

Southern Division American Fisheries Society  
Spring EXCOM Meeting  
February 9, 2007  
Memphis, Tennessee

President Curry called the EXCOM to order at 08:05. Secretary-Treasurer Summers announced that there was a quorum. President Curry discussed the need for a few minor changes to the EXCOM agenda and requested input for additional changes. President Curry then introduced AFS Executive Director, Gus Rassam; current AFS President, Jennifer Nielsen; AFS First Vice President, Bill Franzin, and AFS Second Vice President, Don Jackson. He also introduced past SDAFS Presidents attending. President Curry called roll and identified proxies.

AFS President Jennifer Nielsen addressed the EXCOM with several brief remarks. The Southern Division has developed a disaster relief procedure that will soon be institutionalized to allow for swift implementation during future tragedies; Don Jackson, AFS Second Vice President, is leading this effort. Jennifer then applauded the SDAFS for its active leadership regarding involvement of students in the AFS.

Executive Director Gus Rassam also addressed the EXCOM with remarks regarding the AFS staff, the impressive attendance the previous day at the Leadership Training session led by President Curry, the importance of volunteerism among students, and the need to enroll student in the AFS via good membership rates and e-perks. The annual AFS budget is ~ \$3 million and dues represent 15-16% of that total; the main source of funding being AFS publications. The AFS website has been overhauled and is now ready to host other subunit websites (as long as the subunit maintains its own page). AFS database problems have been resolved.

President Curry 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. Most officer reports stood as written with two exceptions. President Curry thanked all for the honor to serve the Division and noted that parts of his report would be discussed later. Secretary-Treasurer Summers reports were handled separately.

**Reports with Action or Budget Implications**

The Secretary-Treasurer's report stands as written. The Division's financial statement was filed into the record. The 2007 Proposed Budget was reviewed but held until later in the meeting pending discussion of two additional action items with budget implications. The minutes from the EXCOM Meeting at the SEAFWA Meeting in Norfolk, VA were published in the December 2006 Newsletter. The Secretary-Treasurer made a motion to approve the minutes and these were subsequently approved by the EXCOM.

Dennis Riecke, Resolutions Committee Chair, recommended that the EXCOM approve two resolutions: "Resolution on the Development of Instream Flow Programs" and "Resolution Supporting the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership & the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan". Both were published in the June 2006 Newsletter and on the SDAFS Resolutions Committee website in November 2006 and received limited comment. The committee recommended that they be considered by the membership. Following no discussion by the EXCOM, the resolutions were approved for presentation to the membership at the SDAFS Business Meeting.

Stuart Welsh, Student Affairs Committee Chair, presented a motion to request \$2,000 to improve student attendance at the 2007 SEAFWA Meeting in West Virginia. By coincidence, the SEAFWA and SDAFS Student Colloquium were both slated for WV in 2007 and EXCOM discussion further reinforced the idea that these funds might help to increase student involvement at SEAFWA. This motion for one-time funding of the Student Affairs Committee for travel support to SEAFWA passed.

Dave Rizzuto, 2007 Spring Meeting Chair, had a moment to meet with the EXCOM so President Curry temporarily halted the discussion of Action Items to hear a brief Meeting Overview from Dave. At this time there were 364 registrants with some walk-ins anticipated. Workshops were in progress and being attended avidly by students (as workshop fees were waived). President Curry thanked Dave and the Tennessee Chapter for all of their hard work.

Pat Mazik, SDAFS Past President, stated that the SDAFS Bylaw Revisions coauthored by herself and Jeff Boxrucker (Ad Hoc Procedures Manual Revision Committee Chair), had been favorably reviewed by Gwen White, AFS Constitutional Consultant. These Bylaws were also published in the December 2006 SDAFS Newsletter and are on the SDAFS webpage. Pat made a motion to carry these revisions to the Business Meeting and Greg Summers seconded. Following no EXCOM discussion, the Bylaws were approved for presentation to the membership at the SDAFS Business Meeting. The Bylaws will only take effect if approved by the membership and then again at the AFS Governing Board meeting in March.

Steve Filipek, SEAFWA Representative, noted that his report stands as written but that he will have an action item under New Business related to ways the SDAFS can support future SEAFWA Meetings.

### **Chapter Reports**

**Arkansas** – Report in Briefing Book, not represented

**University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Student Subunit** - Report stands as written

**Auburn University** - Report stands as written; the Chapter has been involved in placing aquariums of native fishes in local high schools

**Florida** - Report stands as written

**Georgia** - Report stands as written

**University of Georgia Student Subunit** - Report stands as written  
**Kentucky** - Report in Briefing Book, not represented  
**Louisiana** - Report stands as written  
**Mississippi** - Report stands as written; expressed gratitude for Disaster Relief Support  
**North Carolina** - Report stands as written  
**NCSU Student Subunit** - Report stands as written  
**Oklahoma** - Report stands as written; recognized Pat Mazik and Jeff Boxrucker for their dedication to Bylaws Revision project  
**South Carolina** - Report stands as written  
**Tennessee** - Report stands as written  
**Tennessee Tech** - Report stands as written  
**Texas** - Report stands as written  
**Tidewater** – **No report**; discussed activities at recent Chapter meeting  
**E. Carolina Student Subunit** - Report stands as written  
**Virginia** - Report stands as written  
**Virginia Tech** - Report stands as written  
**West Virginia & WVU Student Subunit** - Report stands as written; the 2008 SDAFS Spring Meeting will be in Wheeling, WV; there is interest in another student subunit at Marshall University

### **Committee Reports**

**Audit Committee** - Gene Gilliland stated that the SDAFS finances were in order.

**Awards Committee** – Bruce Saul noted the report stands as written. In addition Bruce and President Curry encouraged Chapters and Subunits to submit applications for the various parent society awards.

**Ballot Committee** - report stands as written. Candidates receiving the most votes in last years election were Cecil Jennings, Vice-President, Dave Coughlan, Secretary-Treasurer, and John Odenkirk, SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Efforts to conduct an electronic ballot in 2006 were unsuccessful although the Ballot Committee recommends active pursuit of an electronic ballot in 2007.

**Nominating Committee** - Report stands as written.

**Procedure Manual Revision Committee** – Jeff Boxrucker, Ad Hoc Procedures Manual Revision Committee Chair, made a motion to accept the Procedure Manual revisions. Following no discussion, the motion passed. The revised Procedure Manual takes effect immediately while the previously approved Bylaws will only take effect after approval by the membership and then by the AFS Governing Board. Bill Fisher's contributions to the Spring Meeting procedures were noted by Secretary-Treasurer Summers. President Curry stated that if you cannot find out something about how the SDAFS works then you need to join the Northeast Division!

Technical Committee reports for the Aquaculture, Catfish, Non-game Aquatics, Reservoir, Small Impoundments, Striped Bass, Trout, and Warmwater Streams Committees stood as written in the Briefing Book. The Reservoir Committee reminded EXCOM members of the Fourth Reservoir Symposium to be held in Atlanta on June 6-9, 2007. The Trout Committee was scheduled to meet at the Devils Fork State Park in SC in May. The Pollution Committee did not submit a report and President-Elect Heitman will follow up.

**SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee** – John Odenkirk reported the committee has found several highly qualified candidates and that one of those for AFS Second Vice President is Bill Fisher.

**Newsletter Editor** - Report stands as written. President Curry thanked the Va Tech students for their hard work and urged everyone to observe the appropriate deadlines for the submission of news: mid-May for the June newsletter and mid-November for the December newsletter.

**Fisheries Editor for the SDAFS/SEAFWA** - Report stands as written. Past-President Mazik stated that John Galvez will be leaving as the fisheries Associate Editor after six years and thanked him for his outstanding efforts. The new fisheries Associate Editor will be Todd Petty.

**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 indicated that the SDAFS may be able to save money, due to increased competition, by moving the webpage to a cheaper server. He is investigating this option.

**SDAFS Disaster Relief Report** –President Curry gave the Briefing Book report in place of Danielle Pender. The report summarizes SDAFS efforts from March 2006 through December 2006 although the Disaster Relief project (and final report) will include efforts through December 2007. A report is being prepared for the AFS Governing Board. The Distribution Center at the Turcotte Lab has been quite active receiving and distributing supplies and library materials. President Curry indicated that Danielle had arranged for SEAFWA to donate all unsold copies of past SEAFWA Proceedings to the Disaster Relief effort. Otherwise, the report stands as written.

**Urban Fishing Symposium Steering Committee Report** – Tom Lang, Steering Committee Chair, noted that this was now one of six symposia at the AFS meeting in San Francisco. It is fully funded and the proceedings will be published. The SDAFS has contributed \$2,000 to this symposium. Otherwise, the report stands as written.

### **Unfinished Business**

There is a large concern that SDAFS records may be lost or rendered useless if not properly catalogued in a relevant time frame. An effort has been initiated to locate this material and store it in a central location. Secretary-Treasurer Summers has volunteered space at the Oklahoma Fisheries Research Lab to house this material. Plans are underway to contact the SDAFS Past-Presidents (at the Past Presidents lunch) to identify and ship any available material to Oklahoma. Future efforts may include a gathering of these individuals in Oklahoma to sort and prioritize this material. All sections and chapters are encouraged to think about ways to store and record their appropriate historical material.

### **New Business**

The Equal Opportunity Section (EOS) provided a written request to the EXCOM seeking financial assistance for student travel to the San Francisco Meeting. A motion was made by Steve Filipek and seconded by Fred Heitman to consider the EOS request with additional discussion regarding ways to make it a permanent part of the SDAFS Annual Budget. Jeff Boxrucker indicated that other sections receive similar requests and these have been institutionalized as line items in budgets. Through motion and amendment, this request was approved for \$500 this year and to be inserted as a similarly funded amount to the EOS in subsequent years.

Information on a possible AFS chapter in the Caribbean was discussed by AFS Second Vice President, Don Jackson. Don, via conversations with Kevin Hunt, MS Chapter, indicated that this region was possibly too culturally and geographically dispersed for a chapter to be effective. He did indicate that a chapter in Puerto Rico might succeed due to several strong university research initiatives and student projects in progress. Any further movement on this topic will need to come from biologists in Puerto Rico.

SDAFS President Curry led a discussion, for the benefit of AFS President Nielsen, on the possible success of an AFS Annual Meeting in Mexico. The Mexico Chapter wants to host such a meeting although international travel restrictions might limit attendance. Federal employees would not be able to attend in numbers typical for US meetings and might have difficulty planning since travel approval would only come shortly before the meeting dates. Several state agencies indicated that they too would have a tough time sending staff. Academicians indicated similar potential problems with approval and planning. Numerous individuals hinted at negative perceptions by their superiors if the meeting were held in a resort city.

Steve Filipek, Arkansas, presented a request to donate \$500.00 to the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS). A motion was made by Fred Heitman and seconded by Jeff Boxrucker to fund the request. Discussion considered the involvement of the Non-game Aquatic section. The Non-game Aquatic section indicated they were not involved but would support the funding request. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Secretary-Treasurer Summers reviewed the 2007 Proposed SDAFS budget and discussed modifications listed earlier in the meeting. He noted that the \$880 surplus resulted from conservative accounting and that some flexibility was incorporated. Three additional budget items discussed at this EXCOM Meeting included: a request from the Student Affairs Committee (\$2,000), the Equal Opportunity Section (\$500), and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (\$500). Secretary-Treasurer Summers indicated that these three items could be handled by division finances. A motion was entertained to approve the modified budget and seconded. Following no discussion, the EXCOM unanimously approved the budget. Past-President Mazik provided input regarding a renaming of the Past-Presidents Breakfast to Past-Presidents Lunch.

President-Elect Heitman led a discussion regarding the location of future Spring Meetings. West Virginia has the meeting in 2008, Mississippi has voted to hold the 2009 meeting, Louisiana is considering the 2010 meeting, and North Carolina will soon vote on hosting the 2011 meeting (the schedule of Spring Meetings was revised in the months following the EXCOM Meeting and is now: West Virginia – 2008, Louisiana – 2009, North Carolina – 2010, Mississippi – 2011, and Florida – 2012).

### **Other Business**

Secretary-Treasurer Summers briefly summarized the way funds for the SDAFS Disaster Relief effort are routed. Donations go to AFS (earmarked for Disaster Relief) and SDAFS then requests the funds for distribution. Greg challenged the various chapters and committees to follow the lead of the Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Florida chapters and donate to the AFS Disaster Relief Fund!

AFS Executive Director Rassam and AFS President Nielsen asked the Division and the Chapters to maintain their focus on the Hutton Scholarship Program. They cited the model developed by the North Carolina Chapter as one that might work for other chapters as well.

Following no further discussion items, President Curry adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 10:00.