

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
2022 Mid-Year Meeting
October 18 – 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Video Conference

Attendees:

Sean Kinney, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (*Chair; Rep*)
Jeremy Risley, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (*Secretary-Treasurer; Rep*)
Jeremy Shiflet, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (*Scholarship Chair; Webmaster; Rep*)
Mark Rogers, Tennessee Tech University (*SDAFS President-Elect*)
Emilia Omerberg, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (*Rep*)
John Hammonds, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (*Rep*)
Steven Brown, Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (*Rep*)
Shane Bush, Missouri Department of Conservation (*Rep*)
Chris McKee, Alabama Department of Conservation and Nature Resources (*Rep*)
Amy Chastin, South Carolina Department of Nature Resources (*Rep*)
John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (*Rep*)
Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S.
Mark Fowlkes, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Patrick O'Rourke, Georgia Power Company
Dan Shoup, Oklahoma State University
Rebecca Krogman, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Reed Green, USGS-Retired

Introduction – Sean Kinney

Reservoir Committee (RC) chair Sean Kinney called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and welcomed the attendees.

Financial Report – Jeremy Risley

Secretary-Treasurer Jeremy Risley gave a brief update on the current RC finances (see spreadsheet at the end of the notes). **The RC's account balance at the end of September 2022 was \$14,716.23. The account balance is down \$5,641.34 (-27.7%) from December 31, 2021.** No questions were asked about the financial report.

Jenkins Scholarship Discussion – Jeremy Shiflet

Sean K. began the discussion by mentioning that RC has not received any donations for the Jenkins Scholarship; however, he and Jeremy S. have some ideas on getting items to raffle off to generate money to fund the scholarship. In addition, he talked to our Edward Jones Representative, who stated to account for a four percent return on our investments per year. Thus, if the RC wants to utilize investment returns to fund the scholarship endowment, we need around \$30,000 annually in the account. Finally, he stated that setting up a scholarship

endowment was his goal over the next two years as RC president so that RC does not have to take funding from its account to support the scholarship.

Jeremy S. provided more detail about the scholarship. In early October, he submitted an article to the SDAFS newsletter highlighting the 2022 scholarship recipient and provided information on how to apply for the 2023 scholarship. Currently, we are looking at a December 1 deadline for scholarship applications. He asked for feedback from the committee to ensure we all agreed on the direction that the scholarship was heading. Sean K. responded that opening the scholarship nationwide before the endowment might be a little soon. He was ok with having a travel stipend for the scholarship winner, but that means we needed to limit it to a \$500 scholarship and travel stipend for one person until the endowment is established. Mark R. provided some comments about this discussion. The SDAFS ExCom shifted the newsletter from the fall to winter; thus, the RC should send the scholarship announcement out via listserv.

Gene G. mentioned he talked to the technical committee with the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame (BFHOF), and they are considering sponsoring a scholarship program that could tie into the RC scholarship. However, they would most likely prefer the scholarship program to be nationwide, emphasizing bass-related research. Thus, some strings might be attached to the BFHOF collaborating with RC. Sean K. responded that discussions had occurred about limiting the scholarship to research on sportfish species like bass and crappie, the prey species associated with these sportfish, or related habitats for these sportfish in reservoirs. Gene G. felt the BFHOF would support these research areas, especially habitat. He has not received any feedback from AFTCO. He thought they might support donating to a scholarship endowment. Sean K. said he plans to send the donation sheet for the scholarship out to the committee and potential donors.

Motion: Gene Gilliland motioned to open the Robert M. Jenkins Scholarship nationwide to attract more applicants. Emila Omerberg seconded the motion. No one opposed the motion, so the motion passed.

Sean K and Jeremy S will work on updating the scholarship announcement and getting it sent out to the RC and potential candidates. It will be limited to reservoir research and a few species (i.e., sportfish). Jeremy S. commented that opening up the reach of the scholarship could open the pool of potential donors. Rebecca K. supported extending the scholarship and appreciated the requirement to present at an SDAFS meeting.

Microplastic Research Update – Sean Kinney

Sean K. provided information, including some background information, on the ongoing microplastic research in reservoirs. This research came about from states using artificial fish habitats, which generated questions about these structures potentially contributing to increased microplastic particles. He partnered with LSU to look at microplastics and individual types of plastic used for artificial fish habitats in reservoirs. Sean K. found some funding to process the samples. The researchers collected quarterly fish and water samples. They tried to

sample invertebrates and soil, but that was unsuccessful due to reservoir conditions. All the samples have been processed. They are currently working on microplastic signatures. They expect a first draft of the graduate student's thesis by December 2022. Sean K. is trying to develop a more extensive project utilizing a Ph.D. student to look at reservoirs throughout the southeast. He wants to get that funded, potentially, through each state that would be interested in participating. The research would utilize local staff to collect fish and water samples if a state were interested. LSU would likely be the one who would process the samples.

Jeremy S. asked how much the cost would be and how samples would need to be collected. Sean K. said one sampling event for fish utilizing various species like bass, shad, sunfish, and catfish. Sean K. guessed it would cost approximately \$10,000 per state, but it depended on how many reservoirs from the state were included. Mark R. asked if the researchers could determine where the microplastic came from, for example, artificial habitat vs. Mtn Dew bottle. Sean K. responded they could get down to a specific plastic type; thus, they can say this percentage of microplastic found in fish was not from artificial habitat due to the kind of plastic used to construct the habitat. This research aims to produce published research showing artificial fish habitats are not significantly contributing to reservoir microplastic.

Open Discussion

Emila O. brought up an issue related to nutrient permitting at Lake Eufaula. Upstream from the reservoir, the wastewater treatment plant is dealing with nutrient-permitting changes that will directly affect Lake Eufaula, which could have drastic effects on sportfish populations like Largemouth Bass. She was looking for advice on approaching the entities involved with this process to voice concerns about potential impacts. Unfortunately, none of the members had any good advice for Emila.

There were no further discussions.

The SDAFS RC video conference meeting was concluded at 9:45 AM

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jeremy Risley (*Secretary-Treasurer*).



2022 SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee Meeting

October 18, 2022 from 9:00 – 10:00 **Central time**

1. Introduction – Sean Kinney
2. Financial report – Jeremy Risley
3. Jenkins Scholarship – Jeremy Shiflet
4. Update on micro plastic research
5. Open Discussion

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Edward Jones Mutual Fund Account Balance ending September 2022							
Prepared by: Jeremy Risley Sec/Treasurer 10/17/2022							
Date	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Fees	Change in Value	Ending Balance	Comment
Jan-22	\$20,357.57		-\$122.27	-\$23.14	-\$1,558.69	\$18,653.47	Heirloom Awards (01/13)
Feb-22	\$18,653.47		-\$500.00	-\$21.51	-\$192.41	\$17,939.55	One \$500 scholarships (Doug Zentner
Mar-22	\$17,939.55			-\$18.35	-\$246.75	\$17,674.45	
Apr-22	\$17,674.45		-\$196.24	-\$19.77	-\$1,134.28	\$16,324.16	SC Chapter of AFS (02/15)
May-22	\$16,324.16			-\$18.66	-\$36.79	\$16,268.71	
Jun-22	\$16,268.71	\$34.00		-\$18.09	-\$596.51	\$15,688.11	Book sales of Reservoir Fisheries Management: Strategies for the 80s (Check #1722)
Jul-22	\$15,688.11	\$0.02		-\$17.08	\$624.80	\$16,295.85	
Aug-22	\$16,295.85			-\$17.79	-\$278.16	\$15,999.90	
Sep-22	\$15,999.90	\$0.09		-\$18.44	-\$1,265.32	\$14,716.23	
Jan-Sept 22	\$20,357.57	\$34.11	-\$818.51	-\$172.83	-\$4,684.11	\$14,716.23	2022 Assets deposited to acct / 2022 Assets withdrawn from acct
Sep-21						\$20,459.52	
						(\$5,743.29)	Change in account over one year