

# **Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

March 20, 2014

Pickwick Landing State Park, Counce, Tennessee

1. Call to order was made at 3:32 PM.
2. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (21 members, 6 officers). A total of 50 people were in attendance.
3. General Announcements
  - a. There were no general announcements.
4. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Dennis Riecke was recognized as the President-elect of Southern Division.
5. Old Business
  - a. 2013 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Darcie Graham. Clint Lloyd motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mark Peterson, and the members unanimously passed the motion. In the future, Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested that the Secretary/Treasurer to send minutes out a week before meeting for the membership to review.
  - b. 2014 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Darcie Graham. Larry Bull requested to add the MDWFP to the 2013 meeting overview for the in-kind donation of the meeting programs each year. Jill Hendon motioned to accept the report, Larry Pugh seconded, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
  - c. The disposition of Chapter certificates was presented by Darcie Graham. A portion of the SDAFS meeting profits were added to the one year CD to increase the balance. The CA Schultz CD was made into a three year CD to increase the interest rate. Both CDs were initiated in September 2012.
  - d. Darcie Graham gave a 2013 membership report, as well as preliminary 2014 membership status. In 2013 there were 129 MSAFS members, with 67% of these members also members of the national chapter. Early numbers for 2014 include 91 MSAFS members, with 81% of members belonging to the national chapter.
  - e. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Ryan Jones (MWF Liaison for MSAFS). The MWF awards banquet was in February and two MSAFS members, Ron Garavelli and John Skains, were honored with awards. Ryan mentioned that MWF is requesting submissions for articles in the summer wildlife federation magazine. Ryan agreed to serve as the MWF representative for 2014 and was thanked by the membership for his service.
  - f. A review of the mid-year EXCOM meeting was given by Stephen Brown.
    - i. Most of meeting discussed the planning of 2014 meeting.
    - ii. Jason Olive sent the official letter from SDAFS stating the approval of the new bylaws.
    - iii. Stephen asked if there were any donation requests for 2014. Darcie Graham said that she has not received any to date. Cynthia Fox mentioned that the

student sub-units might be looking to the chapter to sponsoring a kids fishing rodeo around Jackson area in the near future. The membership was reminded that there is a \$1,500 limit for donations each year.

- g. Stephen Brown discussed extending the MSAFS logo competition since there had been a lack of submissions. The deadline was extended to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Stephen will send out the requirements and information. EXCOM will narrow down the submissions and potentially look at setting up an online voting system to include the entire membership.
- h. A report from Southern Division was given by Dennis Riecke.
  - i. The new executive director for AFS, Doug Austen wants AFS to be the go-to for fisheries information and would like to get the society more involved in providing scientific advice to the decision makers.
  - ii. The SDAFS has a new website through Wordpress and the webmaster (Gloria Schoenholtz) can help the state chapters to update their websites as well.
  - iii. Upcoming meetings are as follows: Savannah, GA in 2015; West Virginia in 2016; Oklahoma City in 2017.
  - iv. All current presidents of SDAFS are from Mississippi and have a background from Mississippi State University. They will elect a new secretary-treasurer soon.
  - v. The SDAFS email listserve crashed in recent months, but they have been working to get a new listserve going and it is currently working. The new list has been populated with national members only. Dennis asked individuals to send job opportunities to him and he will distribute through the SDAFS network. Dennis also recommended sending a MSAFS excel file to him so that he can add the membership to the listserve.
  - vi. The Puerto Rico AFS sub-unit recently held their first meeting, which was partially supported by the MSAFS funds repaid to SDAFS from the SDAFS meeting profits in 2012.
  - vii. Alabama is the only Southeastern state that doesn't have a state chapter. There is an Auburn chapter only, which is comprised of students and faculty at Auburn. It is likely that Alabama will have a new chapter in 2014 or 2015.
  - viii. Emerging Mentors Program is a program that will allow you to participate in the inner workings of AFS. The program can provide a travel grant to attend governing board meetings.
  - ix. The change of officer forms for state chapters and student sub-units need to be supplied to Dennis each time the officers change.
  - x. Dennis encouraged members to think about why they are participating in AFS and encouraged everyone to volunteer on committees or chair committees. He mentioned that it is very important for students and looks very good on resumes and CVs.
  - xi. The AFS parent society has investment counselors that would be willing to assist chapters with investment options. Stephen Brown mentioned that there was a

- webinar for chapter presidents to communicate what the national society can do for them (annually).
- xii. Bob Hughes (current president) contacted Mark Peterson about a new AFS journal for “Applied Aquatic Sciences” and wants to introduce it at the meeting in Quebec. The first issue might be as early as January 2015 and each article will have a max of 5 pages. This journal is being geared towards federal and state employees and NGOs. The journal will be peer reviewed and have reduced page charges.
  - xiii. It was also mentioned that Mike Allen was an editor for a new AFS book (collection of most cited fisheries papers, about 45 papers).

## 6. New Business

- a. Election of new officers and MWF affiliate for 2014.
  - i. As chair of the nominating committee, Larry Pugh introduced Peter Allen and Matt Roberts as the two candidates that were nominated for president-elect prior to the meeting. Biographies for each candidate were emailed to the membership prior to the meeting and were provided with the business meeting agenda. The floor was opened for additional nominations, and Keith Meals moved to accept the current nominations, Jim Franks seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Chapter voted by paper ballot. Peter Allen was elected by a vote of 25 to 5.
  - ii. As chair of the nominating committee, Larry Pugh stated Lauren Thayer and Jennifer Green as the two candidates nominated for Secretary-Treasurer. Biographies were provided before the meeting. Jennifer Green was elected by a vote of 16 to 14.
  - iii. Ryan Jones is the current MWF Affiliate and he accepted to serve in 2014 as well.
- b. Report of the MSU sub-unit (President Cynthia Fox): Announced the 2013-2013 officers as follows: Cynthia Fox (President), Clint Lloyd (Vice President), Melanie Parker (Secretary), Shane Ramee (Treasurer), Heather Stewart and Bryant Haley (Dean’s Council Rep), Trae Foster (Undergrad Rep), Jason Bies (Activities Chair), Daniel Sullivan and Melanie Parker (Co-President Elect). The new officers for 2014-2015, that will take office in August 2014 were also announced as follows: Daniel Sullivan and Melanie Parker (Co-Presidents), Heather Stewart (Secretary), Cory Shoemaker (Treasurer), Bryant Haley (Dean’s Council Rep), Hallie Tompkins (Undergrad Rep), Clint Lloyd and Dylan Hann (Activities Chairs). In January 2013, they received outstanding subunit at the SDAFS meeting. The sub-unit members have given over 30 presentation at recent conferences. Their members have received several travel awards, including the Skinner award. They conducted two stream clean-ups and coordinated with Tyler Stubbs (MDWFP). They also helped a local Boy Scout troop earn their badges. They have been trying to boost recruitment to acquire more undergraduate members and awarded three travel awards to undergraduates to allow them to travel to national and southern

- division meetings. They plan to hold a “fish dish” fundraiser in the near future and plan to have a joint fishing rodeo with USM chapter in Spring 2015.
- c. Report of the USM sub-unit (President Jeremy Higgs): Announced the new officers as follows: Jeremy Higgs (President), Mike Andres (Vice President), John Ransom (Treasurer), Leah Gaines (Secretary). The sub-unit participated in the saltwater sportsman series. They helped out with several CCA events, including the Horn Island conservation event, which served as a fundraising opportunity. They also worked with the CCA by providing presentations about graduate student research at one of their meetings. Several other partnerships with the CCA included their fall banquet in 2013. They will be participating in the “casting for conservation” event in April 2014. Sub-units members have been to 12 different conferences/meetings and students have received several awards for presentations. The biggest fundraising opportunities have been selling their sub-unit glassware. They will also be helping out with the Point Cadet cobia tournament and be the sole source for food/drinks.
  - d. The MSAFS travel awards to 2013 national AFS and 2014 SDAFS meeting was presented by Wes Neal (Travel Awards Committee, Chair): The Travel Awards Committee included Mark Peterson, Tom Holman, Trey Driggers, and Todd Slack. The committee used SDAFS profit to fund travel awards to the 2013 national AFS meeting in Little Rock, AR and the 2014 SDAFS meeting in Charleston, SC. The application was modeled after the Skinner travel award and there was a separate application for students and professionals. The goal is provide some money that recipients can take to their department or agency to provide the rest of the travel funds. Each award was for \$500. To qualify, students must give a presentation at the meeting; professionals must participate in a professional training workshop or submit an abstract. There were no professional applications received, so students received all the travel awards in 2013 and 2014.
  - e. Acknowledgements of Awards received by Chapter Members (Stephen Brown)
    - i. 2013 Southern Division’s John F. Dequine to Wes Neal (best fisheries paper at the SEAFWA conference).
  - f. Chapter Awards (presented by Nancy Brown-Peterson)
    - i. During the meeting banquet, the CA Schultz Award was given to Todd Slack and Lifetime Achievement Award to Ron Garavalli.
      - 1. Lifetime Achievement Award was a new award based on the nominations that were received. Committee decided that CA Schultz is more conservation focused, which excludes a lot of well-known fisheries biologists that would have profound impacts on fisheries. The award was modeled after the excellence in fisheries award at the national level. The award wording was approved by the EXCOM and award will be available in the future. It is not required to give this award every year.
      - ii. Certificate of Appreciation – Kalyan Raj Kota at Mississippi State University for his dedication to the MSAFS website development.
      - iii. Distinguished Service Awards

1. F.J. Eicke, Coastal Conservation Association. F.J. was not able to attend the meeting for health reasons, but Nancy plans to have a small ceremony at the GCRL to give him the award.

2. Excellence for Public Outreach – Hal Schramm. Hal teaches several classes, guides students, publishes, and does educational outreach. He also writes popular articles (8-10 a year) to dispel fisheries myths.

iv. Meritorious Service Award

1. Garry Lucas. Garry has been an active member for 30 years and served as chapter president. He has participated in the lower MS river conservation, worked with sport anglers in MS delta, and has been dedicated to reviving commercial fishing for paddlefish. He will retire in two months, but plans to volunteer with national park service in retirement.

v. Presentation of Best Student Awards (Peter Allen): All universities and state representatives as were represented in the 11 student judges.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Faith Lambert (USM)
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jeremy Higgs (USM)
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Jennifer Green (USM)
4. Honorable Mention – Mike Ciaramella – He will receive 50% off sunglasses.
5. All student awards are provided by a generous donation from the CCA, largely led by F.J. Eicke.

g. Installation of New Officers: Peter Allen entered as President-Elect. Stephen Brown became Past President as he handed the gavel to Wes Neal who took over as President.

h. Service Awards were presented to the outgoing officers by Wes Neal: Stephen Brown as President, Darcie Graham as Secretary-Treasurer.

i. Venue for 2015 meeting

- i. Keith Meals mentioned that ERDC has not been able to travel, so he proposed to keep the meeting close to Vicksburg. It might be possible to hold a joint meeting with LA, since it will be close to the state line. Jill Hendon suggested doing something with Alabama in future years, if they get a chapter soon.

j. Stephen acknowledged and thanked Wes Neal and Travis Scott (TNAFS) for organizing the 2014 meeting.

k. Other New Business

- i. Larry Pugh spoke about the request of for the sale of gamefish in Mississippi. There has been a recent request from the aquaculture sector to raise and sell largemouth bass and crappie for food consumption. There wasn't enough time to draft the legislation, so it was tabled until the summer 2014. Several groups (i.e., MS Bass Federation, Crappie Association, others) need to be brought into the conversation. Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested that MSAFS draft a position statement by summer. Larry Pugh suggested that the EXCOM draft a position statement to have in case legislation moved forward. Keith Meals mentioned to

add genetic impacts. Hal Schramm mentioned that the issue isn't aquaculture, it is more that the issue is that recreational anglers may be able to sell fish, which can create huge enforcement issues. This could also be an issue on wild fisheries. Wes Neal asked Dennis Riecke for advice on how to write draft statement. Dennis recommended checking the resolution policy statements (maybe on aquaculture) and use the resources on parent society website for resolutions. These resources could be checked for guidance before drafting a statement.

- ii. Nancy Brown-Peterson – The Tennessee chapter has a nice new sign and suggested that the Mississippi chapter acquire a similar one when the new logo is introduced.
- I. As there was no more new business, Larry Pugh made a motion to adjourn, and Mark Peterson seconded, and we adjourned at 5:13 p.m. by a unanimous vote of the membership.