

SDAFS Small Impoundments Open Forum
Charleston, SC
January 20, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Small Impoundments Committee (SIC) was called to order at 9:05 am EST on 1/20/22 via a conference on Google Meet by Chair Brett Timmons. The South Carolina Chapter of AFS hosted the conference with several members in attendance and many others attending by the online meeting link. Brett welcomed and thanked those in attendance.

Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

A role call was taken with all members and guests asked to introduce themselves. It was determined there was a quorum of at least 10 members present.

Committee members/proxies in attendance were:

Graves Lovell – Alabama DCNR
Brett Timmons – Arkansas AGFC – Chair
Tim Bonvechio – Georgia GDNR
Dane Balsman – Kentucky KDFWR – Secretary/Treasurer
Daniel Hill – Louisiana WDLF
Matt Sell – Maryland MDNR
David Belkoski – North Carolina NCWRC
Keith Thomas – Oklahoma ODWC
Aaron Cushing – Solitude Lake Management
Preston Chrisman – South Carolina SCDNR
Mike Bramlett – Tennessee TWRA
Cynthia Fox Holt – Texas TPWD – Chair Elect
Steven Bardin – Texas Pro Lake
Steve Owens – Virginia VDGIF
Cory Hartman – WV WVDNR

Guests in attendance were:

Scott Jones – Arkansas UAPB
John Jackson – Arkansas Tech
Scott Collins – Texas Tech University
Travis Ausec – Texas Tech

Approval of Minutes

The SIC met virtually in 2021 for the SDAFS meeting. The minutes were emailed to the group prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was presented and passed with no objections.

Treasurers Report

The financial report was presented to the SIC. There was no change to the account balance this year. The only committee income is typically a textbook royalty; however, there was an issue with the parent

society issuing checks in 2021. Jessica Baumann, the SDAFS secretary/treasurer is looking into the matter.

- \$1,768.50 as of 4/6/21 SDAFS meeting (BB&T Bank)
- \$1,768.50 as of 1/20/22 SDAFS meeting (Truist Bank purchased BB&T Bank)

Brett took some time for questions for any new state reps or guests on how the committee functions. Matt Sell, the new Maryland rep asked how we ran annual meetings and whether we reviewed state reports in the meeting. Brett informed him that we submit state reports similar to other committees, but do not review reports during meeting for time's sake. In the past, we have hosted SIC meeting in the afternoon so members could attend multiple committee meetings but did not do that this year. We also typically host a mid-year meeting and have increased frequency of meetings recently while preparing workshop for 2023 SDAFS meeting. The SIC is an open forum to discuss ideas, network with other professionals and email members when questions arise on small impoundments.

Tim briefly talked about a study he was conducting on a newly renovated lake in GA. They were stocking low numbers of all female bass in a newly renovated lake with abundant forage in hopes of creating a trophy fishery. Georgia strain largemouth bass were raised to 10-12 inches at the hatchery and sexed prior to being stocked at 5 fish/acre annually. Bass were pit tagged prior to release, with a 13-lb bass being sampled that was only 4 years old. It is similar to the Texas lunger program in choosing large fish with superior genetics. Anglers have experienced low catch rates as expected, with a creel survey planned in 2022 to quantify.

Presentation

Scott F. Collins Ph.D., Texas Tech University, Dimensions of diversity in urban fisheries: Examining habitat, fish, and anglers to inform the management of Texas Community Fishing Lakes.

Jason Olive, SDAFS president-elect and Mark Rogers SDAFS vice-president stopped in to see if the committee needed anything from the EXCOMM. A review of all SDAFS committees is planned to see if they are meeting the goals and objectives originally set.

Old Business

Workshop for 2023 SDAFS Meeting in VA

Graves brought new members up to speed on workshop plans. He reviewed how we solicited plant list from all the states on the most problematic aquatic weeds. Brett is planning to send out the plant list along with the survey to all the members and guests for the 23 most problematic plants and how to control. The plan is for half the day to be on plant ID, with pictures and key characteristics, as well as live specimens frozen and thawed for the workshop. The second portion of the workshop will be on control of aquatic vegetation. Graves reviewed the survey and asked everyone to review and advise if they had any edits. A discussion then evolved into who should receive survey. Steve B. suggested sending survey to aquatic plant management society state reps to solicit responses. Survey is interested in different techniques for control and getting a non-biased approach on control. Tim said if survey is ready to send out ASAP so can solicit at upcoming state AFS chapter meetings. Brett is planning to send out later today. Brett mentioned AR state extension specialist and the need to solicit extension agents. Also send out to state biologists who have experience with ID and control. Surveys needs to be filled out based on personal experience in control and not what a person has read but never used. Either go through fish chiefs or state reps on the committee to identify who needs to fill out survey in the respective states. Cynthia volunteered to be the point person for reviewing and compiling the data.

New Business

Cynthia reminded members to share work they are doing on small impoundment to the SIC Facebook page. Good way to create content and get info out. Cynthia followed up by asking states what their current regs were on small impoundments and how they came up with the regs. Currently many of Texas regs on small impoundments in urban areas are similar to state-wide regulations aside from catfish.

Aaron discussed planning for 2023 SDAFS meeting in VA. Meeting is planned for late January or early February with no definite date or city yet.

Installation of new chair

Brett thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as chair of the committee since 2018 and to be involved with AFS. He appreciates all the input from committee members. Brett introduced Cynthia as the new chair. He reiterated that the by-laws call for a new chair every two years and the need for an election next year for a chair-elect to assume the chair position in 2024. Several members thanked Brett for serving as chair. Cynthia is excited to be the chair and getting more involved with committee going forward. She thanked everyone for their efforts thus far on the workshop planning.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

American Fisheries Society – Southern Division

2022 Charleston, SC Meeting Agenda

9:00 am - Introduction (Timmons)

9:10 am - Roll Call

Determine quorum

9:15 am – Approval of 2020 meeting minutes

9:20 am - Finance Review (Balsman)

Report delayed because of new AFS direct deposit system malfunction

9:30 am – Dimensions of diversity in urban fisheries: Examining habitat, fish, and anglers to inform the management of Texas Community Fishing Lakes. Scott F. Collins, Ph.D.

10:00 am - Old Business

- Workshop Discussion (Lovell)

11:00 am - New Business

- Installation of newly elected officers (Timmons)
 - Remarks by incoming Chair (Fox Holt)
- Other new business

11:30 am – Motion to Adjourn