



AFS Bioengineering Section

Annual Business Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021. 5-6 PM ET (2-3 PM PT)

Platform/Call-in Line: In-person and virtual options

1. Current BES Officers

- Dan Giza – President
- Patrick O'Rourke – President Elect
- Jessica Pica – Secretary/Treasurer
- Dana Postlewait – Past President

2. Revisions to Agenda

3. Announcements

- A. Welcome!
- B. This is our formal, annual business meeting, will leave time for open discussion.
- C. Attendance
 - a. In-person
 - i. Dan Giza, John Burnett, Peter Sturke, Paul Jacobson, Jonathan Leiman, David Hugo, Laura Wildman, Drue Winters
 - b. Virtual
 - i. Patrick O'Rourke, Jessica Pica, Randy Beckwith, Dana Postlewait, Jon Mann, Marcin Whitman, Tim Hogan, Tyler Kreider, Paul Harper, Mary Terra, Kevin Mulligan, Marcia Rojas, Ryan Laughery, Jenna Rackovan, Mike Garello, Hugo Marques, Denis Ruttenberg, Steve Arnold
- D. Governing Board Meeting Updates
 - a. The morning topic was focused on the AFS Strategic Vision - What is the future of AFS?

- b. Break out groups to discuss and then share with the larger group shared the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis related to the 5 core AFS program areas:
 - i. Publications
 - ii. Communications
 - iii. Policy
 - iv. Professional Development / CE
 - v. Meetings
- c. Break out groups on “What is AFS role in Fisheries Profession and is it being met?” Some topics/roles discussed include:
 - i. AFS’s Role in Professional Networking;
 - 1. Building industry relationships;
 - 2. Mentoring (connecting young and older); and,
 - 3. Virtual options keep us connected but limit the one-on-one networking
 - ii. AFS’s Broad Exposure of Fishery Science
 - 1. Fishery science sharing;
 - 2. Reaching the people side of fisheries science; and,
 - 3. Challenge related to AFS being a single source for specific fishery science disciplines.
 - iii. AFS role in make fishery science more inclusive of indigenous and other under served and cultures people.
 - iv. The need to encourage connection outside of annual meeting using new technology
 - v. AFS’s competition in being the go-to source of fishery science information
- d. Afternoon was focused on Business Activities
 - i. Financial updates, Unit activities and updates, President & Director reports
 - ii. New Logo Presentation and discussion



The logo was official debuted at Monday’s Business meeting where AFS shared the elements of the new logo, which include:

FISH: It is a generic fish that is in motion—a nod to our science that is always moving forward toward better solutions.

WATER: The power of water is seen in the environments it shapes. It also plays a central role in shaping the diverse array of perspectives, backgrounds, and vocations of all AFS members. Water connects the work of all of our members in some way.

COLOR: The darker blue signifies the range of freshwater systems that include streams, rivers, reservoirs, lakes, and ponds. The turquoise blue signifies the saltwater environments that span from the deep ocean to the transition zones of marshes and estuaries. The green signifies the connection of land to water and the linkages within our aquatic system—from headwaters to rivers, from springs to lakes, from wetlands to deltas, from coral reefs to the deep ocean.

- E. 150th Anniversary AFS BES Exhibit
 - a. For those unable to be in-person in Baltimore here is a link to the BES 150th exhibit booth video: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/640441928/7bdc2354aa>
- F. Co-sponsored the virtual Fish Passage Conference 2021 lead by World Fish Migration Foundation and held an informational session about BES.

4. Treasurer’s Report

- A. Annual use of BES Funds
 - a. FPC2021 sponsorship

- b. AFS website hosting
- c. AFS ABM expenses
- B. Bank Update
 - a. BES has exhausted our efforts trying to set up this AXOS bank account. They will not approve our application without proof that BES can conduct business under AFS on a state level, which we don't have, and my understanding is that none of the AFS sections/divisions do. Through this process we've reached out to other sections and 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 but if everyone needs to be physically present in the same place that option won't solve the problem. Plus, as I've shown even opening an account with an online bank isn't as easy as one would think. We're putting a hold on this effort for the time being. This topic was brought up at the 2020 AFS Leading at All Levels meeting as a widespread issue for many sections. We hope AFS can step in and help all sections with this issue.

5. Committee Updates

- A. Education Committee (Chair – Randy Beckwith)
 - a. Funded by the Resources Legacy Fund, BES and contractor Brent Medford will develop a nature-like fishway symposium for FPC22
 - b. BES will develop a nature-like fishway symposium for AFS22
 - i. Marcin Whitman volunteered to help
 - c. Technology committee
 - i. BES is still trying to figure out what this committee should do. It was formed to provide strategic support and technical guidance for those who were pursuing either the development of new fish passage and intake protection technologies or the use of existing technologies in unusual and innovative conditions.
 - ii. Tim Hogan volunteered to help
 - d. Let Randy know if you want to help or have any ideas for committee in the future
 - e. Drue Winters suggested looking into the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 14-20, 2022
- B. Resource Policy Committee (AFS Policy Director – Drue Winters)
 - a. Infrastructure Bill
 - i. 1.2 trillion dollar bill and billion of dollars for aquatic projects
 - ii. How can BES advise AFS to use this money? How does AFS want to engage to with federal agencies?

- b. Continue to support Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, Waters of the United States, marine aquaculture
 - c. AFS has been engaged in climate this year
 - d. If anyone is interested in policy, get together with Patrick to start transition for when he takes over as president. Meets a couple times a year. Vet proposals through section.
- C. AFS-BES/ASCE-EWRI Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science (Chair – Kevin Mulligan)
- a. MOU currently in process between ASCE-EWRI and AFS
 - b. See Digital Media section for ongoing Web Committee task
 - c. 2-4 webinars hosted per year
<https://units.fisheries.org/fishpassagejointcommittee/committees-and-task-groups/webinar-task-group/>
 - d. Fish Passage Citation Database
https://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage_database/
 - e. FPC21 was virtual. FPC23 planned for Acadia University, Nova Scotia
 - f. No project awards this year. Plans to award for 2022 (BES funded)
 - g. Drafting bylaws

6. BES Business

- A. Tax Exempt Status
- a. BES was reinstated as tax-exempt organization summer 2020
 - b. 2020 tax filing has not been submitted as of November 9, 2021 because 1) BES was not in the IRS database as being tax exempt (has been corrected), 2) there’s a minor coding issues that is currently being resolved, and 3) multiple IRS representatives told me that they filed on our behalf but that didn’t go through. Currently our case is being elevated to the tax payer advocate office and waiting for them to reach out.
 - c. As of November 16, 2021 the 2020 tax return has been filed according to the IRS website.

| Tax Year 2020 Form 990-N (e-Postcard) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tax Period: 2020 (01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020) | Mailing Address: 425 BARLOW PL STE 110 BETHESDA, MD 20814 United States | Gross receipts not greater than: \$50,000 |
| EIN: 52-1273183 | Principal Officer's Name and Address: DANIEL GIZA | Organization has terminated: No |
| Legal Name (Doing Business as): American Fisheries Society Bioengineering Section | 425 BARLOW PL STE 110 BETHESDA, MD 20814 United States | Website URL: WWW.UNIT.FISHERIES.ORG/BES/ |

B. Bylaws

- a. Dana is in process of updating the bylaws to include the ability to conduct officer elections electronically.

C. Digital Media Subcommittee (Chair - Gordon Clark)

- a. Website text and organization was updated this past year.
- b. A problem came to light about the Community platform BES was pursuing for a group communication tool taking the place of old listserv. ASI (the company that created iMIS and that community module) have no plans to upgrade or develop that product any further. The developer said none of their clients use it. BES decided not to continue with this platform and hopes to use website for some of these needs.
- c. At this time, BES is pursuing an email marketing platform to cover the rest of BES communication needs.
- d. Should we look into LinkedIn again?

D. Ned Taft Student Travel Scholarship Award (Chair – Jenna Rackovan)

- a. Most likely due to COVID and AFS being a hybrid meeting this year, we did not get any applications for the NED Taft Student Travel award. We are hoping things will be different next year and plan to send out the announcement and have applications due the end of May 2022.
- b. We did successfully set up a nonprofit PayPal account to allow BES to accept donations for the NED Taft Award. If you would like to donate, please follow the direct link to the paypal site or find a link on the BES website (link should be available soon). <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4337603>

E. BES Membership Involvement

- a. List of people interested in getting more involved
- b. Officer elections 2022
 - i. President-Elect
 - ii. Treasurer-Secretary

7. Conferences/Training Opportunities

- A. World Fish Migration Day, May 21, 2022. <https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/>
- B. Fish Passage 2022 – International Conference on River Connectivity, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington, June 13-16, 2022
- C. American Fisheries Society 2022, Spokane, Washington, August 21-25, 2022
<https://fisheries.org/events-page/future-afs-meetings/>
- D. Clean Currents 2022 (National Hydropower Association), TBD

8. Open Discussion

- A. Laura Wildman brought up having a process for involving more students and members. What can we do to interact? Welcoming committee?
- B. Jonathan Leiman asked what is the section brand? We're called bioengineering but he continued to hear fish passage. The concern being that if one is not involved in fish passage work, for example, they might not feel the section is for them even if they do work or have interest in other industry areas that fall under BES. Point being that the section must think about defining its brand and "marketing" all areas of BES for better inclusion.

9. Adjourn