

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
February 29, 2008
Wheeling, West Virginia

President Heitman called the EXCOM to order at 08:00. Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan announced that there was a quorum. President Heitman called roll and identified proxies for Arkansas (Oliver), Oklahoma (Summers), South Carolina (Lamprecht), Tennessee (Rizzuto) and Texas (Janssen). President Heitman then introduced AFS First Vice President, Don Jackson. He also introduced attending SDAFS Past Presidents (Connor, Curry, Filipek, Jackson, and Mazik).

AFS First Vice President Don Jackson addressed the EXCOM with several brief remarks. He thanked the Southern Division for their assistance as he fulfills his position responsibilities. The AFS (via the Southern Division efforts) has finalized a disaster relief procedure that will soon be institutionalized and allow for swift implementation during future tragedies. Travel support for Division officers and Governing Board members is being provided by AFS on a matching basis that does require some support from the agency or individual. Other topics included public outreach by the society, the new electronic marine journal, sale of the Bethesda office, and strategic planning that seeks to engage the 'Millennial generation'. Don wants to hear from all of us and requests your calls and e-mails.

Pat Mazik provided a meeting update for the EXCOM. At this time, 254 members were registered. Pat and the WV AFS Chapter will do all they can to help the registrants enjoy their stay at Oglebay.

President Heitman thanked everyone for submitting their Briefing Book reports on time and suggested that the web-based version of the Briefing Book (in Microsoft Word) will be a valuable time saver for future submissions. Authors need only copy the appropriate past report, preserve the formatting, and 'cut and paste' their new information into this document prior to forwarding to the SDAFS President.

SDAFS Officer reports were then requested. The President, President-elect, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President reports stood as written. Bob Curry asked all the Chapters to have their procedures and bylaws periodically reviewed by Gwen White, AFS Constitutional Consultant.

Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan's reports were handled separately. The budget reports in the draft Briefing Book were revised and hard copies of the corrected reports were supplied and discussed. Income and budget carry-over in 2007 totaled \$40,990 and expenses amounted to \$33,098. The 2007 SDAFS end-of-year balance was \$7,891. The 2008 Proposed Budget was reviewed and a motion entertained to pass (made by Rizzuto, seconded by Fontenot). Discussion indicated that the SDAFS has a responsibility to have funds on hand to insure the annual Spring Meeting should the hosting chapter fall into

financial distress and also to pay bills before major income sources arrive after the first quarter of each year. President-elect McMullin moved that the budget be amended to create a line item contingency fund and suggested that a minimum of \$1,297 be allocated to this fund in 2008 with more funds to follow in subsequent years (this motion was seconded by Filipek). The EXCOM unanimously approved the contingency fund amendment. The modified budget received no further discussion and was unanimously approved by the EXCOM.

Minutes from the Spring 2007 EXCOM Meeting in Memphis, TN, and the 2007 Fall EXCOM Meeting in Charleston, WV, were published in the December 2007 SDAFS Newsletter. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made to approve the EXCOM minutes (Rizzuto) and seconded (Olive). The 2007 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Chapter Reports

Alabama – Inactive.

Arkansas - Report stands as written.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Student Subunit – No report; not represented.

Auburn University - No report; not represented.

Florida - Report in Briefing Book, not represented.

Georgia - Report stands as written.

University of Georgia Student Subunit - No report; not represented.

Kentucky - Report in Briefing Book, not represented.

Louisiana- Report stands as written. Quenton Fontenot noted that the LA AFS Chapter has contracted a hotel on Bourbon St for the 2009 Spring Meeting in New Orleans (Jan. 15 – 18).

Mississippi - Report in Briefing Book, not represented.

North Carolina - Report stands as written. The Chapter is planning for the 2010 SDAFS Spring Meeting and is actively seeking hotel contracts.

NCSU Student Subunit - No report; not represented.

Oklahoma - Report has been submitted and will be included in the final version of the Briefing Book.

South Carolina - Report stands as written.

Tennessee - Report stands as written.

Tennessee Tech Student Subunit - No report; not represented.

Texas - No report, but represented.

Tidewater – No report; not represented.

E. Carolina Student Subunit - Report stands as written.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore Student Subunit - Report in Briefing Book, not represented.

Virginia - Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech - Report in Briefing Book, not represented.

West Virginia & WVU Student Subunit - Report stands as written.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – The report has been submitted and will be included in the final version of the Briefing Book. Bob Curry (for Committee Chair Scott Van Horn) stated that the SDAFS finances were in order. President Heitman noted that uncashed checks have, at times, created several budget difficulties.

Awards Committee –The report stands as written.

Ballot Committee – Craig Bonds noted the dedicated, extraordinary efforts of Jerry Finke saved our first electronic ballot. Jerry took over as Fred Janssen, SDAFS webmaster, was one of the candidates for vice-president. Candidates receiving the most votes in the 2007 election were Fred Janssen, Vice-President, and Hal Schramm, SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Efforts to conduct an electronic ballot in 2007 were successful (approx. 14% of those sent out) and will be repeated in 2008. Craig recommends the voting period be condensed from six weeks to three weeks, with at least one reminder, to save time and labor. Snail mail ballots will be sent in 2008 but only those members returning ballots will be included in future snail mailings.

Nominating Committee - Report stands as written.

Resolutions Committee – Report stands as written.

Student Affairs Committee – Report stands as written. Stuart Welsh thanked everyone who responded to his request to judge student presentations. Stuart is stepping down after the Spring Meeting and handing the reigns over to Steve Lochmann.

Technical Committees - Reports for the Aquaculture, Catfish Management, Nongame Aquatics, Reservoir, Small Impoundments, Striped Bass, and Trout Committees stood as written in the Briefing Book. The Warmwater Streams Committee did not submit a report. The Pollution Committee has been reinvigorated and will host a symposium at the 2009 Spring Meeting in New Orleans. The Pollution Committee will submit a late report.

SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee – Report stands as written. Steve Filipek reported (for Hal Schramm) that the committee has identified Bill Fisher as a candidate for AFS Second Vice President.

Newsletter Editor - No report; not represented.

SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor - Todd Petty's report stands as written.

SEAFWA Directors Liaison – Steve Filipek's report stands as written. Pat Mazik will be taking over this role in the future.

SDAFS Representative on the C.W. Watson Award Committee - Dave Rizzuto's report stands as written.

Webmaster Report – Fred Janssen's report is the SDAFS webpage. Fred will be stepping down as the lead on the SDAFS webpage and Jerry Finke of the NCAFS will be taking over. Fred received a standing ovation for his work to the Southern Division.

SDAFS Disaster Relief Report – Past President Curry noted that the final report stands as written and thanked all those who contributed.

Unfinished Business

There is a large concern that SDAFS records may be lost or rendered useless if not properly preserved and catalogued. Greg Summers has volunteered space at the Oklahoma Fisheries Research Lab to house this material. Greg encouraged all folks who are retiring to consider sending SDAFS to Oklahoma rather than disposing of it.

New Business

Greg Summers noted that pod casting of presentations will be attempted, and tested, at the Plenary and GIS sessions of the Wheeling meeting. A determination will follow regarding efficacy and future use at SDAFS Meetings.

Quenton Fontenot stated that an Alligator gar ageing workshop will be held in New Orleans in 2009. A diverse group of individuals, from many states, is interested in this topic and may possibly seek committee status in the Southern Division. As the Catfish Management Committee started as an ad hoc committee, it was suggested as the appropriate model for the Alligator Gar Committee. President Heitman established an ad hoc Alligator gar technical committee and Quenton noted that they already have a chair (Ricky Campbell, MS) and co-chair (Lee Holt, AR).

Other Business

Tom Lang reported on the Urban Fishing Symposium at the 2007AFS Meeting in San Francisco. The SDAFS provided financial and organizational support for this symposium. The event opened with a trout fishing clinic for 150+ kids at Lake Merced, CA. The symposium had over 150 registrants, featured 34 oral presentations and 17 posters, and will have approximately 40 papers in the published proceedings.

Following no further discussion items, President Heitman adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 09:40.