

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
2020 Spring Meeting Little Rock, AR
February 20th, 2020

1:00pm– 3:30pm; Recorded and submitted by Colton Dennis (AGFC)

Attendees

Lawrence Dorsey, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (*outgoing Chair*) (Rep)
Sean Kinney, Louisiana Department of and Fisheries (*incoming Chair*) (Rep)
Colton Dennis, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (*Secretary-Treasurer*)
Jeremy Shiflet, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(*Scholarship Chair/Webmaster*) (Rep)
Jeff Boxrucker, Reservoir Partnership (RFHP Coord.)
Jeremy Risley, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Rep)
Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S.
Joshua Johnston, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Dave Terre, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Michael Homer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (Rep)
Dr. Steve Sammons, Auburn Univ.
Cliff Sager, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (Rep)
Tim Bister, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Dr. Dan Shoup, Oklahoma State University
John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Rep)
Reed Green, USGS – AR
Shane Bush, Missouri Dept. of Conservation
John Hammonds, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Dr. Mark Rogers, USGS Univ. of Tennessee Coop Unit
Dr. Kevin Hunt, Mississippi State University
Spencer Vanderbloemen, Mississippi State University student
Caleb Aldridge, Mississippi State University student
Catherine Paul, Mississippi State University student
David Norris, Mississippi State University student
Ian Howst, Mississippi State University student
Bayley Wilmoth, Mississippi State University student
Corey Oakley, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Brett Hobbs, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Ben Page, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Dr. Mike Allen, Univ. of Florida
Hadley Boehm, Univ. of Missouri student

Introduction/Transition to New Committee Chair - Lawrence Dorsey/Sean Kinney

Reservoir committee (RC) chair Lawrence Dorsey called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Lawrence said it has been his honor to serve and thanked the RC for their help and support over the last four years under his chairmanship. **He then introduced Sean Kinney as the new RC Chair.** Sean as his

first order of business presented Lawrence an award plaque in recognition of his Leadership, Commitment, and Dedicated Service as RC Chair 2016-2020.

Financial Report – Colton Dennis

Secretary-Treasurer Colton Dennis gave a brief report on the current finances of the RC and referenced the financial spreadsheet that was handed out. **The RC's mutual fund and money market/CD account balance with Edward Jones Inc. as of the end of December, 2019 was \$18,307.48, of which \$6,955.73 was in the money market/CD account.** Account deposits included \$1,008.50 in 2019 and can be attributed to scholarship donations by Fishiding.com (\$500) and American Aquatics (\$500) and an AFS book sale (\$8.50). Account withdrawals in 2019 included providing two \$500 Jenkins scholarships (\$1,000). Positive value changes/interest in investments account for a gain of \$1,799.99 for 2019 which left a beginning balance of \$18,307.48 for January 2020 (\$16,498.99 in January 2019). Expenditures so far in 2020 include Dr. Hunt's (MSU) SDAFS 2020 registration (\$280) which results in a remaining balance of \$18,029.52 for the end of January 2020.

Website/Social Media – Jeremy Shiflet

Website chair Jeremy Shiflet reported to the Committee that not a lot has changed over the last year. Jeremy asked membership to provide him with any content they want or need on website and also to provide him with any suggestions on organization of website. Jeremy reported the old habitat manual is still separated into numerous documents and he has not yet had time to piece together into a useful final document and place it on the website.

Jeremy, Lawrence, and Sean are all administrators now on the RC Facebook page which has helped with posting and re-posting from a lot from other states and B.A.S.S. **Sean invited any who are interested in becoming FB administrators to let him know.** Reminder that 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.

Jenkins Scholarship – Jeremy Shiflet

Scholarship chair Jeremy Shiflet reported to the Committee that five very good applicants applied this year, the same number as last year. Both of the scholarship recipients, David Norris from Miss. State Univ. and Hadley Boehm from Univ. of Missouri were in attendance and were asked to give a brief summary of their projects. David conducted his Masters' thesis on using Bayesian Decision Networks and sensitivity analyses to quantify uncertainty surrounding the efficacy of agricultural plantings (Marshall Ryegrass) as supplemental fish habitat on the mudflats of four northwest Mississippi flood control reservoirs. Hadley is doing her PhD work on dispersal and movement patterns of stocked striped bass in Bull Shoals Lake. Sean presented both students with their \$500 scholarship award check. **We want to again acknowledge Fishiding.com and American Aquatics for sponsoring these two Jenkins \$500 scholarships this year.**

Sean asked the students about ease of filling out the scholarship application and if scholarship money helped them attend the meeting or if they would have attended if they had not received the scholarship. Both students mentioned the application process was simple and easy to fill out and they were attending regardless. Both students expressed more interest 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 AFS chapter meetings and listserves are a good place to do that.**

Jeremy mentioned a need to encourage more students to apply. Gene mentioned that 66 female students applied for the nationwide B.A.S.S. Noreen Clough scholarship and at least a dozen were reservoir affiliated. Gene suggested that we try in the future to work together and share information about both student scholarships on the B.A.S.S. and RC social media platforms. MSU student David Norris suggested putting notice for scholarship on social media platforms as most subunits receive/send information through this method. David also mentioned that he was made aware of scholarship from a forwarded email. Jeremy reminded all that he sends the RC scholarship announcement out through the SDAFS newsletter, SDAFS listserve, RC listserve, and FB page.

Lawrence asked the professors in the room how they would like to receive notice of RC scholarship to send to students. Dr. Hunt suggested sending it out to the various university graduate coordinators for dissemination. Note: University graduate coordinators should receive scholarship announcement if the RC listserve membership is forwarding announcement to their respective state chapter membership listserve.

Sean 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.

Online Habitat Survey Analysis – Dr. Kevin Hunt

Sean provided a brief overview of the fish attractor survey that was sent out to the SE state fish chiefs a couple of years ago for distribution online to the angling public. Some agencies (AL, NC, TX, and KY) sent the survey out to their license holders in which we received significant more responses (2K responses from 4 states). Lawrence reminded everyone that he had sent out before this meeting the revised report for "all states" which includes approximately 400 responses from MO which was left out of original report we reviewed last year at Galveston. Lawrence asked membership to review this "all state" revised report and provide feedback and edits. Plan is to finalize the "all state" report and post on RC website to allow states to link to and distribute internally. The revised four state report which is discussed in the following paragraphs will be edited into a manuscript in an effort to submit to SEAFWA (Dr. Sammons in June) and get published.

Sean introduced Dr. Hunt who had graciously accepted the challenge of conducting the online angler survey analyses for the RC. Dr. Hunt expressed his concern that from a scientific perspective, he cannot do statistical analysis on a non-random sample, because there are no independent, random samples. However, the online survey can be analyzed from a managerial perspective as a descriptive type study with no statistics. Dr. Hunt did share that the survey provided some useful "nuggets" when he broke bass anglers out from crappie anglers and results indicated slightly different preferences for type of habitat and placement in reservoir. Dr. Hunt suggested that one discussion point to have in the manuscript would be "for this population of anglers (avid bass and crappie anglers) this is what the results from the survey indicated." Dr. Hunt offered to write a paragraph in the manuscript Discussion about "if we had to do it all over again this is what we should do." One example is in the questionnaire, may have slightly altered the response formats. Another example is, surveys conducted in the future need to be sent out to known number of people that we get a known number of responses from to determine a response rate. We received responses from the most avid anglers who fish the most days/yr from around the country, not the general angling public who likely fish on average fewer

days/yr. Dr. Hunt challenged the RC members to read the report and come up with additional discussion points. Another interesting discussion point is that we have done a lot of PVC structures but that they are not highly thought of by anglers who responded to the survey. Lawrence and Dr. Hunt agreed to throw out aquatic vegetation component for the manuscript. Additionally, Dr. Hunt offered to write the manuscript Methods and Results section and add to the Discussion where he can. Lawrence and Jeremy S. have already drafted an Intro and Methods section for the manuscript. Jeremy S. stated he can provide additional info on Methods of how he set up survey in Survey Monkey and the 4 states who did and email blast which resulted in the most survey returns.

Dr. Sammons, as editor of SEAFWA journal, offered the following views on the survey manuscript. There are two classes of manuscript that go into SEAFWA journals, one is traditional science, and the other is more of a case study scenario that has useful info that is worth communicating with the understanding there is not a lot of science. This online SE angler survey is a case study. It is a novel activity, although all agree that it was not conducted in the proper way, but no other AFS Div has attempted or done this type of multistate project. By making others aware (SEAFWA manuscript) it may generate interest in other AFS Div/Comm. to do something like this but with a more scientific approach. There are interesting trends that data seems to suggest. Manuscript is due by June (Use the on-line portal to submit or just email Steve), but can be accepted later, just let Steve know. Manuscript could also be delayed until next June for the next SEAFWA cycle.

Mike Allen suggested that an interesting topic to include in the manuscript is to discuss the process RC went through to develop this survey. A paper that talks about the RC and how the group comes together to do these kinds of projects, steps we went through, hurdles we had to jump within our own agencies, what we learned through the process, and present the data acknowledging the non-randomness of the survey. Tell the story of how this multistate committee came together to develop this product is worth telling to be an example to other AFS committees. Write up story about the process more than focusing on limitations of the data.

2021 SDAFS Workshop - Sean Kinney

Sean brought up possibility of hosting a workshop next year at SDAFS in VA. During the summer conf call Sean had brought up idea of stock assessment. LA has incorporated a stock assessment that they have been using on bass and crappie over the last few years. The only drawback is that he cannot get his stat guys to commit to the workshop. Sean asked for any other workshop ideas and if someone wanted to lead a workshop. Jeremy Risley offered the idea of a workshop on how to load coordinates for brushpiles onto their respective depthfinder and basic operation of depthfinder so that the biologist can better relay that info to anglers. Jeremy R. has been doing this for local anglers for 2 years and have probably assisted getting GPS habitat coordinates onto over 1K units. Maybe could expand to include how to interpret depthfinder signatures for fish and structure, optimal settings for interpreting sidescan imagery, etc. Lawrence suggested a workshop idea concerning how to engage and reach angler groups and how the different states are doing this, what's working? Maybe bring in some R3 types to talk about how to engage your anglers, where and how do anglers want info, etc. What is the most effective techniques to reach and engage anglers. Jeff Boxrucker suggested to consider the audience when deciding on a workshop topic, whether topic is geared towards students, professionals, or both. Dr. Hunt suggested sending out survey to subunits to ask the students what they want a workshop on if we want to encourage their participation. Sean tabled the 2021 workshop proposal for now until we revisit at a later time and have a more solid idea and agreement among the RC about workshop topic.

Microplastics and Artificial Fish Habitat - Sean Kinney

Sean reported that students from Texas A&M and LSU are currently doing research on microplastics and preliminary data are finding plastics in almost every single fish stomach they sample. Good news is most of the plastics are nylon/rayon clothing material related which they think is coming from washing machines. Vast majority is not the plastic that comes from HDP/PVC pipe that a lot of us use in constructing fish habitat. Sean reported that he had discussed with Lawrence and Jeremy S. about the possibility of doing a multistate SWG and have a graduate or PhD student look at this as a research project using multiple reservoirs across multiple states, some with and some without artificial reefs, to see what total volume of plastics is coming from our reef material. Concern is that in the future environmentalists will accuse us of hurting the environment as much as we are helping. Dr. Hunt suggested funding might be available through the Health Dept., much like it was with Hg in fish issue several years ago. Health Dept may express concern over public health and how much plastic and what kinds are in humans based on the amount of fish they consumed. Dr. Hunt mentioned MSU has 28 aquaculture ponds that could be used for microplastic research.

Dave Terre mentioned that microplastics in the environment is a concern in TX and they have staff that are concerned with their artificial reefs, but said he is encouraged by the current research Sean mentioned that indicates the plastic loads they are seeing are coming from other sources (washing machines) rather than our HDP/PVC structures which is useful info and needs to be shared. Sean mentioned there are some states that don't sink plastic in reservoirs because of their concern. Gene mentioned that there are some companies that will not provide grant money if they know it is going to artificial habitat because of their anti-plastic position and he knows of some states up north that won't allow plastic structures in lakes.

Dave had a concern over the research project being able to tease out the different plastics coming from our reefs versus plastic materials coming from other sources in the reservoir such as boat docks, litter, marinas, buoys, polystyrene, etc. There is a difference in the HDP/PVC used in our reefs and for most water lines versus those plastics found in common water bottles, etc. Dave raised the point that some of the science may be out there by the manufacturers of the various plastic products and how they degrade over time when exposed to sunlight, water, soil, etc. Sean agreed and mentioned that the gas pipe they have used has a two year limited lifespan on it above ground, meaning gas companies have to use it before two years or they have to dispose of it. Jeremy S agreed and stated he had to check with a gas pipe manufacturer to get a position statement that it was safe to use in aquatic environment before they could use it in their Cave Run Lake project. **Lawrence agreed that a lit search needs to be conducted before we go too far into a research project that would help exonerate our use of HDP/PVC for fish habitat because it would take years in a pond study for it to potentially degrade to a level that is measureable.**

Jeff B. mentioned that the RFHP had discussed microplastics at their annual meeting last fall and that at the upcoming AFS meeting in Columbus, OH there is a symposium on microplastics in mostly riverine environments. He also mentioned that RFHP had discussed coming up with a position statement and it was suggested to work it up through the RC to SDAFS to AFS and call for research to look into the microplastics issue in an effort to get out in front of potential environmental concerns because it will be years before the research provides an answer. This action shows we share the public's concern but at this time we don't have enough info to adequately address the issue and are looking into it. **Sean, Jeremy S. and Dave along with any others who want to help will draft a "position statement" on the issue of microplastics as a first step to elevate the importance of microplastics in aquatic**

environments and fish. Dr. Hunt said he would check with Health and Human Services for grant opportunities to fund the research. He will also check on the USFWS 5-year report.

Open Discussion

Gene reminded members that if they have some bass or bass fishing content they want to get out to anglers, including video, then send it to him and he will post it on FB or put it on Bassmaster.com.

Reminder: all the state FB pages are listed on our RC website.

Gene reminded group about the nationwide B.A.S.S. Noreen Clough scholarship (one for \$1K) that is awarded to a female in fishery science. He also mentioned that Shimano is once again sponsoring ten, \$1K scholarships for students pursuing degrees that leads to fisheries mgmt. **Gene will send the notice and application out to the RC listserv after B.A.S.S. officially announces the scholarships at the Classic the first of March.**

Jeff reminded group that the RFHP announcement for reservoir habitat project proposals will be sent out in April.

Sean concluded the meeting at 3:30 pm.

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Mutual Fund and Money Market Account Balance ending July 2020

prepared by: D. Colton Dennis Sec/Trea 8-13-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jan-19	\$16,498.99			\$16,975.45	Includes \$6,842.57 in Money Market acct
Feb-19			\$1,000.00	\$16,299.10	Two \$500 scholarships
Mar-19		\$500.00		\$16,852.47	2019 scholarship donation from American Aquatics (Fred Heitman)
Oct-19		\$8.50		\$17,281.65	AFS book sale proceeds (Strategies 80's)
Nov-19		\$500.00		\$18,033.66	2020 scholarship donation from American Aquatics (Fred Heitman)
Dec-19				\$18,307.48	includes \$6,955.73 in Money Market acct/CD
Summary					
Jan-Dec 19	\$16,498.99	\$1,008.50			Assets deposited to acct - donation and book sales
Jan-Dec 19			\$1,000.00		Assets withdrawn from acct - two scholarships
Jan-Dec 19		\$1,799.99		\$18,307.48	Value changes (interest) for year (10.9%)
Jan-20	\$18,307.48		\$280.00	\$18,029.52	Dr. Hunt (MSU) SDAFS 2020 registration
Feb-20	\$18,029.52	\$500.00	\$1,164.05	\$16,890.84	2020 Fishiding.com scholarship donation (David Ewald); Chairman plaque and two \$500 scholarships
Mar-20	\$16,890.84		\$331.20	\$15,355.69	Dr. Hunt (MSU) SDAFS 2020 room charge
Apr-20	\$15,355.69			\$16,162.88	
May-20	\$16,162.88			\$16,816.85	
Jun-20	\$16,816.85			\$16,894.22	
Jul-20	\$16,894.22	\$8.50	\$1,000.00	\$16,632.29	AFS book sale proceeds (Strategies 80's); Donation to Mike Maceina Memorial Endowment at Auburn; includes \$4,728.75 in Money Market; Note: July 2019 balance \$17,222.54

