCOM meeting minutes for specifics of change).

**Presentation of Awards:** President Jackson recognized Gene Wilde as the Awards Committee Chair for assisting. President-Elect Riecke announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Jackson congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2014 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Travis Tuten (Andrew Dutterer, Kevin Johnson, Eric Nagid, and Matthew Laretta, co-authors) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service (M. Laretta only). First place was given to Greg Binion (Dan Daugherty and Kristopher Bodine, co-authors) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 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 2014 SDAFS Meeting in Charleston went to Liz Duermit (Melissa Hughes, Peter Kingsley-Smith, David Whitaker, and Dara Wilber, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2014 SDAFS

Meeting was given to Rebecca Mortensen (Stephen A. Arnott, William J. Jones, and Dianne Greenfield, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Zach Siders (Grant Scholten and Robert Ahrens, co-authors) of the University of Florida. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Wes Porak for his contributions to the advancement of fisheries conservation of native black basses.

Riecke presented an appreciation certificate and plaque to both the host Georgia Chapter (specifically those mentioned in the resolution of appreciation) and to General Meeting Chair, Joey Slaughter, in recognition of their efforts.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snellings (Auburn University) and Ben Tumolo (Murray State University).

Brian Alford, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Tomas Ivasauskas of North Carolina State University.

President Jackson recognized Bob Curry, Division Representative to SEAFWA, and asked him to notify membership of a recent C. W. Watson Award winner. Bob announced that Fred Harris (former AFS and Southern Division President) was bestowed this honor at the 2014 SEAFWA Conference. This award represents the most prestigious honor given by the SEAFWA.

**Old Business:** None.

**Installation of 2015 Officers:** Newly installed officers, Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer; Wes Porak, Vice President; Dave Coughlan, President-Elect; and Dennis Riecke, President, were escorted to the head of the room. John Jackson presented the Presidential gavel to Dennis Riecke.

**Newly Installed President Riecke's Remarks:** Jackson thanked Bonds for his service as Secretary-Treasurer and presented him with an appreciation plaque. Riecke also thanked outgoing President Jackson 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 2015 includes completing the procedural manual revision, updating Division and sub-unit websites, nurturing the establishment of an Alabama Chapter, encouraging each sub-unit to perform one new fisheries project, promoting AFS (e.g. professional certification, recruit new member, and engage/commit to contribute), and finding replacements for the Resolutions Committee Chair and Listserv administrator.

**New Business:** President Riecke called for Pat Mazik to give an update on next year's meeting. Mazik stated the 2016 Division Annual Meeting will be held at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Mazik covered some anticipated meeting details and mentioned the meeting website is up and running.

President Riecke closed by presenting Past President John Jackson with a Southern Division cap and an old bottle of Patron tequila. As an award for making it through a Division business

meeting, Patrick O'Rourke drew two raffle tickets for a GoPro Hero 3 video camera (won by Tom Bigford) and a Bass Pro Shops gift card (won by Dan Shoup).

Hearing no new business, President Riecke adjourned the meeting at 1856 hrs.