



# AFS Bioengineering Section

## Annual Business Meeting Notes

**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020. 4:00-5:00 PM ET (1:00-2:00 PM PT)

**Platform/Call-in Line:** GoToMeeting

### 1. Current BES Officers

- Dana Postlewait – President
- Dan Giza – President Elect
- Jessica Pica – Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Garello – Past President

### 2. Introductions

### 3. Revisions to Agenda

### 4. Announcements

- A. Welcome to the AFS Bioengineering Section formal annual business meeting!
- B. Sign in (identify who's on the call)
- C. Dan motioned to approve 8/28/20 meeting notes, Dana second
- D. Governing Board Updates
  - a. April Croxton (AFS) gave updates on AFS initiatives including diversity and inclusion, communicating science, plan of work, and branding.
  - b. Scott Bonar (AFS) gave updates on AFS climate change statement that 110 societies across the world have signed.
  - c. For all AFS updates check out the AFS website: <https://fisheries.org/>
- E. BES member Marcin Whitman volunteered to be a judge for the joint Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Energy Fish Exclusion Competition. AFS hosted the event September 15 and 16. The winner will be announced Friday 9/25/20.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

- A. Account Balances

American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section	Michael Garello – Past President Dana Postlewait – President	Dan Giza – President Elect Jessica Pica – Secretary/Treasurer	Page 1 of 4
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- a. General business checking: \$18,660.46
- b. Ned Taft Award Fund: \$1,650.04
- B. Annual use of BES Funds
  - a. Income: memberships fees
  - b. Expenses: website hosting fees, workshops, annual business meeting, Governing Board travel, tax-exempt reinstatement, project and career achievement awards
- C. Banks
  - a. We've had issues changing the BES Bank of America account signatories over the past two years. We've been investigating how other professional organizations handle the issue we have with signatories all over the country. Dan reached out to other sections about their banking experiences. The responses showed everyone has banking issues and there is no golden goose bank. One suggestion was at each new officer term to close existing bank account and open new one with incoming officers. At the AFS Leading at All Levels meeting this topic was also brought up as an issue for many sections. Next step is for Jessica to reach out to Chase, Capital One, Wells Fargo, Ally Bank, Simple, Chime and follow up with Dan Cassidy (AFS).

## 6. Committee Updates

- A. Technology Committee (Chair – Randy Beckwith)
  - a. Nature-like fishway guidelines
    - i. Steve Malloch represents a public charity, Resources Legacy Fund that has a \$50M 10 year dam removal and river restoration program (<https://resourceslegacyfund.org/our-approach/open-rivers-fund/>). He is looking to BES to develop a nature-like fishway guidance document (or workshop/short course).
    - ii. A comprehensive nature-like fishway document could include design guidance, planning, siting, when and when not to do it, modeling tools, interpreting results, case studies, lessons learned, implementation, costs, etc.
    - iii. There was an effort in 2010 to do a living database of projects and they have information on over 400 nature-like fishways (Laura Wildman)
- B. Education Committee (Chair – Randy Beckwith)
  - a. Seeking volunteers
- C. Resource Policy Committee (Liaison – Patrick O'Rourke)
  - a. <https://fisheries.org/category/news/policy-news/>
  - b. Recovering America's Wildlife Act
  - c. Waters of the U.S. <https://fisheries.org/policy-media/wotus/>

- d. Changes to Endangered Species Act critical habitat designations  
<https://fisheries.org/2020/09/56964/>
- e. Great American Outdoors Act
- f. National Environmental Policy Act revisions
- D. AFS-BES/ASCE-EWRI Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science (Chair – Kevin Mulligan)
  - a. New committee members elected summer 2020
  - b. MOU currently in process between ASCE-EWRI and AFS
  - c. See Digital Media section for ongoing Web Committee task
  - d. 2-4 webinars hosted per year  
<https://units.fisheries.org/fishpassagejointcommittee/committees-and-task-groups/webinar-task-group/>
  - e. Fish Passage Citation Database  
[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage\\_database/](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage_database/)
  - f. Fish Passage 2020 in Portugal was cancelled to COVID-19

## 7. BES Business

- A. Tax Exempt Status
  - a. BES reinstated their tax exempt status which had expired in 2013. Moving forward BES must file form 990 “Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax” on an annual basis.
- B. Bylaws
  - a. Dana updating bylaws, which will then be reviewed by AFS constitutional consultant
- C. Digital Media Subcommittee (Chair - Gordon Clark)
  - a. Web page updated and also joint committee webpage
  - b. Communities (ListServ replacement)
    - i. BES is currently developing a website through AFS that will be a tool for people to post questions/answers, share news and job announcements, etc. Small team is pilot testing how it can be used to best suit our needs. To be launched this year!
- D. Ned Taft Student Travel Scholarship Award (Chair – Jenna Rackovan)
  - a. This award provides travel and lodging costs up to \$1,000
  - b. No award this year due to COVID-19
  - c. Application has been revised/updated
  - d. When renewing your AFS membership a button to donate specifically to this scholarship will be available soon
- E. BES Membership Involvement

- a. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AFS Section Exhibit
  - i. AFS has asked all units to develop an exhibit for the next Annual Meeting that showcases the history of each unit and/or tells a story of an interesting historical event on fisheries science related to our unit. This was postponed to the next in person meeting. BES is seeking volunteers to join committee and start brainstorming!

## **8. Conferences/Training Opportunities**

- A. World Fish Migration Day, October 24, 2020. <https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/>
- B. AFS 2021 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, August 8-12 (AFS 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) <https://fisheries.org/events-page/future-afs-meetings/>
- C. Fish Passage 2021 – watch for future announcements. Lisbon, Portugal 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19. <https://fishpassage.umass.edu/>

## **9. Open Discussion**

- A. Time for members to ask questions, provide comments, etc.

## **10. Transition of Bioengineering Executive Committee Officers**

- A. Recognition of Service
  - i. Thanks all around!
- B. Election results
  - i. Secretary Treasurer: Jessica Pica
  - ii. President Elect: Patrick O'Rourke
- C. Motion to approve results and transition officers to their new positions
  - i. Dana motioned to approve Secretary Treasurer, Dan second
  - ii. Dana motioned to approve President Elect, Dan second

## **11. Adjourn**