



AFS Bioengineering Section

Annual Business Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022. 5:30-6:30 PM PT (8:30-9:30 PM ET)

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. Attendee List

In-Person (Members)	In-Person (Non-Members)	Virtual
Dan Giza	Kim Capone	Jessica Pica
Dana Postlewait	Kevin Jensen	Randy Beckwith
Patrick O’Rourke	Bill Mauros	Jonathon Mann
Tim Hogan	Abe Scheider	Mike Garello
Derek Nelson	Sterling Watson	
Steve Gephard	John Burnett	
Ryan Laughery	Jen Mathia	
Marcin Whitman	Drue Winters	
Matthew Procriv		

3. Announcements

- A. Welcome!
- B. This is our formal, annual business meeting, will leave time for open discussion.
- C. Sign in (identify who’s in the room and on the call)
- D. Governing Board Meeting Updates (Saturday August 21st)
 - a. Membership Survey

- i. Developed by the Membership Committee
 - ii. Goal to better understand opinions related to membership: value & benefits, communication, role of AFS in careers, support of employers, etc.
 - iii. Issued to AFS members and non-members (affiliated members, non-members meeting attendees, etc.)
 - iv. 1,017 responses with lots of interesting information gathered in various areas (units, age group, professional areas, etc.)
 - v. Next Steps
 1. Reopen the survey to increase response numbers
 2. Deeper dive into analysis by various areas.
- b. AFS Committees
 - i. Discussion on how committees can be more effective and increase members.
 - ii. 20+ AFS committees <https://fisheries.org/about/committees/standing-committees-2/>
 - iii. AFS is working to improve the process for developing committee charges and filling committee membership roles.
- c. Governing Board Longevity
 - i. Looking for Section Governing Board representatives' terms be 2-3 years to maintain continuity.
 - ii. Most Sections including BES have 2-year terms
 - iii. Discussion about each Sections incoming Governing Board representative sit in on meeting a year prior to their 2-year term to get familiar with the conversations and topics.
- d. Incoming AFS President April Croxton's Presidential Plan of Work
 - i. Further promote robust internal communication at all AFS levels.
 - ii. Continue advancing diversity and inclusion efforts within AFS and fisheries profession through sustainable targeted programs and outreach efforts.
 - iii. Support AFS 2023 Grand Rapids Annual Meeting and Latin American & Caribbean Fisheries Congress meeting.
 - iv. Initiate planning efforts for selection of next Executive Director of AFS
- e. AFS DEI Discussion
 - i. AFS shared Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priority areas and those DEI related activities being offered at Spokane.
- f. Policy Updates

- i. RAWA, WOTUS, Infrastructure Bill and climate legislation
 - g. Administrative Business
 - i. Considerations for the Bethesda Office sale
 - ii. Executive Director progress report for 2021-2022 accomplishments and proposed work plan for 2022-2023.
 - iii. Mid-year Governing Board Meeting Wed. January 11, 2023 Boston, MA in conjunction with Northeastern Division and Southern New England Chapter Joint Meeting.
- E. AFS President Elect Cecil Jennings provided some additional AFS Updates
 - a. New Hutton Program workshop initiative
 - i. Bring together all the Hutton Program members for a workshop to learn from each other and participate in hands-on activities
 - ii. Continue each year at the annual meeting location
 - b. DEI programs started at the Baltimore meeting were continued here at Spokane and April Croxton plans to support in Grand Rapids
 - c. April Croxton is chairing the committee to update the AFS Procedures Manual as what we DO doesn't always match what we SAY we do.
 - d. Upcoming AFS Meetings
 - i. Latin American & Caribbean Congress, Cancun, Mexico May 15-18, 2023
 - ii. Grand Rapids, MI August 20-24, 2023
 - iii. Honolulu, HI, September 15-19, 2024
- F. BES 150th Video Exhibit: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/640441928/7bdc2354aa>

4. Treasurer's Report

- A. Annual use of BES Funds
 - a. AFS website hosting
 - b. Fish Passage Conference award plaques
 - c. AFS ABM expenses
- B. Bank Update
 - a. The BES Executive Committee has faced challenges in identifying a bank to host section accounts and allow for easy transition of account names as officers transition. Currently, BES has a Bank of America account which requires all account holders and new account holders to a branch office in-person. This can be difficult when officers live on opposite sides of the country (i.e., Massachusetts and Oregon) such is the case with BES. BES contacted several other Section officers and identified that a similar challenge was being faced by others. No ideal banking solution was identified to date and the BES Executive Committee has

discussed whether AFS at large could address this issue. Perhaps by identifying a bank that might offer virtual account holder transition process and thus many AFS Sections are likely to switch banks if this a more convenient option was made available.

5. Committee Updates

A. Education Committee (Chair – Randy Beckwith)

- a. Organized two symposia:
 - i. Nature-Like Fishway Symposium at Fish Passage Conference <https://fishpassage.fisheries.org/> which had 7 talks.
 - ii. Fisheries Bioengineering: Innovative Improvements in Connectivity, Protection, and Habitat at 152nd AFS Annual Meeting which has 17 in-person talks.
- b. BES is also supporting and has members organizing two additional symposia at the 152nd AFS Annual Meeting:
 - i. Challenges in Protecting Fish and Shellfish at Cooling Water Intakes: 316(b) Rule
 - ii. Connectivity Through Barrier Removal: Balancing Critical Ecosystem Processes with Complex Management Issues

B. Resource Policy Committee (Chair – Patrick O'Rourke) Drue Winters, AFS Policy Director gave an update:

- a. Infrastructure Bill – lots of discussion at Spokane and lots of money coming that is likely to fund BES Membership projects.
- b. RAWA – Awaiting action in the Senate. AFS will continue to push to get it to vote. AFS members are encouraged to contact their Senators. This can be done through the Spokane app or a link that will continue to be sent out to membership.
- c. WOTUS – Expect a Spring Opinion and AFS will continue to send regulatory comment letters.

C. AFS-BES/ASCE-EWRI Joint Committee on Fisheries Engineering and Science (Chair – Kevin Mulligan)

- a. See Digital Media section for ongoing Web Committee task
- b. 2-4 webinars hosted per year
<https://units.fisheries.org/fishpassagejointcommittee/activities/webinars/>
- c. Fish Passage Citation Database
https://scholarworks.umass.edu/fishpassage_database/
- d. FPC22 was in-person (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, WA) and virtual. FPC23 has not been finalized yet.

- e. Project awards
 - i. Fish Passage Distinguished Project Award: Restoring the continuity of two river in southern Poland, State Water Holding Polish Waters, Regional Water Management Board in Krakow
 - ii. Career Achievement Award for Distinguished Service in Fish Passage: Alex Haro
- f. Drafting bylaws

6. BES Business

A. Bylaws

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

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

- a. We did not receive any applications for AFS 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>

C. Digital Media Subcommittee (Chair - Gordon Clark)

- a. MailPoet was identified as a social platform that could help organize the growing email listserv maintained by the Joint Committee related to the webinar series. Other platforms were investigated that could aid in improving BES membership networking and information sharing but had challenges.
- b. BES faced challenges in identifying a social media platform that would meet all our goals associate with membership connection, communication, networking and information sharing. While BES was able to meet the goal of developing and introducing a new email marketing platform that was integrated with existing digital media infrastructure (i.e., Wordpress account) and also supporting the BES/Joint Committee and its' webinar series through use of this new platform, it's worth continuing to identify options as information sharing and networking is a large mission of BES.
- c. Stantec Consulting Services Inc. Dollars for Doers Program contributed \$500 to BES in recognition of Stantec employee Gordon Clark's continued support and volunteerism to our organization.

D. BES Membership Involvement

- a. 2022 Networking Social Events

- i. BES held its first networking and social event on June 9th, 2022. This was a virtual meeting attended by 15 people (members and non-members) and was approximately an hour in duration:
<https://vimeo.com/718860067/24156b2588> This meeting provided attendees:
 1. An introduction into Fisheries Bioengineering;
 2. The mission of the BES;
 3. Ways to get involved in BES;
 4. Included polls and interactions throughout;
 5. Included BES member perspective speed presentation
 - a. Tim Hogan – Biologist Career Perspective
 - b. Laura Wildman – Engineer Career Perspective
 6. Provided time for Q&A and other on the call to share their background and experience.
- ii. Fall Virtual Event TBD – join the planning committee
- b. Other ways to get involved
 - i. Education Committee – more members needed!
 - ii. Digital Media Subcommittee – more members needed!
 - iii. Resource Policy Committee - take over for Patrick
 - iv. Technology Committee - help relaunch

7. Conferences/Training Opportunities

- A. American Fisheries Society 2022, Spokane, Washington, August 21-25, 2022
<https://fisheries.org/events-page/future-afs-meetings/> BES organized and sponsored several symposium:
 - ***Fisheries Bioengineering: Innovative Improvements in Connectivity, Protection, and Habitat***
Organizers: Randy Beckwith, Marcin Whitman, Jenna Rackovan, and Dan Giza
 - ***Connectivity Through Barrier Removal: Balancing Critical Ecosystem Processes with Complex Management Issues***
Organizers: Bob Hughes, Gary Whalen, Marybeth Brey, Helen Neville, Laura Wildman, Alison Coulter, Kevin Irons, and Nathan Lederman
 - ***Challenges in Protecting Fish and Shellfish at Cooling Water Intakes: Case Studies and Experiences Complying with the 2014 Clean Water Act 316(b) Rule***
Organizers: Jeff Thomas, Ron Heun, Dan Giza, Amy Hetherington, Brad Foss, Chris Gurshin, and Jennifer Mathia
 - ***Building Effective Policy Approaches for Current Fisheries Issues***

Organizer: Drue Winters, Jesse Trushenski, Susan Colvin, Helen Neville, Nathaniel Gillespie, Dana Postlewait, and Bob Hughes.

- B. Clean Currents 2022 (National Hydropower Association), Sacramento, California, October 18-20, 2022 <https://cleancurrents.org/>
- C. AFS Northeast Division & Southern New England Chapter Joint Meeting: Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, January 8-10, 2023.
Special Session: *Diadromous Fishes: New Tools, New Findings, New Hope.*:
<https://snec.fisheries.org/january-2023-meeting/>

8. Open Discussion

- A. Marcin Whitman announce the passing of colleague Margie Caisley
 - i. She worked in the bioengineering space which she was truly passionate about.
 - ii. In recognition of Margie's many gifts in the conservation and restoration community, she will be honored with the creation of a scholarship for students and/or early career professionals to help further their academic or professional growth in Margie's area of practice -- The Marjorie Caisley Conservation Engineering Scholarship for Women.
 - iii. A GoFundMe account has been set up to create this scholarship:
<https://gofund.me/bceb6aca>.
 - iv. Marcin encourages all BES to give even a little to help get this scholarship establish to honor the legacy of Margie.
- B. John Burnett announced an Intake Screen, Inc (<https://isi-screens.com/>) open house event
 - i. Demonstration of a first of its kind fish protection screen fabrication.
 - ii. Date: tentatively Sept 12th 2022,
 - iii. Location: ISI Office 8417 River Road Sacramento, CA
 - iv. Contact John (jburnett@isi-screens.com) for more information or to schedule an alternative day/time to observe the demo.

9. Transition of Bioengineering Executive Committee Officers

- A. Recognition of Service
- B. 2022 Officer Election Results and Transitions
 - a. Secretary-Treasurer: Audrey Thompson
 - b. President-Elect: Jessica Pica
 - c. President: Patrick O'Rourke
 - d. Past-President: Dan Giza

C. Motion to Approve Results and Transition Officers

10. Adjourn