

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring Executive Committee Meeting
Norfolk, VA
Thursday, 2 February 2023

President Jason Olive introduced himself and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann announced a quorum was present. President Jason Olive called the EXCOM meeting to order at 1603 hrs.

Members introduced themselves and proxies were identified for Small Impoundments, Catfish, and Trout Committees and for the Georgia, Florida, and Texas Chapters.

President Olive presented the Spring EXCOM meeting agenda.

Motion to approve agenda: Mark Rogers

Seconded by: Kayla Kimmel

Motion Approved.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, President April Croxton, and First Vice President Miguel Garcia-Bermudez were present at the meeting.

Society President Remarks

President April Croxton shared some of the items that she will be focusing on during her time as President. These include making sure that the Society is effective with our communications. Specifically, being able to effectively distribute and amplify the work that is being accomplished by our members, from the parent level down to the chapters. She also stressed that we must continue the diversity and inclusion work that is being done to ensure that we are as inclusive a society as possible and able to create an accepting environment for all. President Croxton also remarked that Executive Director Doug Austen is retiring from the Society and that the process of finding his replacement has begun. President Croxton invited everyone to the annual Society meeting in Grand Rapids, MI and encouraged everyone to reach out to the AFS officers if they have questions or comments.

Society Executive Director Remarks

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen highlighted the transitional process that is planned for the Executive Director position. He remarked that the transition will include an overlap period between him vacating the position and the new Executive Director assuming the role in an effort to help ease the transition. Executive Director Doug Austen also highlighted the down trend in both society memberships and publication revenues. He stressed the importance of SDAFS members in helping communicate the value of AFS and sharing the important work

being accomplished by the Society and how membership drives those efforts. He also highlighted that the Society has developed a Partnership program as a way of to allow agencies to support the Society. Executive Director Doug Austen highlighted upcoming meetings including the upcoming annual Society meeting in Grand Rapids, MI and the World Fisheries Congress in Seattle, WA.

Society Vice-President Remarks

First Vice President Miguel Garcia-Bermudez highlighted the upcoming first annual Latin American and Caribbean Fisheries Congress to be held in Cancun, Mexico May 15-18, 2023.

SDAFS President Report

President Jason Olive highlighted the accomplishments that were made in regards to his plan to focus on awards, communication, and reconnecting the technical committees with the state agencies during his tenure as president. President Olive made a big marketing push to encourage members to nominate their peers for awards. Unfortunately, that push didn't result in an overwhelming amount of nominations this year so he again stressed the importance of nominating and recognizing your peers for the work that they do. President Olive highlighted that his focus on improving communication resulted in several Zoom meetings with chapter presidents and division committee chairs to help improve vertical communication from the Society level down to the Division members. President Olive highlighted his work in reconnecting state agencies with technical committees in an attempt to align the goals and objectives of each group. President Olive approached each state agency fish chief directly to help them understand what the Division does and gain a better understanding of agency needs in terms of research, symposium ideas, and workshops. This resulted in an electronic form that included all major topics discussed and allowed each chief to prioritize the needs of his or her agency. The results of this form can be referenced by technical committees to assist in future planning of committee goals and direction. President Olive acknowledged the work of the Division appointees and noted some of the new appointees that have stepped forward this past year. Lastly, he highlighted how much he enjoyed being able to attend various chapter meetings.

The rest of President Olive's report stands as written.

SDAFS Officer Report

President-Elect Mark Rogers began by expressing his gratitude for President Olive and the excellent job he did during his tenure as President. He highlighted that as President he is going to be focused on the next generation of AFS members and increasing connectivity with that cohort and division leadership. President-Elect Rogers vows to continue the work of President Olive of increasing communication with EXCOM and division members and leaders, focusing on sub-units and academia.

The rest of President-Elect Roger's report stands as written.

Vice President Anthony Overton introduced himself. He highlighted that part of his role of Vice President was to review a technical committee and he choose the Trout Committee. Vice President Overton remarked that he was impressed at the Trout Committee's website and their historical records that included meeting notes back to 1964.

The rest of Vice President Overton's report stands as written.

Past-President Cindy Williams was not present and her report stands as written.

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann's reports were handled individually. She noted that the meeting minutes from the 2022 EXCOM meeting are posted on the SDAFS website and were released over the SDAFS list serve.

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann requested approval of the 2022 EXCOM meeting minutes.
Motion to approve agenda: Sean Kinney
Seconded by: Robby Maxwell
Motion Approved.

Secretary-Treasurer Baumann provided an overview of the 2022 budget. Several income and expense items were highlighted, including \$16,915 in AFS rebates. It was noted that the 2021 AFS rebates were included in the 2022 budget due to the parent society switching payment forms from physical checks to electronic deposits. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann noted that the SDAFS is holding funds for the Pollution Committee (\$1,800) and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (\$13,300). The ending SDAFS balance for 2022 totaled \$48,358.40 and included \$13,921 in the strategic reserve funds.

An audit of the 2022 financial information was completed on January 17, 2023 by the SDAFS Audit Committee Chair Kelsey Roberts. The Audit Committee report can be found in the briefing book and there were no errors identified in the 2022 financials. The Division's original investment into AFS's managed investment program of \$10,000 in October of 2018 has grown to \$13,921 as of December 2021. It was noted that the Audit Committee Chair suggested the Division look into a more aggressive investment to complement our financial portfolio.

The proposed 2023 SDAFS budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann noted that typical levels of income and expenses were expected in 2023. Highlighted were the proposed donations to the Latin American and Caribbean Congress (\$1,500) and SDAFS D&I Committee student travel award (\$3,000).

The current bank balance is sufficient to maintain SDAFS operations.

Secretary-Treasurer Baumann's report stands as written.

Student Representative Report

Representative Ambar Torres Molinari experienced travel delays and was not present. President Olive presented her report and highlighted the online survey that Representative Torres Molinari created to better identify and collect contact information for individual student sub-units. President Olive indicated that the rest of Representative Torres Molinari's report stands as written.

Technical Committee Reports

Alligator Gar – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Aquaculture – No representative present.

Catfish – Highlighted that they are increasing their scholarship award amount to \$1,000 and announcing the award earlier in the year in hopes of getting more applicants for the award. They also highlighted several service awards that they presented this year and noted that they are updating some of their procedural documentation to include a better defined description of leadership role responsibilities. The rest of the report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Morone – No representative present.

Pollution – Highlighted the Fish Kill Investigation workshop that will be held at this annual meeting. Also, mentioned their upcoming efforts to increase participation of state agency folks within the committee. The rest of the report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Reservoir – Highlighted the issue of having low rates of applicants for their committee supported awards and mentioned that they are going to try and increase interest by expanding them from regional to national awards and increasing communication via a newly created list serve. The rest of the report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Small Impoundments – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Trout – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Warm Water Streams – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee Chair Dennis Riecke brought forward a resolution to support the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee in their effort to address water quality issues on the Lower Mississippi River by encouraging the surrounding states to perform routine water quality monitoring. The resolution states where we are in terms of water quality within this system, where we think we need to be, and then how we propose to bridge that gap. The resolution was posted on the Resolution Committee website and received one comment from Division members.

President Olive requested a motion to approve moving this resolution forward to be presented to the membership at the business meeting.

Motion to approve moving resolution forward: Sean Kinney

Seconded by: Andrew ?

Motion Approved.

Chair Riecke highlighted the internal resolution of appreciation to the host chapter, Virginia, for planning the 2023 annual meeting.

Chapter Reports

Host Comments – 2023 Annual Meeting Chair, Brad Fink, thanked everyone for making the trip and being in attendance for the 2023 meeting. Brad highlighted the help that Visit Norfolk provided in securing a grant for \$10,000 that was put toward A/V costs for the meeting. Meeting Chair Fink noted that there are currently 429 registrants, 177 oral presentations (94 of them student presenters), and 42 posters reported for the meeting and that they are projecting a profit of \$20,000. He also highlighted that the VA Chapter plans to use a portion of their profits to support a scholarship that will fund a summer temporary student employee at a cost of \$3,000 per year. The rest of the report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Alabama –Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting activities.

Arkansas –Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting activities.

Florida - Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They highlighted their annual meeting activities and noted the efforts of their Diversity and Inclusion committee and newsletter contributions.

Georgia – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting and workshop activities and noted the efforts towards aquatic nuisance species and newsletter contributions.

Kentucky – Currently inactive.

Louisiana – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Mississippi - Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They highlighted their efforts in trying to increase undergraduate participation at annual meetings by covering travel costs for these students. They also mentioned efforts directed in updating their website.

North Carolina - Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They highlighted their annual meeting activities and the high level of activity and effort that has been put forth by their Mentoring Committee.

Oklahoma – No representative present.

Potomac - No representative present.

Puerto Rico – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They put forth their interest to host the 2030 annual SDAFS meeting.

South Carolina – No representative present.

Tennessee - Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They highlighted their annual meeting activities including multiple workshops, fundraising activities, and efforts made in updating their website with the objective of improving communication between the leadership and chapter members. They mentioned the high level of activity within the University of Tennessee sub-unit. They also updated the group on details regarding the 2024 annual SDAFS meeting to be held in Chattanooga, TN.

Texas - Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting activities.

Tidewater – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting activities.

West Virginia – Report stands as written in the 2023 SDAFS Briefing Book. They also highlighted their annual meeting activities.

Old Business

President Olive highlighted the format change for reporting activities in the annual briefing book. The new format was in an effort to better align the Division reporting format with the Society's format. President Olive requested feedback from leadership on this change in report formatting.

President Olive noted the \$1,500 request for donation for the Latin American Caribbean Fisheries Congress. Executive Director Austin highlighted that these funds would be directed towards travel fund support.

President Olive requested a motion to approve a donation of \$1,500 from SDAFS to the Latin American Caribbean Fisheries Congress.

Motion to approve moving resolution forward: Brent Murry

Seconded by: Jason ? (WV)

Motion Approved.

President Olive brought forth the request to create a liaison to the Southeastern Fishes Council. He provided background information that SDAFS historically had a non-game fisheries committee, however most of the members began attending the Southeastern Fishes Council instead of SDAFS. As the momentum of RAWA increased last year, it brought into question that SDAFS did not have a liaison to the Southeastern Fishes Council as it does with other professional societies. President Olive brought forth the question of if this is appropriate for the society at a divisional level or would it be best housed a technical committee, such as Warmwater Streams. Robby Maxwell noted that the Warmwater Streams committee has already begun talks of how to incorporate work directed towards non-game species into their committee. He noted that he would be happy to bring forth the proposal of creating a liaison to the Southeastern Fishes Council to the committee for discussion. President-Elect Mark Rogers

mentioned his thoughts of it just being an independent liaison and not housed in a technical committee. President Olive remarked that President-Elect Rogers and he would work on an official proposal of change to the bi-laws for 2024 in support of creating a liaison to the Southeastern Fishes Council. Dennis Riecke voiced his support of this effort.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Update: President Olive noted within the briefing book that there is a common theme of addressing diversity and inclusion within the Division, but there is a need to provide more information, examples, and guidance of how to accomplish this task. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann concurred with the statements made by President Olive and noted that one of the action items of this committee was to develop a student travel fund with the donated seed money given by past-president Tom Kwak's sister. Since the committee is still in the forming stages, it is requesting \$3,000 from SDAFS that will go towards a student travel fund only if one is established for the 2024 meeting and a student is selected. Discussion ensued regarding how that award will be worded and directed towards target students, as well as, challenges that come along with bringing students to meetings. The idea of recruiting former Hutton Scholars was proposed, as well as, targeting schools that don't have fisheries and wildlife programs.

President Olive requested a motion to approve a donation of \$3,000 from SDAFS to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee if requested.

Motion to approve moving resolution forward: Shawn Kinney

Seconded by: Cindy Williams

Motion Approved.

Executive Director Austin passed out stickers with the new Society AFS logo. President Olive noted the need to update the SDAFS logo to incorporate the new Society logo.

President Olive highlighted the situation of Kentucky's chapter and its inactive status. A background was given that noted the decreased participation of non-agency fisheries professionals in Kentucky that contributed to this inactivity. A request was made to hold off on any direct actions towards the Kentucky chapter from the Division. President Olive proposed the possibility of joint participation with Kentucky and its neighboring chapters (Tennessee). Discussion ensued regarding the potential future of the Kentucky chapter, but not direct actions were conducted.

President Olive requested a motion to approve the 2024 budget.

Motion to approve the 2024 budget: Robert Leaf

Seconded by: Robby Maxwell

Motion Approved.

New Business

President Olive noted the future locations of upcoming annual SDAFS meeting.

President Olive requested a motion to adjourn the 2024 SDAFS EXCOM meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Shawn Kinney

Seconded by: Robert Leaf

Motion Approved.

Meeting was adjourned by President Jason Olive at 18:07 hours.