

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE  
**Meeting Minutes**  
2023 Midyear Meeting  
August 8, 2023 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
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 and Wildlife Resources (*Scholarship Chair; Webmaster; Rep*)  
John Hammonds, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (Rep)  
Amy Chastain, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (Rep)  
Casey Joubert, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Rep)  
Shane Bush, Missouri Department of Conservation (Rep)  
Lawrence Dorsey, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
Dr. Mark Rogers, Tennessee Tech University  
Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S.  
Dr. Steve Sammons, Auburn University  
Dr. Dan Shoup, Oklahoma State University  
Patrick O'Rourke, Southern Company  
Josh Goff, Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Shannon O'Quinn, Tennessee Valley Authority

**Introduction – Sean Kinney**

Reservoir Committee (RC) chair Sean Kinney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, welcomed the attendees, and began working through the agenda (see page 5).

**Financial Report – Jeremy Risley**

Secretary-Treasurer Jeremy Risley briefly updated the group on the current RC finances (see page 6). **The beginning balance in January 2023 was \$15,143.34.** Account deposits included a \$1,000 donation from the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame used for the 2023 Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship and transferring \$300 between our mutual and checking accounts. Account withdrawals included providing one \$1,000 Jenkins scholarship at the 2023 spring meeting and moving the \$300. In addition, there was a \$1,742.78 increase due to changes in mutual fund value and a deduction of \$120.85 for fees. **As a result, the RC's account balance at the end of July 2023 was \$16,765.27.** No questions were asked about the financial report.

**Jenkins Scholarship Discussion – Jeremy Shiflet**

Jeremy S. explained during the last scholarship discussion the RC hoped to take the Southern Division scholarship and make it nationwide because the number of applicants applying for the scholarship was low. However, the complication with expanding the scholarship is funding and making sure the scholarship focuses on sportfish research in reservoirs. A donation from the

Bass Fishing Hall of Fame covered the 2023 scholarship. Attempts to secure further funding sources for the scholarship have been unsuccessful. So Jeremy S. and others have developed a one-page document explaining the RC needs and what the committee is looking for in terms of funding for the scholarship. Jeremy S. has begun revising the scholarship announcement and will send it to others shortly for review. Sean mentioned that he has contacted a few potential funding sources but has not received any responses. Sean said that the committee members will eventually need to contact funding sources. In the meantime, Sean is still working on an endowment to cover the scholarship based on Texas's success with their scholarship endowment.

The discussion switched to the upcoming scholarship. Sean said RC needed to announce the scholarship earlier this year and also determine how much the RC would fund if the scholarship is nationwide. Sean suggested making the scholarship \$1,000 without awarding the \$500 travel stipend. Gene asked if anyone had talked to any professors out west where there are many reservoirs. No one had. He mentioned the committee needed to determine the targeted audience for the scholarship. He also believed AFTCO might fund the scholarship. Sean suggested naming the endowment after whoever donated most of the scholarship funding. Sean thought the committee needed about \$40,000 for an endowment to support the scholarship from interest alone. Eventually, the committee might add to the scholarship amount or increase the number of scholarships awarded. Gene requested the committee complete the one-page document and send it to him so he can reach out to AFTCO. Jeremy S. will update the one-page document and criteria for a nationwide scholarship. Dan mentioned submitting a short article to Fisheries Magazine. Mark said he would ask about getting it in the magazine. Gene mentioned including it in the Fisheries newsletter and networking with others during the upcoming national AFS meeting. Sean concluded the conversation by asking the committee members to contact at least one potential funding source, if possible. His name will be on the announcement, and he will gladly discuss the scholarship in more detail with any potential funding source.

**No action items were presented during this discussion.**

#### **Microplastic Research Update – Sean Kinney**

Sean provided an update on the microplastic research conducted by LSU occurring on Toledo Bend Reservoir. The graduate student had successfully defended her thesis but needed to complete some edits. Unfortunately, she accepted a job and is not looking to complete the edits. So the remaining researchers and Sean want to finish and publish the manuscript somewhere. Sean said they are ready to expand this project throughout the SE United States. Sean will email the committee members and Directors of SE states to determine which states are interested in this round of sampling and whether they can provide any funding for the project. Sean mentioned that the committee members should familiarize their Agency's Directors with the microplastic research and why it is needed. TVA is planning to donate \$10,000 donation towards microplastic research. Sean has a one-page document that provides general open-ended information about the study. Sean said the goal is to collect \$300,000 for the research project. That would fund a Ph.D. student and several years of research-related

sampling. Dan asked what the primary target of the research was. Sean mentioned there would be water and several species of fish testing, including catfish. Sean said they want to look at sampling lakes with an adjacent large population vs. those without, as well as ones with and without artificial habitat structures. The study is broad and loose until they know how many states will be involved. Shannon mentioned research from England showed the Tennessee River was one of the most plastic-polluted rivers ever recorded, with a plastic density of 16,000 cubic feet of microplastic per cubic meter of water, causing people to ask TVA whether they were monitoring microplastic levels in the Tennessee River; thus, the reason why TVA wants to get involved in this research. Sean also mentioned that reservoir residence time may play a factor in microplastic abundance and needs examination. Dan said it was good to include catfish as they are long-lived, which might be a significant factor in the research.

**No action items were presented during this discussion.**

### **The success of F1 LMB stockings – Casey Joubert**

Casey mentioned North Carolina has been increasing its F1 bass stockings in reservoirs. She wondered if any states had successes or failures from their efforts or ways to sample for F1 bass that they could report. Dan mentioned a recent publication by Lusk et al. 2023 titled “Evaluation of Population Characteristic Differences between the Largemouth Bass and Its Backcross Following a Long-Term Florida Bass Stocking Effort,” published in the North American Journal of Fish Management ([LINK](#)). Casey said it has been hard to find whether states are having success and whether their guidelines are working. She went on to say that they do plan on getting samples from tournaments and electrofishing. She was curious if other states successfully got enough bass, more specifically F1 bass, from tournaments. John mentioned they have data from F1 bass stockings from Boone Lake in Tennessee. They also plan to sample bass from tournaments, much like was done at Lake Chickamauga. He also mentioned that they sampled 50 bass less than 12 inches at F1 stocking locations and only found two F1 bass. Casey said they are questioning whether they will recapture any F1 bass they have stocked at a rate of 10 fish/ha due to sampling methods or survival. They are also receiving pressure from private donors to increase stocking rates; however, they are concerned with the long-term effects of the F1 bass stockings and whether private funding will remain available. Gene wanted to provide an angler perspective on this conversation. He said there is a real need for data on the impacts of the F1 bass stockings as anglers believe that is the fish that states need to be stocking. He said this belief among bass anglers is spreading across the states. Casey asked to contact her if your state has information on F1 bass stockings to benefit their efforts in North Carolina. Her email is [casey.joubert@ncwildlife.org](mailto:casey.joubert@ncwildlife.org).

**No action items were presented during this discussion.**

## **Open Discussion**

### *Morone Management Plans – Casey Joubert*

Casey mentioned North Carolina is working on an inland moronid management plan for the reservoirs focusing on Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass. Jeremy R. said he would email Arkansas's 2018 Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass management plan to her and also provide Sean Lusk's contact information, who is the current chair of the SDAFS Moronid Committee chair. Sean said Louisiana is trading or purchasing all their Hybrid Striped Bass after broodstock problems, which they believed was related to inbreeding. Jeremy R mentioned Arkansas is also dealing with potential inbreeding issues with their Striped Bass broodstock collected from Lake Ouachita. Casey said North Carolina is considering transitioning some of their Striped Bass reservoirs to Hybrid Striped Bass due to the difficulties of collecting female Striped Bass for broodstock. Casey asked to contact her if your state has information or recent management plan updates for moronid fisheries that would benefit their efforts in North Carolina. Her email is [casey.joubert@ncwildlife.org](mailto:casey.joubert@ncwildlife.org).

### *Upcoming symposiums or meetings*

Steve Sammons mentioned Reservoir Symposium at the 2024 SDAFS Annual Meeting. This will be a joint effort between SDAFS and NCDAFS. Jeremy Risley noted Trophy Bass and a Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass Committee Symposiums at 2024 SDAFS. John Hammonds provided information on the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership's 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Morristown, Tennessee, from November 3 through 5, 2023. There will be a habitat workshop associated with this meeting. Find more information by [CLICKING HERE](#).

### *Other discussions*

Sean asked if anyone wanted to help with Facebook duties to contact him, and he will assign administration rights.

Casey mentioned an email that Sean sent out to the committee about requesting funding from the RC for a book proposal entitled "Comprehensive Crappie: The Biology, Ecology, Management, and Fisheries of Pomoxis" that will be co-edited by Drs. Daniel Dembkowski, Daniel Isermann, and Greg Sass. Sean asked the committee members to provide him feedback on whether the RC should give funds for the publication cost of this book. Casey questioned how much they requested from the committee. The committee took no action on this item. However, Sean mentioned committee members should review the email he forwarded on April 25 about the book. The committee could make a motion at a later date if needed.

Patrick O'Rourke asked to contact him if anyone had information on quantifying habitat in flooded timber, especially as it ages. They are dealing with this issue and want to figure out how to quantify the habitat quality in one of the reservoirs they manage. His email is [pmorouke@southernco.com](mailto:pmorouke@southernco.com).

**The RC meeting was concluded at 2:12 pm.**

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



# 2023 SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee Meeting

August 8, 2023 from 13:00 – 15:00 **Central time**

1. Introduction – Sean Kinney
2. Financial report – Jeremy Risley
3. Jenkins Scholarship – Jeremy Shiflet
4. Update on micro plastic research – Sean Kinney
5. Success of F1 LMB Stockings – Casey Joubert
6. Open Discussion
  - a. Morone Management Plans – Casey Joubert

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Edward Jones Mutual Fund Account Balance ending July 2023							
Prepared on 08/08/2023 by Jeremy Risley - Sec/Treasurer							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Change in Value</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jan-23	\$15,143.34	\$1,300.00	-\$300.00	-\$17.38	\$857.24	\$16,983.20	Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Donation to Scholarship (\$1,000), \$300 transferred between accounts
Feb-23	\$16,983.20		-\$1,000.00	-\$17.60	-\$416.21	\$15,549.39	One \$1,000 scholarships (Andrew Gable)
Mar-23	\$15,549.39			-\$15.90	\$459.69	\$15,993.18	
Apr-23	\$15,993.18			-\$17.36	\$121.62	\$16,097.44	
May-23	\$16,097.44			-\$17.19	-\$1.24	\$16,079.01	
Jun-23	\$16,079.01			-\$17.83	\$481.27	\$16,542.45	
Jul-23	\$16,542.45			-\$17.59	\$240.41	\$16,765.27	
Jan - July 2023	\$15,143.34	\$1,300.00	-\$1,300.00	-\$120.85	\$1,742.78	\$16,765.27	2023 Assets deposited to acct / 2023 Assets withdrawn from acct
						\$1,621.93	10.7% increase