

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
2019 Spring Meeting Galveston, TX
January 24th, 2019

8:00am – 3:00pm; Recorded and submitted by Colton Dennis (AGFC)

Attendees

Lawrence Dorsey, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (*Chair*) (Rep)
Colton Dennis, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (*Secretary-Treasurer*)
Jeremy Shiflet, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(*Scholarship Chair/Webmaster*) (Rep)
Patrick O'Rourke, Georgia Power
Jeff Boxrucker, Reservoir Partnership (RFHP Coord.)
Ben Batten, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Rep)
Rob Eckelbecker, Auburn Univ.
Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S.
Aaron Yeager, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
Ken Cunningham, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Dave Terre, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Greg Pitchford, Allstate Consultants
Michael Homer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Scott Herrmann, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Elizabeth Allmon, Purdue Univ.
Dr. Steve Sammons, Auburn Univ.
Ryan O'Hanlon, Pond Medics Inc.
Stephen Parker, North Carolina State Univ.
Sean Kinney, Louisiana Department of and Fisheries (Rep)
Kurt Kuklinski, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Rick Ott, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Rep)
Dustin Smith, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (Rep)
Dr. Dan Shoup, Oklahoma State University
John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Rep)

Introduction

Reservoir committee (RC) chair Lawrence Dorsey called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Financial Report – See spreadsheet

Secretary-Treasurer Colton Dennis gave a brief report on the current finances of the RC and referenced the financial spreadsheet that was emailed to the membership. The RC's mutual fund and money market account balance with Edward Jones Inc. as of the end of December, 2018 was \$16,498.99, of which \$6,842.57 was in the money market account. Account deposits included \$585 in 2018 and can be attributed to a scholarship donation by Fishiding.com (\$500) and AFS book sales (\$85). Account withdrawals in 2018 included providing two \$500 Jenkins scholarships (\$1000). Negative value changes/interest in investments account for a loss of \$580.73 for 2018 and leaves a beginning balance of \$16,498.99 for January 2019. Fred Heitman of American Aquatics has once again agreed to sponsor the Jenkins scholarship and his \$500 donation is expected in February.

Transition to New Committee Chair at SDAFS 2020

Lawrence announced that Sean Kinney, state rep from LA, has agreed to take over the Chair of the RC at SDAFS 2020 in Little Rock, AR. Patrick O'Rourke had also expressed interest in the RC Chair if no one else had volunteered.

Website/Social Media – Jeremy Shiflet / Lawrence Dorsey

Website chair Jeremy Shiflet reported to the Committee that not a lot has changed over the last year. SDAFS is still paying the bill for hosting RC website and providing some technical support when needed. He reminded members to provide new contact or new rep info so website can be updated. Jeremy asked membership to provide him with any suggestions on content or organization of website.

Lawrence asked about the old habitat manual, old state reports and other historical docs if they could be placed on the website and Jeremy stated they could.

Lawrence provided update on RC Facebook page and stated that he has been re-posting a lot from other states and B.A.S.S. Lawrence mentioned he needs members who are interested to be FB administrators so they can help him in posting FB info and managing the page. Sean Kinney volunteered to help out and be admin on RC FB page. Our FB page purpose has been to serve as a clearing house in an effort to share real time info to help the membership keep up with what the other states are doing. Gene reminds members that if they have some bass or bass fishing content they want to get out to anglers, then send it to him and he will post it or put it on Bassmaster.com. Videos get a lot more views than pics and media experts say videos will dominate (80%) social media views beginning in 2020. Dave Terre suggested we could and should do a better job of sharing content between states, RC, BASS, RFHP, FOR, etc. **Gene suggested that the RC membership create a fishery related FB page directory in an effort to build a network for real-time info exchange i.e. Texas has 15 fish mgmt. biol. with FB pages, AR has a blk bass mgmt. FB page, etc.**

Jenkins Scholarship – Jeremy Shiflet

Scholarship chair Jeremy Shiflet reported to the Committee that five very good applicants applied this year in comparison to two students last year. Jeremy thanked the other members who helped him score the applications including Mike Holley, Sean Kinney, Patrick O'Rourke, Rick Ott, and Dustin Smith. Kurt offered to help score applications in the future. Both of the recipients of the scholarship Rob Eckelbecker from Auburn Univ. and Stephen Parker from North Carolina State Univ. were in attendance and asked to give a brief summary of their projects. Rob is doing his Masters' thesis on creel evaluations on three reservoirs in AL using time lapse digital cameras at boat ramps. Stephen is doing his Masters' thesis on statewide striped bass population study on 12 reservoirs using gill nets and electrofishing. We want to again acknowledge Fishiding.com and American Aquatics for sponsoring the two Jenkins \$500 scholarships this year.

Sean asked the students about ease of filling out the scholarship application. Both students mentioned that it was simple and easy to fill out. He asked Jeremy if we could limit the word count on the application to reduce size of application and reduce reading complete thesis project. Kurt asked students if scholarship money helped them attend meeting or if they would have attended if they had not received scholarship. Both students stated they were coming regardless, but money helps with attending other expensive meetings like National AFS. Both also agreed they would apply if scholarship was only \$200. They were both more interested in the prestige of receiving an AFS affiliated scholarship, than monetary award. Lawrence reminded members we need to continue to make students aware of the scholarship in our own states and the state chapter meetings are a good place to do that.

Gene reminded members that B.A.S.S provides a \$1,000 scholarship to women studying fisheries, the Noreen Clough scholarship. Application can be found at Bassmaster.com and deadline is March 31. Shimano also provides several \$3,000 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate natural resource mgmt. (preferably fisheries) students who are also B.A.S.S. members.

Lawrence reminded the membership as they recruit scholarship sponsors to have them make out the checks to SDAFS Reservoir Committee and send it to either himself or Colton. Also, membership needs to keep Jeremy in the loop on sponsor recruitment and donations. Once a check is received and deposited, a letter on SDAFS letterhead will be sent to the sponsor with the RC's 501c3 tax id# so that the sponsor can claim it as a donation on their taxes.

Reservoir Habitat Workshop at SDAFS 2019 – Jeff Boxrucker

Jeff reported to the Committee that he held this first workshop (half day) at the RFHP Annual Meeting in TX in October and the plan was to expand the workshop to a full day for the SDAFS 2019 meeting. Jeff explained that experts would be providing presentations on topics such as permitting, structures, aquatic vegetation, sedimentation, and funding. There were currently 24 attendees signed up for the workshop. Reminded members that Dr. Miranda's red book on *Reservoir Fish Habitat Management* (pdf.) is on the RFHP/FOR website. Jeff also thanked committee members who were part of the RFHP's SE working group and who served on the project review team and scored reservoir habitat project proposals.

Online Habitat Survey Results and Discussion – Jeremy Shiflet and Lawrence Dorsey

There was a lengthy group discussion on the draft report by Dr. Kevin Hunt (MSU) titled *Analysis of SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee Fish Attractor Survey*. This draft report was sent prior to the meeting to the RC listserv membership and to each of the SDAFS Fish Chiefs. **Note: Dr. Hunt did this analysis and report for free and RC has agreed to show our appreciation by providing him a gift, Lawrence to check with MSU faculty on ideas.**

Some take home points from the survey. Avid anglers responded on survey. Social media did not drive responses, survey results were driven by email rather than FB or websites. This is evident from the total state responses in Table 1 in which the four states (AL, NC, TX, and KY) all were able to send emails to their license holders requesting them to fill out survey. **Lawrence asks members to review survey in detail and get edits back to him in February. Final draft will be placed on RC website for all to review and use.**

The question of publishing came up and Dr. Hunt had expressed his concern over the limitations to the survey. Dr. Sammons suggested that one option to overcome these limitations is restrict the survey and analysis to the four states that emailed their license holders and which most of the responses came from and then all the other issues with survey design goes away. These four states provide the strongest dataset, have good spatial representation across the SE, and have different reservoir characteristics including shallow and deep reservoirs, turbid, not turbid, mix of main stem and tributary impoundments. Dr. Sammons expressed his opinion that if the data for these four states are cleaned up, this could be published in SEAFWA. Lawrence noted that he and Jeremy would be pursuing preparing the data for publication.

Black Bass Management in SE Reservoirs – Impacts of Spotted Bass and/or Alabama Bass

Gene sent question to RC listserv asking if states have had any problems with illegal introductions of SPB or AL Bass. Some states are having issues with AL Bass spreading and hybridizing with other black

bass species. Across the SE there remains the challenge of getting anglers to harvest bass. Gene asked if the membership could develop a unified message that could be broadcast across the SE and through social media and media outlets to encourage anglers not to move bass around and to harvest SPB, particularly AL Bass. Is there a preventative message and do we want to actively start a campaign to manage these illegal introductions better and get anglers to help us manage these fish? Dr. Sammons shared that he has been successful locally spreading that message through FB and meetings with groups of river bass anglers and have gotten them to target nonnative spotted bass and harvest them. Those anglers have actually began holding kill your catch SPB tournaments with fish fry. Dave Terre shared that there has been bass tournaments on Lake Travis targeting Guadalupe bass for genetics research and fish fry. Dr. Sammons has observed that peer pressure from anglers seems to be the best deterrent, like the "catch and release" was back years ago. Dr. Sammons agreed with Gene that AL Bass are a real concern due to the sp. being very adaptable and easily hybridizes with other black bass sp. such as in the case of AL Bass/SMB hybrids now being caught in Lake Pickwick. **Gene to send out question on RC listserve and ask which states have had problems with illegal fish introductions.** Dr. Sammons has a lot of examples in his work with the black bass conservation group. Possible future YouTube video with pro bass fisherman explaining X illegal fish got moved into this system or reservoir and this is how it affected or damaged the native black bass population and fishery.

Open Discussion

Gene reminded members that BASS is hosting 35 tournaments this year and if they are coming to your state he will be glad to do anything he can to assist with data collection such as otoliths, genetic samples, etc. at those events. Sean Kinney asked about possible workshops we might want to have in the future. SDAFS 2020 is too soon, but maybe the following meeting have a workshop on stock assessment. LA has been doing a lot of this on inland and coastal systems and Boxrucker stated the Midwest are also doing some of it so it may be an opportunity to get them involved and participate. Let Sean know if you have any thoughts for this or other workshop ideas.

Lawrence concluded meeting at 3 pm.

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Mutual Fund and Money Market Account Balance ending Dec 2018
 prepared by: D. Colton Dennis Sec/Trea Jan-24-2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Dec-16	\$13,693.57	\$500.00		\$14,193.57	Pond King wkshop donation
Jan-17	\$14,193.57				
Feb-17		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$14,550.39	MossBack wkshop donation; scholarship
Mar-17		\$1,550.00		\$16,133.72	Wkshop registration (1050) + Am Fish Tree wkshop donation (500)
Jul-17		\$823.78		\$16,567.35	Value changes (interest) to date; includes \$6,688.86 in Money Market acct
Oct-17		\$500.00		\$17,270.11	Fishiding.com scholarship donation
Dec-17		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$17,494.72	American Aquatics scholarship donation; Instream Flow Coucil's FLOW 2018 meeting donation

Summary

Jan-Dec 17		\$3,050.00			Assets deposited to acct - wkshop registration and donations
Jan-Dec 17			\$1,000.00		Assets withdrawn from acct - one scholarship and FLOW meeting donation
Jan-Dec 17		\$1,251.15			Value changes (interest) for year (8.8%); Note DJIA 25.1% and S&P 500 19.4%

Jan-18	\$17,494.72			\$17,229.97	One \$500 scholarships; includes \$6,688.26 in Money Market acct
Feb-18			\$500.00	\$16,530.08	One \$500 scholarships; includes \$6,192.07 in Money Market acct
Mar-18			\$500.00	\$16,746.03	AFS book sale proceeds (<i>Strategies 80's</i>)
May-18		\$51.00		\$17,022.34	AFS book sale proceeds (<i>Strategies 80's</i>)
Aug-18		\$34.00		\$17,015.57	Fishiding.com scholarship donation; includes \$6,829.69 in Money Market acct
Nov-18		\$500.00		\$16,498.99	includes \$6,842.57 in Money Market acct
Dec-18					

Summary

Jan-Dec 18		\$585.00			Assets deposited to acct - donation and book sales
Jan-Dec 18			\$1,000.00		Assets withdrawn from acct - two scholarships
Jan-Dec 18		-\$580.73			Value changes (interest) for year (-3.3%); Note DJIA -5.6% and S&P 500 -6.2%
Jan-19	\$16,498.99				includes \$6,842.57 in Money Market acct
Feb-19		\$500.00			Pending scholarship donation from American Aquatics (Fred Heitman)
Feb-19			?		Pending scholarship(s)