

Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Minutes of the 36th Annual Meeting

February 5, 2010

Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg, Mississippi

1. Call to order

Eric Hoffmayer called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. A quorum was determined (46 members present).

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote of the members.

3. There were no general announcements.

4. There were no additions to the Business Meeting Agenda.

5. Dr. Don Jackson, 2010 president of the Parent AFS and addressed the Chapter. Don stated that the AFS exists for the membership, and is there to help make us better at what we do as Fisheries professionals. As the oldest professional organization to address water resources in the United States, the Federal Government will pay attention to AFS when we advocate the use of good science. As science based professionals, the AFS can state a resolution on proposed projects such as the Pebble Mine in Alaska, which impacts the Bristol Bay Sockeye salmon industry. Scientists there are using trace elements to locate the streams that are home to the sockeye.

Another issue closer to home is the Richton Salt Dome Project, which proposes to use water from the Pascagoula River to hollow a salt dome and pump a saline slurry into the Gulf of Mexico. Don suggested that our chapter must do something, working through the Southern Division, and National AFS, to get a resolution in front of the Federal Government. Don stated that he would be in Washington next week to meet with congressional staffers. Harriet Perry said she would provide Don with specifics on the Richton Salt Dome Project.

Don also mentioned the recent earthquake in Haiti and said that we have some responsibilities to deal with such tragedy brought on by natural disaster in the Western Hemisphere, especially in light of our recent experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He proposed that we serve as a conduit for professionals to aid organizations, to identify needs and communicate them to the rank-and-file.

Another point addressed was the lack of minorities and the challenge of involving other cultures in AFS. There is a new scholarship for Fish and Wildlife to pay minorities way to attend meetings.

Don is also working on implementing Virtual Attendance to Southern Division and other meetings. Now every member can vote online.

Old Business

1. Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from the 2009 Meeting.

35th Annual Meeting Minutes were approved. Motion was made, seconded and passed by a unanimous vote of the members.

2. Treasurer's Report: Gary Gray

The treasurer's report was submitted and discussed. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report, then passed by a unanimous vote of the members.

3. Disposition of Chapter Certificates of Deposit: Larry Bull

Larry discussed investing the C.A. Schultz award money into C.D.'s, but it was decided to be too awkward and no action was taken.

4. 2009-2010 Mississippi Wildlife Federation report: Ryan Jones

Three Resolutions were proposed by the MWF in 2010:

- a. Against the use of high fences in the hunting of non-native wildlife.
- b. To insure a policy is implemented to look at land use on 16th Section Land.
- c. Lead shot in all game hunting should be changed to a more benign metal.

Jim Franks mentioned that the Mississippi Wildlife Federation announced they will be presenting the 2010 Conservationist of the year award to Read Hendon, of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

5. EXCOM Meeting Review: Eric Hoffmayer

a. Organization of USM Subunit.

The Student Caucus will be dissolved and Mike Lowe is presiding over the formation of the new USM Subunit.

b. The MSAFS membership list will be updated after this meeting. We will have an updated email list and will contact members who have been inactive. The list will sent to the National AFS

c. Bank account transfer: We will work on the CD transfer at EXCOM meeting.

d. \$500.00 to Southern Division. Kevin Hunt will present the check at the Southern Division 2010 meeting for the Rainy Day Fund, as repayment for Katrina Relief. There was a motion to approve, and a unanimous vote of the members for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of new officers and MWF Representative (2010-2011)

a. Nominations for President-elect: Dennis Reicke nominated Jason Olive for President-elect. Larry Pugh moved to close nominations, it was seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote off the members.

b. Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Franks nominated Jill Hendon Mark Peterson moved to close nominations. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of the members.

c. Nominations for MWF Liaison: It was motioned, seconded and approved unanimously to keep Ryan Jones as our MWF Liaison.

2. Report from MSU Sub-unit: Jonathan Fleming, President:

The sub-unit grew from 20 to 25 members this year.

Financially they grew from \$600.00 last year, to a balance of \$2,250.00 as of February

2010. They had T-shirts made to sell and wear. They sponsored four students to the national meeting, and sent ten to the national meeting and 12 to MSAFS. The sub-unit worked with MFW&P doing surveys to assist in reservoir management. Matt Wegener was chairman. They started an Adopt-a-Stream Program, collecting a ton of trash from Sand Creek. The sub-unit now has a website. MSU will collaborate with USM sub-unit and see if students from other universities would like to participate.

3. Report from Student Caucus: Mike Lowe EXCOM Student Representative. The Student Caucus will be dissolved after the meeting is adjourned. All paper work has been sent in to the National, by-laws have been approved. The Sub-unit will be open to students from other universities. The Sub-unit will have a Facebook page. The USM and MSU sub-units will partner with each other. Mike thanked the members for participating in the Student raffle and Auction. The auction raised \$1,000.00, and the raffle raised \$840.00. \$700.00 went to the MSU Sub-unit and \$1100.00 went to the USM Sub-unit.

4. 2012 SDAFS Meeting Update:

Mark Peterson is the General Chairman, and has begun putting committees together.

Kevin Hunt is the Program Chairman.

Jill Hendon will be in charge of finances.

Dennis Reicke and Jim Franks are in charge of Fundraisers.

Nancy Brown-Peterson is the Local Arrangements Chairwoman.

The Sub-units will be involved.

5. Potential Joint Meeting with MS Wildlife Society- Eric Hoffmayer

After much discussion, Nancy Brown-Peterson made a motion to invite the President of the MS Wildlife Society to attend our next meeting. Mark Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote.

6. Richton Salt Dome- Harriet Perry

Harriet said it was necessary to have a meeting to get a paper ready for Don Jackson on Monday for his trip to Washington, D.C. Dennis Reicke said that the proper procedure to follow is for the MSAFS to develop a resolution, then to have a Chapter vote on it.

Then the Chapter can send it to Southern Division. Dennis, as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, can then bring it to EXCOM. Then Southern Division can present it to the Parent Society for consideration.

There was a motion, second and vote, to develop a resolution to send to Southern Division calling for an independent review of the Richton Salt Dome project.

7. MSAFS Display at Enid:

Tom Holman said everyone should visit it if they have a chance. MSAFS has a quarter of the back wall display, and a two minute video, that is also available on the MDWP website on their North Mississippi link.

Tom said we need to get names of recipients engraved on the C.A.Shultz Award plaque at the Enid display.

8. C.A. Shultz Conservation Award: Kevin Hunt said that the Past-President is in charge of the award and the five ex-presidents voted on the C.A. Shultz Award.

9. Update of the website:

Kevin Hunt said Mary Stevens, the librarian at the Mississippi Museum of Natural History, gave the bound copies of past meetings programs to him. He converted them to PDF's and returned the originals and a cd to the Museum library. All programs are now available on the MSAFS website.

Kevin wants to make a C.A. Shultz Award Page linking to pages for Jim Franks and Steve Ross and all future recipients.

Next year Kevin would like to put Meeting Minutes and Treasury Report in the program.

Larry bull suggested we keep the physical records at Turcotte.

We now have the Chapter history on the site, links to letters, the charter, Student Sub-units, and student award winners all on the website.

10. Competing for Chapter of the Year Award:

Tom Holman said we need to determine the actual size of our chapter, and the number of members who belong to the Parent society. We need to document our activities and communicate them to EXCOM to get recognition. Jan Hoover emphasized that we communicate our "significant accomplishments".

Awards are based on: Presentations, Attendance to meetings, Outreach, and Public Service.

Kevin Hunt will put a reporting mechanism on the website.

Mike Lowe suggested a newsletter to document our achievements.

11. MS Foundation for Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Donation to SDAFS:

Tom Holman received money from the MSFWFP for \$1,625 to donate to the Southern Division's Rainy Day Fund on behalf of the MSAFS.

The Foundation is offering a \$1,500 scholarship for sophomores and juniors. Their website has details about the essay contest.

12. Recognition of our Meeting Sponsors:

Over \$4,000 was raised for our meeting from the following sponsors:

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory - \$500.00

Coast Conservation Association of Mississippi - \$600.00

Center for Fisheries Research & Development - \$500.00

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources - \$500.00

USACE-Engineer Research and Development Center - \$1,500.00

National Marine Fisheries Service - \$525.00

13. Venue for 2011 Meeting (North): Oxford, Tupelo, Starkville?

After some discussion, it was decided that further discussion would be done and a venue chosen at EXCOM.

14. Presentation of Awards:

Framed certificates of appreciation from the American Fisheries Society were presented to Eric Hoffmayer, President; Gary Gray, Secretary/ Treasurer; Jonathan Fleming, MSU Sub-unit president; and Mike Lowe, USM Student Caucus Representative.

Eric Hoffmayer transferred the gavel to Tom Holman and the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.