

AFS - Fisheries Administration Section Meeting
Sunday, September 2, 2007
San Francisco Marriot – Pacific A Room

Welcome/Call to Order (at 1:07 PM)

Introductions – Gary Saul

Secretary/ Treasurer Ken Kurzawski noted a quorum was present.

Announcements

Ken Kurzawski noted long-time FAS member Jack Wingate recently-retired from Minnesota DNR was awarded this year's AFS Meritorious Service Award.

Mary Fabrizio added that Bob Curry from North Carolina received the AFS Distinguished Service Award for his work on the Southern Division's response to assisting AFS members impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Hutton Program Update – Danielle Hawkins

Program is designed to stimulate interest in high school students especially in under-represented groups. So far, 271 students have gone through the program. This year was the 7th summer and 36 students were in the program. Of these students, 72% are going into fisheries or biological studies in college and the rest are contemplating that career path. The program is always looking for additional persons and agencies to support students and serve as mentors.

Review/ Approval of Minutes from April 28-29, 2007 AFS-FAS meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas

Ken Kurzawski handed out copies of the minutes and the minutes were also previously distributed to members by email. Bob Curry moved to approve the minutes as written and was seconded by Robin Knox. Minutes were approved.

Review of Treasurers Report – Ken Kurzawski

Copies of the report were made available at the meeting. Current balance is around \$6,600. Some out-of-ordinary expenses for last year's NFHAP workshop in Lake Placid are noted but the Section ultimately only contributed \$167 for that workshop.

Highlights from AFS Governing Board Meeting – Gary Saul

Governing Board meetings started on Thursday. Society's financial situation has improved to where there is now a surplus of funds. The Governing Board is looking at ways to spend that money. One is a new online Marine Journal that will begin this year. Another outlet would be publications that take scientific studies and craft information understandable to the general public to improve the public's understanding and increase advocacy for fisheries resources.

Electronic services need some attention. Web services committee has been renamed to oversee all electronic info. programs. Funds will be contributed to achieve that.

Bob Curry talked about disaster relief effort as a result of hurricanes along the

Gulf Coast a couple years ago. Support has been provided to Mississippi and Louisiana in the form of memberships and travel scholarships. AFS supported that effort by contributing \$30K. A disaster relief center was developed and provided everything from library resources to trap nets. Got lots of support from numerous individuals. AFS Second Vice President Don Jackson will establish procedures as to how AFS can respond to members needs in the case of some future disaster. One goal is to improve response times. A small amount of money will be set aside to jumpstart that process. Members in MS and LA were extremely appreciative of everyone's support.

Some of the officers of Sections, etc., have trouble attending Governing Board meetings either because their unit has limited funds or their employers are unable to support their travel. The Governing Board has supported contributing some funds for that. Mary Fabrizio noted she appointed Gary Saul to the committee that will work on formulating rules for distribution of those funds.

Gary invited incoming AFS President Mary Fabrizio to address the group. Mary noted lots of exciting activity in AFS partially due to the financial stability. One priority for her will be to focus on NFHAP. Habitat is crucial and support and/or directions from groups like the FAS will be needed. She has discussed this with Stan Moberly, the AFS rep. to the NFHAP Board. Andy Loftus noted AFS is administering \$1 million dollars for the NFHAP.

Chris Estes – AFS has been a driver for the science and workshops and Stan is our Society's rep. Stan wants everyone to know they can contact him.

John Nickum asked about source of money.

Andy Loftus answered primary source has been the multistate grants, which are coming to an end.

Gary asked Mary at GB meeting to help the states get more visibility at AFWA, which is crucial to many of these efforts.

Chris Estes – AFS may want to formally get reps. on the partnership steering committees.

Annual Meetings and their future direction was discussed. Should we join with other organizations or have meeting based on one topic or issue? Mary, with help from others, will look at that during the next year.

Old Business

Update on Urban Fishing Symposium

Tom Lang thanked FAS for support. A kids fishing event for trout was held this morning, which started the meeting and symposium. Over 200 kids fished. The Symposium has completely funded their proceedings with support from numerous organizations. The proceedings will include 34 oral presentations with a discussion sections that will be held on Wednesday afternoon and 17 posters. Over 100 individuals from 55 entities pre-registered for the Symposium.

FAS Bylaws Changes – Ken Kurzawski

Last year, we voted to change our bylaw to modify the name of our section from the Fisheries Administrators Section to the Fisheries Administration Section. We made this change to be more inclusive of all interested AFS members. At the 2006 AFS business

meeting in Lake Placid, there was some discussion from the floor on the description of our Section in the AFS Constitution and Rules (Rule 4.I) and some wording changes were made to the description in an attempt to broaden our Section. After the meeting, we discussed further simplification of the description with Gwen White, AFS Constitutional Consultant and a FAS member. The parent society constitution would need to be amended to reflect those changes.

Rule 4.I would read:

The FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION SECTION is an association of members who have a stake in the administration of fisheries agencies or programs; and who wish to encourage timely discussions and exchanges of information on issues that impact fisheries management programs and users.

This amendment will be voted on at the AFS business meeting on Tuesday. (Editor's note: The amendment was approved at the meeting.)

Note – Ken Kurzawski recognized Chris Horton from BASS and thanked him for his organizations contribution to last year's NFHAP workshop in Lake Placid.

2007 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Awards - Don Gabelhouse

We received 10 applications from 8 states. Mike Staggs (not in attendance) suggested putting all applicants on our website as all the programs that applied were outstanding. Applications were received from Oklahoma, Minnesota, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Maine, North Carolina, and Indiana. Applications were reviewed and scored by Gary Martel, Mike Staggs, Mike Stone, Doug Stang, and Ken Kurzawski. At a later date, someone from the Section will come and deliver the awards. Don mentioned he got to go to Utah to present one of last year awards to Utah for their work on the Strawberry Reservoir renovations. It was a great opportunity to make another fisheries agency look good. Awards were presented in three categories plus two honorable mentions.

Sport Fishery Development and Management Outstanding SFR Project of the Year - Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation—Evening Hole and Lost Creek Restoration Project

Applied fluvial geomorphology techniques were used to improve fish habitat, channel shape, stream flow, sediment transport and water temperature in Evening Hole, a 1,600-foot trout stream below Broken Bow Reservoir. In addition, a new 1,200-foot trout stream, called Lost Creek, was constructed nearby, along a remnant floodplain. Vegetation, grade control, and bank stabilization structures were installed to ensure stream stability, while riffles, runs, pools, woody cover, native gravel, and cobblestones were added to provide trout habitat. The project was made possible by donations from trout anglers and SFR funds. Other partners included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism.

Project contact: Jeff Boxrucker, (405) 521-4606, jboxrucker@odwc.state.ok.us

Research and Surveys Outstanding SFR Project of the Year

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Lake Survey Mobile Software and Hardware Project

A robust mobile Fisheries Lake Survey system was developed and implemented to capture, store, analyze, and share current and historical physical, chemical, and biological information regarding habitat, water quality and fish population characteristics.

This new system provides data entry while in the field and allows immediate reporting, saving thousands of hours of staff time (valued at >\$200,000 annually), ensuring quality data, and easier sharing with the public.

Project Contact: Rick Lorenzen, (651) 259-5216, Rick.Lorenzen@dnr.state.mn.us

Aquatic Education Outstanding SFR Project of the Year

Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife—Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

SFR Funds, along with a variety of both private and public partners, have allowed the Center to increase its public education offerings since the facility was constructed in 1996. Over the last six years, a fish hatchery tram was constructed and placed into service; a wetlands and a wetlands trail with interpretive wayside exhibits, pavilions, restrooms, and interactive interpretive stations were completed; and an outdoor amphitheater, a casting pond and pier; a conservation center, a classroom, a teaching lab, and a game warden museum were built.

Project contact: Allen Forshage, (903) 670-2224, Allen.Forshage@tpwd.state.tx.us

Honorable Mention SFR Projects of the Year

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited—Renovation of Parker Bend Angler Access Facility

An angler access facility on a tailwater trout stream below Beaver Reservoir was renovated to protect the streambank from erosion, deepen the main channel, improve fish habitat, and enhance angler opportunities, including access for handicapped anglers. Two “J-Vanes,” each 200 feet long, were constructed using boulders that were capped with 160 feet of sidewalk. SFR funds, FEMA funds, a contribution from the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and a Lowe’s Store (that donated the boulders) made the project possible.

Project Contact: Larry Rider, (877) 967-7577 ext. 361, lrider@agfc.@state.ar.us

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Fishing: Get in the Habitat!

The MinnAqua Leader’s Guide for Angling and Aquatic Education is a 1,300-page curriculum for grades 3-5 that has chapters on aquatic habitats, Minnesota fish, water stewardship, fisheries management, fishing equipment and skills, and safety and the fishing trip. It includes 39 lessons and appendices that intend to lead students on a developmental continuum of learning from awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills development, to empowerment and action.

Project Contact: Katie Kipka, (651) 259-5217, kathleen.kipka@dnr.state.mn.us

Exchange Program with United Kingdom Institute of Fisheries Management – Gary Saul

The program started a few years ago, and we alternate going to the UK with the Fish Management Section. Dale Burkett will represent the Section this fall. Dale is going to Limerick in October and the main topic of his presentation will be the NAAAR.

Gwen White thanked the FAS for our support of the Equal Opportunity Section travel awards. This year, travel for 11 students was supported. Gwen reminded the group that this is an annual program.

Gary expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Section President.

New Business

Installation of New Officers

Don Gabelhouse took over as President. Bob Curry was elected as President-elect and Ken Kurzawski was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. Don presented Gary with a Past-President's plaque and thanked him for his service to the Section.

North American Lake Management Society's 2008 Meeting – Don Gabelhouse

At the FAS spring meeting in Corpus Christi, Don Bonneau from Iowa asked Section members to consider participating in the 2008 NALMS meeting to be held in Chicago in March. Don B's plea was to get involved with another group of people who are interested in water quality, the "EPA types." Don's pushing the idea that fish and water quality people have to come together especially to support increased funding. Maybe this can happen as part of the NFHAP initiative. Don has started to plan a program for the March NALMS meeting. Most likely will come to us for some funding. The goal is to try to get the EPA-types to understand us, why fishing is important, and why water quality is important to both groups. Maybe we can resurrect the Section 314 funding source. There is a draft agenda being put together that Don B. is working on. Habitat work has been going on reservoirs in the middle part of the country for a number of years. Nebraska has spent \$27 million over the past 10 years on habitat projects and Iowa has a similar program. We'd like to see some success stories on reservoirs/lakes on the other part of the country. Get any info for presentations to Don B.

Chris Estes made a comment that Don B was on the core work group that developed the NFHAP and had input on the linkage to water quality importance. The EPA was part of the federal caucus. The NFH Board would support this.

Don G. said the NALMS group needs to know who we are.

NFHAP Reservoir Initiative – Don Gabelhouse

Phil Durocher is heading up that effort with Gary Martel, Doug Nygren and Don Gabelhouse. States with reservoirs and lakes need to have a way to get involved with the NFHAP. BASS supports this and Chris Horton noted it will be a topic at the upcoming AFWA meeting. At the AFWA meeting, they hope to start to develop a plan. There is the possibility of a follow-up meeting at the Southern Division meeting.

Bob Curry said that there was a need to get information out on the SD meeting as early as possible.

Chris Horton followed up about the first meeting coming together 3 weeks before the Reservoir Symposium. Phil Durocher sent an email out on the meeting at AFWA. If anyone wasn't on that list, let Phil or Chris know.

2008 FAS Spring Meeting – Don Gabelhouse

We had decided that we wanted to get more involved with agency directors, so every other year we'd attend the North American Conference. This year (2008) the meeting is in Phoenix and we were slated to do that. We specifically wanted to have a symposium on the agenda to develop interest among directors. One idea was to gather up our experiences on the recruitment and retention of anglers and marketing. Oklahoma, Ohio, and Florida have worked with Water Works Wonders. Look at what's worked and what hasn't worked. Don contacted Richard McCabe of the Wildlife Management Institute about our group becoming more involved and getting on the meeting's agenda.

Agenda is filled for 2008 and decisions on the agenda are made in April at the conclusion of the spring meeting. The most time we can get is 2 hours or five presentations. In 2009, the meeting will be in Washington, D.C. We need to put a proposal for the symposium to get on the 2009 agenda. We are still on working on getting our foot in the door at this meeting to compete with the wildlife topics. Don noted attending the North American made him greatly appreciative of the value received by attendees at the AFS Annual meeting.

Dale Burkett – Need issues that get their attention; VHS, cormorants, silver carp headed for the Great Lakes.

Gary Saul said we have to compete with wildlife focus. Fish people have to make choices as to what meeting we attend. Our goal is to make North American more fish friendly; need more involvement.

Don G. – Noted we have conflicts with AFWA relative to the AFS Annual meeting. Our meeting in Columbus went well as Gary Isabel arranged for an excellent off-site meeting space.

Bob Curry asked if we can meet on site in Phoenix. If we can have our meeting there and have some presentations that would interest others including directors.

Don G. suggested we could switch to Nebraska next spring and then focus on attending and preparing a proposal to hold a symposium at the 2009 North American. There are options and we like to have attendees experience some local fishing. In Nebraska some of the best fishing is in the western part, which is not close to the cities in the eastern part. Another option is to fish some of the unchannelized portions of the Missouri River. Can have meeting anytime of the year, if we desire.

Andy Loftus asked what was Richard McCabe's take on fish info; was he receptive? Don said yes, but their agenda was set.

Dale Burkett – Support going to Nebraska and then do DC well.

Robin went to NA in Portland; price is substantial. Getting time for everyone on the agenda is an issue. Agree that maybe best to do Nebraska in 2008 then do DC.

Don G. said we'll do Nebraska then DC. Need a committee for DC symposium proposal – Dale, Robin.

John Nickum said a small group should go to Phoenix; there are some lower

costs options.

Don G. said some section members will attend meeting; probably wouldn't have quorum of members.

Don G. will plan on May or June in Nebraska and arrange some sort of fishing activity.

Gary Whelan thanked FAS for support of NFHAP; workshop had about 70 attendees.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:12 PM