

SDAFS Small Impoundments Open Forum

Norfolk, VA

February 2, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Small Impoundments Committee (SIC) was called to order at 1:05 pm EST on 2/2/23 via Google Meet virtual option by Chair Cynthia Fox Holt. The Virginia Chapter of AFS hosted the conference. This technical meeting had a hybrid option for those who couldn't attend in person. Many members were in attendance with others participating in the virtual option as denoted below. Cynthia was participating from the airport where her flight had been delayed by a day due to weather. Cynthia welcomed 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 (showed up during meeting)
Brett Timmons – Arkansas AGFC
Scott Jones – Arkansas UAPB- Virtual
Tim Bonvechio – Georgia GDNR - Virtual
Dane Balsman – Kentucky KDFWR – Secretary/Treasurer
Brad Launey – Louisiana WDLF - Virtual
David Belkoski – North Carolina NCWRC -Virtual
Keith Thomas – Oklahoma ODWC
Aaron Cushing – Solitude Lake Management
Preston Chrisman – South Carolina SCDNR
AJ Simmons – SE Pond Management (showed up during meeting)
Mike Bramlett – Tennessee TWRA
Cynthia Fox Holt – Texas TPWD – Chair - Virtual
Steve Owens – Virginia VDGI
Cory Hartman – WV WVDNR

Guests in attendance were:

Andy Yung – Arkansas AGFC
Marcy Anderson – Kentucky KDFWR
Josh Eubanks - Louisiana WDLF
Danci Johnson – North Carolina NCWRC

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the 2022 SDAFS SIC meeting was presented and passed with no objections.

Treasurers report

The financial report was presented to the SIC. The only committee income during the past year is textbook royalties which amounted to \$44.77 in 2022. Book royalties are minimal and funding opportunities to increase revenue for long term growth need to be considered. There will additional income this year from the aquatic plan identification and management workshop the SIC is hosting.

- \$1,768.50 as of 1/20/22 SDAFS meeting (Truist Bank)
- + \$44.77 Small Impoundment book royalty 6/14/22
- \$1,813.27 as of 2/2/23 SDAFS meeting (Truist Bank)

Cynthia shifted the meeting agenda since she was going to be hopping off early to catch a flight and wanted to cover old and new business with the presentation and member updates being moved to the end of the meeting.

Old Business

Workshop details for 2023 SDAFS meeting

Cynthia provided the outline for the workshop the following day. Graves is on the way with plants. He will need help at 6:30 am to set up the room with specimens prior to workshop participants arriving. Several committee members volunteered to help. There are 32 registered for the morning session and 34 for afternoon. The workshop will be in Hampton 3 on 3rd floor. Graves will give the morning presentation on identification with a quiz before and after to test knowledge of attendees to see if they learned anything. Brett will be the designated candy thrower. Dane is picking up the candy this evening. Matt Sell created a google form with a QR code to fill out survey on workshop effectiveness. We will adjourn the morning session by 11:30 to allow plenty time of time for lunchbreak.

SIC Facebook page

Reminder to submit any work conducted on small impoundments that you may be overlooking that may be cool to post on the SIC Facebook page.

Committee member list

Work with SDAFS president on SIC member list to determine state reps and voting members. Still need a Puerto Rico rep. Cynthia would like to see two reps from each state.

Website updates

Cynthia and Dane need to review member list and new appointments to make sure accurate info is posted on website. Link to SIC Facebook page on website. Post new state updates and meeting minutes after this meeting.

New Business

Student and young professional engagement

Cynthia asked how to do we best engage this group? The SIC has had presentations by students and young professional recently. Can we offer travel scholarship to go to conference? If we offer this it must be sustainable, which it is not currently with committee funds. Several other committees are having issues getting applicants for travel grants. Reach out to academia to see if they have any interested students with research in small impoundments. We could offer advice/feedback or mentor research projects. Formally announce we have a 30-minute slot in SIC meeting for a presentation in the SDAFS newsletter/email blast? Determine at mid-year meeting how we want to advertise presentation

spot. Work with Hutton scholars or include aquatic vegetation projects if they are on small impoundments.

Workshop publication

We plan to publish a combination of the morning and afternoon workshops on identification and control of aquatic weeds. The publication will include images of plants with a table on treatment options. Would a field guide be useful or something you can print out to take in field for id and control? Refer to South Carolina ID book. Florida and Texas A&M both have small, laminated ID flip books. What do we have that other don't? 8.5 x 11 in laminated in clipboard may be useful or a small reference book. Should be able to gather additional info from speakers tomorrow to make edits to control section.

State agency fish chief priorities

Jason Olive, SDAFS outgoing president and Jessica Bauman secretary/treasurer and incoming vice president stopped in to see if the committee needed anything from the EXCOMM. Jason said the technical committees are near and dear to him and asked where we should focus our energy. Jason sent the results of a survey of fish chiefs for needs or desires of SDAFS technical committees. The results of this survey will be reviewed by committee at a later date. The survey helped identify common themes of areas of need. Jason asked committee members to step up when opportunities exist to volunteer and serve on committees. Do committees work as group to do research or identify needs? 10-12 states funded bass mortality study, obviously committees don't have money to do research, but they can help identify researcher and work to have state be part of collaborative project. Need to do a white paper review of research done and list that somewhere. At the mid-year meeting we plan to review fish chief survey.

Workshop effectiveness survey

Matt Sell put together a survey for workshop attendees to complete at conclusion of workshop. This survey may provide some feedback for making workshop better in the future should we do a similar workshop. The QR code was provided for workshop attendees and will be emailed out after the workshop to those in attendance.

Cynthia signed off at 1:55 EST to catch a flight and handed the meeting off to Aaron.

Member Updates

Aaron asked if there were any updates or discussions on items not listed in state reports. Tim briefly talked about a study he was conducting on a newly renovated 106-acre lake in GA. They were stocking low numbers of all female bass 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. Stocked female bass were pit tagged prior to release. Anglers have experienced low catch rates as expected, with about 1 bass caught per 10 hours. The lake is 8 years out after renovation so some fishing are starting to age out. Some males have been found, but reproduction appears to be low. Naturally reproduced fish that are not pit-tagged are being removed. Solitude is also stocking all female bass for trophy potential but are able to stock 4-in fish.

Tim was also looking for any states that encounter flier *Centrarchus macropterus* to provide length and weight data to develop a relative weight equation. Cynthia can send out request with an email blast.

Took a break at 2:10 EST.

Presentation

Preston Chrisman with South Carolina DNR presented his research as part of his master's study at University of Florida: Sportfish population characteristics following mechanical Largemouth Bass removal in two small public fishing impoundments in South Carolina.

Keith Thomas with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation gave a presentation on a Weedoo weed harvester (\$92,000) that they plan to use on small impoundments. It was just purchased, and they haven't had a chance to use it yet, other than a demo at the FL manufacturer where they picked it up.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.



The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

2023 Annual SDAFS Meeting Agenda

2 February 2023, 1:00-5:00 pm EST

1:00* – Roll Call (There will be a virtual attendance option)

1:10 – Introduction (Cynthia)

- Determine quorum (Dane)

1:20 – Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report (Dane)

1:30 – Member Updates (all state representatives) ***Not a review of reports, just highlights of work going on in small impoundments in your state.***

2:00 – Preston Chrisman Presentation: *Sportfish population characteristics following mechanical Largemouth Bass removal in two small public fishing impoundments in South Carolina.*

2:30 – Old Business

- Workshop Details
- SIC Facebook page
- Committee member list
- SIC website updates
- New member appointment(s)
- PR representative(s)

3:30 – New Business

- Student and Young Professional Engagement and Recruitment
- Workshop Publication (material)
- Workshop Effectiveness Publication (quiz and feedback survey)
- Review of State Agency Fish Chief's Priorities

5:00 – Adjourn

***All times are estimates**



The Southern Division

of the American Fisheries Society

SDAFS Small Impoundments Technical Committee Workshop:

Identification and Control of the Most Common Problematic Aquatic Plants in the Southeastern States

**February 3rd, 2023, 8:00 – 4:30 EST
Norfolk Waterside Marriott
Hampton 3**

- 1) Morning Session (8:00 – 12:00)**
 - a. Open/welcome (Cynthia) – (8:00 – 8:15)
 - b. Plant ID Presentation (Graves) – (8:15 – 10:00)
 - c. Break – (10:00 – 10:30)
 - d. Plant observation and Q&A – (10:30 – 12:00)
 - i. Wrap-up thank you and link information (Cynthia)

- 2) Afternoon Session (1:00 – 4:30)**
 - a. Open/welcome (Cynthia) – (1:00 – 1:10)
 - b. Speakers (Times are flexible)
 - i. Application Methods Presentation (Shannon Junior, Solitude) – (1:10 – 1:45 include Q&A)
 - ii. Sepro – Description and history of Sepro and plant control – (1:45 – 2:15)
 - iii. Troy Goldsby, AquaServices, Case Studies – (2:15 – 3:00)
 - c. Break – (3:00 – 3:30)
 - d. Summary of Survey Results (Graves and Guest Speakers) – (3:30 – 4:30)
 - i. Control Information presentation and round table discussion/Q&A and plant observation
 1. Wrap-up thank you and link information (Cynthia)