

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Charleston, SC**  
**Friday, 21 February 2022**

President Cindy Williams welcomes everyone to the 2022 SDAFS annual business meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann announced a quorum was present. President Cindy Williams called the 2022 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1700 hrs.

Mark Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Ryan Heise. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported.

**AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks:** Executive Director Austen thanked everyone for their continued support of AFS and highlighted the upcoming 151<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Spokane, WA. He also listed other upcoming AFS meetings: Grand Rapids, MI in 2023 and Honolulu, HI in 2024.

**President Cindy William's Report:** President Cindy Williams updates the group on the status of the 2022 SDAFS briefing book and indicates that there are still missing reports from state chapters and technical committees. President Williams remembers Past President Tom Kwak, who passed away unexpectedly in November 2021. She notes that this is the first time that an acting EXCOM member has passed away during service to SDAFS and highlights the impact that Tom had on the society and on individual members.

**Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann's Report:**

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann's reports were handled individually. She noted that the meeting minutes from the 2021 EXCOM meeting are posted on the SDAFS website and were released in the SDAFS newsletter.

Secretary-Treasurer Baumann provided an overview of the 2021 budget. Several income and expense items were highlighted, including \$2,000 in AFS rebates to the Division. It was noted that the 2021 AFS rebates will be included in the 2022 budget due to the Parent Society switching payment forms from physical checks to electronic deposits. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann noted that the SDAFS is holding funds for the Pollution Committee (\$1,800) and highlighted the issues that are encountered by Committee's trying to establish individual bank accounts. The ending SDAFS balance for 2021 totaled \$42,878.46 and included \$13,273 in the strategic reserve funds.

An audit of the 2021 financial information was completed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by the SDAFS Audit Committee Chair Kelsey Roberts. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the committee was unable to meet in person with all members present. The Audit Committee report can be found in the Briefing Book and there were no errors identified in the 2021 financials. The Division's original investment into AFS's managed investment program of \$10,000 in October of 2018 has grown to \$13,273 as of June 2021. It was noted that the Audit Committee Chair suggested the Division look into a more aggressive investment to complement our financial portfolio.

The proposed 2022 SDAFS budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann noted that typical levels of income and expenses were expected in 2022. Highlighted was the proposed donation to Past President Tom Kwak's children college funds.

The current bank balance is sufficient to maintain SDAFS operations.

Amanda Rosenberger made a motion to approve the 2022 budget and that motion was seconded by Keith Gibbs. No objections were brought forward by members.

**Host Meeting Report:** General Meeting Chair Joey Ballenger expressed their gratitude to the 2022 SDAFS Annual Meeting Planning Committee that helped organize this meeting. He also sent gratitude to the SCAFS and SDAFS EXCOM members for their support. He acknowledged that they were able to host 400 registrants, 7 technical committee meetings, and 8 continuing education workshops all while still dealing with the continuing challenges of COVID. The meeting was also able to bring in \$32,000 in meeting sponsorships.

**President-Elect Jason Olive's Chapter Activity Report:** President-Elect Olive summarized the 2022 annual reports submitted by AFS Chapters within the Southern Division. He noted that every Chapter, minus one, held their annual meetings on a virtual platform but were still able to hold many continuing education workshops. Alabama Chapter, was able to hold a hybrid format for their annual meeting with an in person component held in September.

President-Elect Olive highlights the need for SDAFS members to advocate for the passage of RAWA. He thanks Drew Winters for all her help and guidance for helping our members advocate for important changes in political policies.

He highlights the efforts of both the Virginia and South Carolina chapters in hosting the past and future SDAFS annual meetings.

**Vice President Mark Roger's Report:** Vice President Roger's highlighted that he performed a technical review of the Small Impoundments Committee. He followed up by noting that a common theme expressed by multiple technical committees was the increased turnover within the committees and the need for membership stability, as well as, the need for improved communication between committees and EXCOM.

**Resolutions Committee Report:** Chair of the Resolutions Committee Dennis Riecke presented the Resolution of Appreciation to Host to acknowledge the appreciation SDAFS has for the members of the South Carolina Chapter for hosting the 2022 annual meeting. No other resolutions were presented.

Committee Chair Riecke requested a motion for approval of the resolution. Henry Hershey made a motion to approve the 2022 budget and that motion was seconded by Amanda Rosenberger. No objections were brought forward by members.

**Ballot Committee Report:** In Past President Kwak's absence, Past President Neal announced the winners of the election held electronically in 2021. The new officers for 2022 are Anthony Overton (Vice President) and Ambar Torres (Student Representative to the EXCOM).

**Presentation of Awards:** President-Elect Olive announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Williams congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The Jack F. Dequine Best Paper Awards were given to the two best papers/presentations presented at the 2021 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. First place was given to Sean Lusk of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The runner-up award was given to Chris Middough of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Plaques and checks for \$100 (first place) and \$50 (runner-up) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Best Student Sub-Unit Award was presented to the University of Tennessee.

The Outstanding Small Chapter Award was presented to the Georgia Chapter.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Dennis Riecke for all his leadership and participation within the SDAFS.

The Best Student Presentation Award from the 2021 virtual SDAFS Meeting was awarded to Amanpreet Kohli. Runner-ups for Best Student Presentation Award were given to Suraj Vaddi and Jackson Glomb. The Best Student Poster Award went to Bailey O'Brian and runner-ups for best student poster presentation went to Kiah Wright, Jeff Stevens, and Haley Miller.

Jim Burroughs of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to two recipients. The first recipient was Matthew Lewis, a PhD student from the Auburn University. The second recipient was Katie Morris, a Master's student from the University of Arkansas-Pinebluff.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the South Carolina Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee. Plaques and certificates were presented to the South Carolina Chapter members.

**Old Business:**

Amanda Rosenberger recognized the Virginia Chapter for their accomplishments in hosting the first ever virtual annual meeting of the SDAFS.

**Installation of 2022 Officers:** New officers were Ambar Torres, Student Representative to the EXCOM; Jessica Baumann, Secretary-Treasurer; Anthony Overton, Vice President; Mark Rogers, President-Elect; and Jason Olive, President.

**Newly Installed President Jason Olive's Remarks:** President Olive's first official duty was to recognize the works of Past President Cindy Williams with a special plaque and a gift of bourbon.

President Olive expressed his gratitude for being elected an officer of SDAFS EXCOM. President Olive highlighted the amazing work of our past-president Tom Kwak, both from a society level and within the fisheries field itself. President Olive expressed his heartbreak over losing not only a colleague but a friend and how he feels like a knowing Tom made him a better human being.

President Olive then highlighted his goal for the upcoming year: 1) his first goal is to increase communication between EXCOM and the leaders of both the chapters and committees; 2) his second goal is to reengage the state fisheries Chiefs with technical committees; 3) his third goal is to encourage members to highlight the work of their fellow colleague's and submit nominations for SDAFS awards.

**New Business:** President Olive invited Brad Fink to speak about the 2023 SDAFS meeting to be held in Virginia. Location is unknown at the moment, but more information to come.

President Olive addresses how the Society handles the student rooms during the annual meetings. We will reduce the number of students required to share a room to a number that allows each student to have a bed. Students will no longer be required to share beds.

President Olive announced that the 2022 Distinguished Service Award will be presented posthumously to our Past President, Tom Kwak. He also announced that in Tom's honor, the Distinguished Service Award will be renamed the Tom Kwak Distinguished Service Award.

Motion to adjourn: JJ Gladdon

Seconded by: Joey Ballenger

Meeting was adjourned by President Olive at 1838 hrs.