

**2012 Estuaries Section Business Meeting Notes**  
**August 19, 2012**

Taken by Abigail Franklin, President-Elect (for Secretary Lynn Waterhouse)

*In attendance:* Please see attached sign in sheet

**1. Call to Order, Introductions**

President Lee Benaka asked all attendees to introduce themselves and sign the sign in sheet.

**2. Presentation of Student Travel Awards**

Estuaries Section Award Winner—Michelle (Mick) Walsh – University of New Hampshire  
Southern Association of Marine Laboratories Winners—  
Augustin (Gus) Engman – North Carolina State University  
Michael Lowe – University of Southern Mississippi

**3. Presentation of Special Service**

Steve Jordan accepted the past president award on behalf of Fred Guenther, who was not able to attend the meeting.

**4. Nancy Foster Award**

Lee Benaka gave an update on changes in the awarding of the Nancy Foster award. For 2012 it was given to 3 people at a ceremony at NOAA Fisheries HQ in Silver Spring, MD. The recipients gave talks as part of the ceremony.

**5. Old Business**

Lee referenced a written report that was submitted to the AFS Governing Board

Lee announced that he and Abigail Franklin organized and are moderating an Estuaries Section sponsored symposium titled, “Fish Habitat and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009”. The symposium will take place on Thursday August 23 at 1:15PM.

Le reported that Lynn Waterhouse, Secretary of the Estuaries Section created a Section Facebook page.

Lee reported that two Estuaries Section newsletters were written and sent out to the membership via email, and posted on the new Facebook page.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Lee referred members to Attachment 2 and read through the report submitted by Treasurer Anthony Overton.

**7. New Business**

Lee reported on the Governing Board meeting and retreat that he attended before the AFS Annual meeting began.

The speaker at the retreat gave a talk called, "Race for Relevance" The speaker summarized the 6 pressures on professional societies:

Time Famine and the need to use volunteer time more efficiently

Maximum return on dues – a society should offer clear value

Specialization

Generational Values – in general it takes too much time for young people to reach leadership role

For Profit Competition – continuing education

Technology – keeping up on trends

Lee also reported on issues discussed at the Governing Board meeting.

-One of issues discussed was the size of the Governing Board (32). The consultant-speaker advocated for a 5 member Governing Board.

-Empowering the Executive Director and staff to make sure they have the right skills to lead

-Gus Rassam is retiring, and the Board will start a search for a new Executive Director.

-Technology – we need to make sure that AFS keeps up with trends and puts the right amount of resources towards using technology.

-The AFS Budget for the Annual Meeting relates more to sponsorship than attendance

Minnesota has approximately 1500 people in attendance, Seattle was 4,000

-Book sales are down, Gus wants to move towards downloading of chapters rather than physical books.

Lee asked for ideas for Estuaries Section activities. Is there any training needed? Should we involve ourselves with policy efforts?

-Lee reported that he spoke with Kyle Hartman, President of Habitat Section, about collaborating on some continuing education or training courses

-Estuaries Section is a sponsor of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint symposium on Wednesday

Lee opened the floor to ideas for Symposia in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2013

-John Boreman reported that the theme for his presidency is "Challenges for the Future Ahead". He asked members to think futuristically, and about how to train new professionals.

Steve Jordan thought that some ideas could come from the NOAA Habitat Blueprint session.

An Estuaries section member suggested contacting someone from the new administration to discuss ideas for fisheries. He gave the example of a recent news article that gave Romney and Obama a chance to express their views on fisheries. Obama answered the questions, Romney declined to send any information.

An Estuaries section member suggested reaching out to people working in "underdeveloped" countries on estuaries issues. Estuaries section could be resource for issues like what to do when you are asked for on baseline information about fisheries when you have no budget to

collect the information, and the government is asking for comments on development plans. He suggested the estuaries section could put together a manual on what needs to be done to evaluate environmental impacts. John Boreman commented that the next president, Bob Hughes's theme is going to be on global fisheries. He wants to discuss more ideas like this.

An Estuaries section member commented that some international development banks require environmental statements, but they are often ignored.

Lee encouraged people to send him emails with any ideas for symposia.

Lee announced the Estuaries Section website will be revamped by Anthony Overton. He asked for pictures or videos to help spruce up the site and ideas for really short articles.

Lee will look at the bylaws to learn more about Division representation. This could help us to be more connected with different parts of AFS.

Lee asked if anyone else had comments or ideas.

Steve Jordan reminded members that the Estuaries and Marine Fisheries sections worked together to create the online Marine Fisheries Issue. He encouraged people to check it out and reported that it has an impact factor of 1.3. He stated that we should be proud of this work. Lee asked if the Fisheries Forum has worked. Steve reported that the idea was for people to use it as a place to discuss issues together – but there has not been much traffic on that part of the site.

An Estuaries section member suggested creating a LinkedIn page, which is easier to use for professional contacts than Facebook.

Lee will ask the travel award recipients to write a short piece about their research, and will post them on the website.

Adjourned at 6:40PM.

At 7:23PM Lee re-opened meeting so Tom Bigford, NOAA NMFS could give an update on the Nancy Foster award. Tom reported that NOAA NMFS has collaborated for 10 years with the Estuaries Section. This year the format of the award was changed and was changed from one recipient to several recipients. It was given to Stan Mobily, Bob Hoffman, and Robin Bruckner. They presented the awards in Silver Spring so the award ceremony is not rushed to stay within the time frame of the Estuaries Section business meeting.

Tom will send out an email for the Nancy Foster award.

Lee presented a Special Service Award to Tom Bigford.

Adjourned (again) at 7:40PM