

01 Feb 2024

Executive Committee meeting

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society

President Mark Rogers called meeting to order. Secretary-Treasurer Brandon Peoples determined that a quorum was present.

Identification of proxies to represent Executive Committees (EXCOMM) of Chapters. GA Chapter: Tim Bonvecchio; MC Chapter: Dennis Riecke; SC Chapter: Lynn Quattro; AR Chapter: Sean Lusk; Texas: Dan Daugherty.

President Rogers recognized members of American Fisheries Society (AFS) EXCOMM: Cecil Jennings and Miguel Flores.

Introductions of other participants: Jason Olive, past SDAFS President; Jason Throneberry; AL Chapter President; Cal Johnson, past president of AL Chapter; Annah Sarah-Gelam, AL Chapter treasurer; Cynthia Holt, TX Chapter and Moronidae Committee; Steve Beckwith, Mary Paris, TN Chapter President; Sally Petri, TN Chapter President Elect; Casey Joubert, Secretary-Treasurer, NCAFS; Lynn Quattro, SC Chapter & Fisheries Administration Section President; Kevin Dockendorf, SDAFS representative to the Communications Committee & NC Chapter; Robbie Maxwell, SDAFS Policy Representative; Sean King, Reservoir Committee; Brandon Simcox, Alligator Gar Committee Chair, Stephen Curtis, Warmwater Streams Committee; Miguel Garcia, AFS & Puerto Rico Chapter; Anthony Overton, President Elect & AL Chapter; Austin Lisowski, SDAFS EXCOMM, Student Representative; Cecil Jennings, Past President GA Chapter, Past President SDAFS, and AFS.

Approval of Agenda: Motion requested by A. Overton & seconded by Sean Kenny. Motion is approved.

Remarks from AFS: Cecil Jennings presented remarks regarding efforts to replace outgoing Executive Director Doug Austen, planning for upcoming AFS meeting in Honolulu, upcoming World Fisheries Conference in March 2024, appointment of special committee to address five-year strategic plan which expires at the end of 2024, and the long-term trend of declining membership. Miguel Garcia also spoke about the recent Latin America Fisheries Congress.

Officers reports from 2023:

President Mark Rogers: This year, invested energy in the membership committee, attended in-person Chapter meetings representing SDAFS, and presented awards at SEAFWA.

President-elect Anthony Overton: Served on AFS Governing Board and represented SDAFS at LA Chapter meeting.

VP Jessica Baumann: Served on AFS Governing Board and membership committee. Reviewed *Morone* committee and commented on the strong representation of professional/agency staff on

that committee. Highlighted the strengths of the committee and the diversity of their ongoing efforts.

Immediate Past President Jason Olive: Attended AR, AL, and MS Chapter meetings. Updated SDAFS procedures manual in terms of nomination process and ballot committees.

Motion to approve last year's minutes made by Casey Joubert and seconded by Jess Baumann.
Motion to approve passes.

Student representative: Working to improve process of transition to improve continuity as students graduate etc.

Technical Committee Reports:

Alligator Gar: Stands as written (SAW)

Aquaculture: No representative

Catfish: SAW; working on a new student travel scholarship

Morone: SAW

Pollution: SAW

Reservoir: SAW, also rewarded scholarship to Joshua Statton, and is coordinating to support a nationwide microplastics study.

Trout: No representative

Small Impoundments: SAW

Warmwater Streams: SAW; able to award to Jimmie Pigg Awards, and is developing a subcommittee for American Eel

Resolutions: Noted that the first SDAFS was in Chattanooga, read a long list of people who have contributed to the meeting.

Motion to approve Technical Committee reports: Jason Olive, seconded by Dan Daughtery.
Motion approves.

Chapter Reports:

TN: reported on many activities, including the numerous TN Chapter members that contributed to the meeting, hosting of 3 workshops being hosted at TN & SDAFS, two student awards, a free

fishing day, updated Facebook page, wrote letter in support of Restoring America's Wildlife Act, and recognition of 75 dues-paying members.

AL: noted low membership, primary order of business will be planning for SDAFS 2027.

AR: SAW

FL: Reaching out to universities to improve student involvement, got \$5,000 for student travel fund.

GA: SAW

KY: nothing to report:

LA: SAW

MS: SAW

NC: SAW

OK: not represented

Potomac: not represented

Puerto Rico: 2023 is 10-year anniversary of chapter formation; meeting dedicated to memory of Tom Kwak

SC: SAW

TX: SAW

Tidewater: not represented

West VA: not represented

Funding request:

Black Bass 2025 symposium: hoping to get \$75k and is requesting \$1,000 from SDAFS. Open discussion motion: Dennis Riecke, seconded by Jason Olive. Discussion ensued about what the donation would support, and answered that it would be supporting operating costs, A/V, etc. Motion to vote made by Dennis Riecke & seconded by Jason Olive. Motion carries.

Morone committee represented by Sean Lusk. Requests. \$4,000 for a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) panel which can be used in many ways among agencies, researchers, etc. Motion for open discussion made by Sean Kinney and seconded by Cynthia Holt. Numerous questions from audience ensued regarding whether other organizations have committed support, the breadth of utility of the tool, nature of genetic material needed (e.g. size of fin clips), and turnaround time of lab processing. J. Baumann expressed concern about the large ask (\$4,000) being cost prohibitive; D. Daughtery noted that causing all agencies to contract with a single

entity could create problems. A. Overton suggested modifying the ask to \$1k, seconded by J. Throneberry. The Yays numbered 20 and Opposed 3; 2 abstained. Motion passes.

Other business:

New logo: K. Dockendorf noted that all chapters have the opportunity to update their logos and that they should contact Beth Beard with AFS.

New SFC liaison: Matthew Lewis.

New business:

Minor changes to the Morone and Trout portions of the procedures manual. Motion made by Sean Lusk and Jess Baumann; motion carries.

Student Awards Chair Keith Gibbs suggested adding both 'best' and 'runner up' awards partitioned by BS, MS, and PhD; Sec-Tres Peoples indicated that would be affordable. Motion made by C. Williams and seconded by D. Daughtery; motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by T. Bonvecchio & seconded by A. Overton. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.