

Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the 41st Annual Meeting
March 27, 2015
Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg, MS

1. Call to order was made at 11:05 AM.
2. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (33 members, 6 officers). A total of 46 people were in attendance.
3. General Announcements
 - a. This year's meeting had a good turnout with 27 students and 41 professionals. Overall, the meeting went well with many intriguing student and professional presentations.
 - b. Also, the sub units held a successful silent auction.
 - c. MDWFP was acknowledged for the in-kind donation of printing the meeting programs.
4. Introduction of Guests
 - a. Dennis Riecke was recognized as the President of Southern Division of AFS and provided updates about the website, listserv, future meetings and promoted membership to the parent society.
 - b. F.J. Eicke was recognized as the representative for CCA Mississippi and was thanked by the membership for CCA's continued support in providing the monies for "CCA Best Student Presentation Awards".
 - c. Past presidents of the Chapter were recognized as distinguished members. A total of 7 past presidents were present.
5. Old Business
 - a. 2014 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Green. Mark Peterson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Eric Hoffmayer, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
 - b. 2015 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Green. Jim Franks motioned to accept the minutes, second by Mark Peterson, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
 - c. The disposition of Chapter certificate was presented by Jennifer Green. Larry Bull made a correction and clarification about the presented balances of the one year CD and CA Schultz CD. Nancy Brown-Peterson motioned to accept the corrected balances of the CD accounts, Eric Hoffmayer seconded, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
 - d. Jennifer Green gave a 2014 membership report, as well as preliminary 2015 membership status. In 2014 there were 109 MSAFS members, with 84% of these members registered with the national chapter. Early number for 2015 include 87 MSAFS members, with 81% of the members belonging to the national chapter.
 - e. A report from Southern Division report was given by Dennis Riecke.
 - i. The executive director for AFS wants AFS to be the go-to for fisheries information and would like to get the society more involved with providing scientific advice to the decision makers.

- ii. Dennis encouraged members to think about why they are participating in AFS and encouraged everyone to volunteer on committees or chair committees. He mentioned that it is very important for students and looks good on resumes/CV.
 - iii. Dennis promoted membership with the national chapter and the emphasized the low cost for students and young professionals.
 - iv. Upcoming meeting are as follows: West Virginia in 2016; Oklahoma City in 2017; Puerto Rico in 2018.
 - v. The SDAFS website has been updated recently and includes a new market tool. Also, the webmaster can help state chapters update and revise their websites as well. The listserve is up to date and currently working. Dennis encouraged individuals to send job opportunities to directly to him so he can distribute announcements via the SDAFS network. Individuals are able to unsubscribe from the listserve by contacting Dennis.
 - vi. Dennis encouraged members to get fisheries certified through AFS and stressed the importance and benefits from professional organizations in doing so.
 - vii. Alabama now has an official state chapter with officers and bylaws in place. This offers potential opportunities to have join meetings with this new chapter.
 - viii. Dennis addressed recent complaints and concerns in regards to delayed mailing of the Fisheries magazine.
 - ix. The Change of Officer form for state chapters and student subunits needs to be completed and submitted to Dennis each time an officer changes.
- f. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Ryan Jones (MWF Liaison for MSAFS). The MWF Annual Meeting was held on March 20, 2015. There was no threat issues addressed/discussed during that time. The Conservation Award Banquet will be held on April 15, 2015 at the Hilton in Jackson, MS. Keith Meals received the 2014 MWF Conservation Achievement Award for outstanding contributions toward fisheries conservation. Ryan agreed to serve as the MWF representative for 2015 and was thanked by the membership for his service.
- g. A review of the mid-year EXCOM meeting was given by Wes Neal.
- i. Most of the meeting discussed planning logistics about the 42nd annual meeting.
 - ii. The Chapter received one donation request in 2014 from GA Chapter AFS for Southern Division in Savannah, GA. MS Chapter made a \$500 donation.
 - iii. The sale of sportfish resolution was discussed.
- h. Wes Neal provided an update about the sale of sportfish resolution. The resolution was passed. Larry Pugh and Wes Neal will meet with stakeholders as the process evolved. Larry Pugh recommended another meeting to move forward with plans. He also mentioned that the MS Farm Bureau and Department of Agriculture were highly interested in this issue.
6. Jennifer Green announced that that MSAFS Logo Contest will be extended until June 30, 2015. The winner of the contest will receive a free 1 year membership to MS AFS and \$100 award. All students and professionals were encouraged to submit any logo design ideas. F.J. Eicke offered his son-in-laws artistic abilities in putting together a professional logo if any MS Chapter

members want to present ideas and/or a logo concept. Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested that a large banner eventually be made to present the logo at meetings, events, etc. Dennise Riecke mentioned he would be able to provide information on getting the finalized logo printed on t-shirts and hats.

7. New Business

- a. Dennis Riecke provided information regarding the guidelines for AFS investment and management of Unit funds and explained that the Parent society can provide a service by investing chapter funds as part of its overall investment portfolio to provide the potential for greater return on investments.
 - i. AFS Investment Portfolio: The parent Society uses AXA to manage its portfolio, which is focused on long term investing of funds. The AXA-AFS portfolio is currently 80% equity (60% US domestic equity, 10% global sector funds-energy, natural resources, gold and health stocks, and 10% non-US international), with 20% invested in Fixed Income funds, as well as money market. As of June 30, 2014, the full AFS portfolio was valued at \$3.6 million. AXA charges AFS an investment fee of 0.5% per year on the value of the portfolio.
 - ii. Investment Criteria:
 1. A minimum investment amount of \$10,000 required to participate
 2. Minimum time for investment should be 3 years. Funds can be accessed prior to 3 years without penalty, but entry into the program should be with funds for which there is no anticipated use of the funds for a minimum of 3 years
 3. Additional funds can be added to the account at any time
 4. 30-day notice should be provided in advance of withdrawal of funds; this allows AFS and AXA to best determine which investment is most timely to be sold to access the requested funds
 - iii. Account management:
 1. All funds deposited with AFS will be pooled with the AFS portfolio. Investment performance, positive or negative, will reflect that of the overall portfolio. Investments may be subject to either gains or losses within a given period, and there is no guarantee of positive results over short periods of time
 2. AFS will maintain accounting of all invested funds and AFS will be solely responsible for tracking funds, interacting with AXA on depositing and withdrawals, assigning return, and providing regular statements of account activity and balance to the units. Units should not contact AXA or AXA investment advisor working with AFS. Any questions regarding investments should be directed to AFS staff
 3. Each investment account will be assigned a monthly return based upon the AXA monthly statement and AXA monthly return calculations. Deposits made during any given month will be assigned an investment start date of the 1st of the following month and receive return

adjustments beginning with that start date. Withdrawals will be based upon the account value at the end of the month preceding withdrawal date

4. Units do not have any options for selecting specific investment funds or other investment instruments (e.g., money market, bonds) for their funds. All funds are considered part of the AFS investment pool and are managed as such.
- b. There was a discussion on floor among members regarding aforementioned investment opportunity:
- i. Jill Hendon asked if the Chapter is able to access CA funds before it matures without a penalty, and Larry Bull response was that the mature date on the CD is September 7th. Therefore, the chapter is able to access the funds without penalty as long as we provide a 14 day notice. Wes Neal added that the Chapter will likely need to use both CDs to get \$10k minimum to participate in the investment program.
 - ii. Keith Meals requested the current performance report of the parent AFS investment portfolio. Wes Neal said the portfolio opened in December 2006 and the cumulative net return was 31.92% by May 2014, and had an average annual yield of 12-13% in that time.
 - iii. Nancy Brown-Peterson expressed concern about the amount of money the Chapter will have to withdraw from the checking account to participate in the investment program. Jennifer Green reported there was over \$13k in checking account as of March 5, 2015. Eric Hoffmayer replied saying that it makes sense to invest since there is a large amount currently in the checking account.
 - iv. Mark Peterson suggested that the Chapter/EXCOM determine its opportunity needs for 3 years so we do not have to touch the investment and made a motion that EXOM investigate the AFS-AXA investment program further to determine: a 3 year budget plan for investments, what to invest in, and how much to invest. Once that information is determined and presented to the Chapter, an electronic vote from members to decide whether or not best interest to pursue the investment opportunity. Eric Hoffmayer seconded, and members unanimously passed the motion.
- c. Nomination and election of President-elect and MWF affiliate for 2016.
- i. As chair of the nominating committee, Larry Pugh stated Tyler Stubbs and Nagaraj Chatakondi as the two candidates that were nominated for President-Elect prior to the meeting. Biographies for each candidate were provided with the business meeting agenda. The floor was opened for additional nominations, and Jim Franks moved to accept the current nominations, Dennis Riecke seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. The Chapter voted by paper ballot. Tyler Stubbs was elected for President-Elect by a vote of 27 to 6.
 - ii. Ryan Jones, current MWF Affiliate, was nominated by Wes Neal to serve again. Ryan accepted the nomination. Dennis Riecke moved to accept the current

nomination; Mark Peterson seconded, and it was approved unanimously by the membership.

- d. Report from USM student subunit was given by Virginia “Ginger” Fler (President). Members of the subunit attended and presented at the following meetings: 144th Annual AFS Meeting in Quebec City, Bays and Bayous, and the Southern Division of AFS. The subunit was involved with several educational and community outreach events, including: CCA Casting for Conservation, Peter Anderson Festival, banquets, fishing tournaments, after school marine education events, science fair judging. The USM subunit helped out with the Point Cadet Cobia Tournament and was the sole source for food and drinks during that event. They also created a scholarship in memory of the late Jay Dieterich, who co-founded the USM subunit. The scholarship will support research and travel to professional conferences. USM raised about \$1,000 from the silent auction which was added to the Jay Dieterich Scholarship Fund.
- e. Report from MSU student subunit was given by Daniel Sullivan (Co-President). The subunit made a \$1,000 donation to Children’s College Fund. They also helped organize and run the Pickwick Fishing Tournament. Members have been active in the community through educational outreach teaching fish dissections and anatomy to the fourth grade Starkville Science Club and the Boys and Girls Club of America. They coordinated with MSU veterinary and aquatic animal health students an opportunity to learn basic fisheries field sampling techniques, such as electrofishing, how to pull seine nets, among other sampling techniques. They also plan on organizing a Fish Dish competition and Fishing Rodeo in April.
- f. Peter Allen and Wes Neal congratulated David Dippold, Morgan Corey, and Virginia Fler for earning Student Travel Awards for to attend the 2015 MSAFS Annual Meeting.
- g. External Awards Presented to Chapter Members
 - i. Larry Pugh recognized Keith Meals, named “Fisheries Biologist of the Year” for outstanding accomplishments during Meals’ 28 years with MDWFP. The award was presented to Keith Meals by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) at the Association’s 68th annual meeting in October 2014.
 - ii. Jim Franks announced members that were presented awards of excellence at the 144th Annual AFS Meeting held in Quebec City, QC.
 - 1. Harold “Hal” Schramm was elected into the National Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence by the 2014 Executive Committee of the Fisheries Management Section of AFS for his devotion for fisheries management and enthusiasm for research and teaching ecological principles to students, anglers, and peers.
 - 2. Steven Miranda was presented the Excellence in Fisheries Education Award for his devotion and excellence in teaching fisheries management and fish ecology.
- h. MSAFS Chapter Awards were presented by Stephen Brown and Wes Neal
 - i. C.A. Schultz Award was presented to Mark Peterson

- ii. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Michael V. “Buck” Buchanan and L. Esteban (Steve) Miranda
- iii. Distinguished Service Awards was presented to Peter Allen for serving on as the Student Award Committee Chair
- iv. Fishery Conservation Award was presented to F.J. Eicke for his 10 year commitment and CCA dedication to support students by donating \$600 for best student presentation awards
- i. 2015 MSAFS CCA Best Student Paper Awards presented by Robert Leaf and F.J. Eicke
 - i. First place- David Dippold (USM)
 - ii. Second place- Charlie Culpepper (MSU)
 - iii. Third place- Cynthia Fox (MSU)
- j. Installation of New Officers: Tyler Stubbs entered as President-Elect. Wes Neal became Past President as he handed the gavel and official wine opener to Peter Allen who took over as President.
- k. Peter Allen presented Service Awards to the following outgoing officers:
 - i. Wes Neal as MSAFS President;
 - ii. Cynthia Fox as MSU subunit Past President 2013-2014;
 - iii. Jeremy Higgs as USM subunit Past President 2013-2014;
 - iv. Daniel Sullivan and Maloney Parker as MSU subunit Co-Presidents 2014-2015;
 - v. Virginia “Ginger” Fleer as USM subunit President 2014-2015
- l. During the discussion of venue for 2016 meeting Larry Pugh suggested the meeting take place in Tunica, MS as Arkansas Chapter might be interested in having a joint meeting.
- m. As there was no more new business, Nancy Brown-Peterson made a motion to adjourn, and Mark Peterson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM by a unanimous vote of the membership.

**Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2015 Annual Business Meeting: Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg, MS
Treasury Report
March 27, 2015**

Chapter Account Starting Balance (March 12, 2014): \$17,170.22
Chapter Account Ending Balance (March 23, 2015): \$13,867.94

Disbursements:	Check #	Amount	Date
AFS 2014 Awards/Plaques (Invoice No. 99186115)	1336	\$ 150.00	5/8/2014
AFS 2014-2015 General Liability Insurance	1337	\$ 150.00	9/19/2014
Donation to Georgia Chapter AFS for 2015 SDAFS	1338	\$ 500.00	12/16/2014
Robert Leaf- Reimbursement for 2015 MSAFS meeting supplies	1339	\$ 172.76	3/20/2015
Cash for 2015 MSAFS Annual Meeting	1340	\$ 200.00	3/23/2015
Stephen Brown- Reimbursement for 2015 MSAFS awards (CA & Lifetime)	1341	\$ 381.62	3/23/2015
Tara Wildlife- M.S.Peterson* & D.Dippold** lodging 2015 MSAFS meeting	1342	\$ 309.00	3/26/2015
USM Student Subunit Reimbursement (keg for meeting)	1343	\$ 104.78	3/26/2015
Morgan Corey^* - Reimbursement for 2015 MSAFS registration	1344	\$ 75.00	3/26/2015
David Dippold** - Reimbursement for 2015 MSAFS registration	1345	\$ 75.00	3/26/2015
Total Disbursements: March 12, 2014 – March 26, 2015		\$ 2,118.16	

* Mark Peterson = CA Schultz Award winner; MSAFS covered registration & lodge

** David Dippold = 2015 MSAFS student travel award winner

^* Morgan Corey = 2015 MSAFS student travel award winner

Pending Disbursements:

MSU credit card convenience fee (3% from total) n registered = 61	\$ 137.25
Tara Wildlife Venue for 2015 meeting	\$ 4584.00
Reimbursements for 2015 meeting supplies, beverages, snacks	\$ 794.39
Estimated Total Pending Disbursements	\$ 5515.64

Income:

	Amount	Date
2014 Member Dues	\$ 165.00	3/24/2014
2014 Onsite Registration (Crochet & Hoffmayer)	\$ 110.00	3/24/2014
2013 MS AFS Chapter Dues Refund (from AFS online)	\$ 500.00	7/1/2014
2013 MS Chapter Rebate (from AFS online)	\$ 134.40	7/2/2015
USM/GCRL/CFRD (donation for 2015 meeting)	\$ 1,500.00	2/5/2015
2015 Onsite Membership Dues (Cash; n = 13 people)	\$ 130.00	3/26/2015
2015 Onsite Membership Dues (Check; n = 5 people)	\$ 50.00	3/26/2015
2015 Onsite Registration (\$85; n = 2 people)	\$ 170.00	3/26/2015
2015 MSAFS Meeting Online Registration (\$75; n = 71 people)	\$ 5,325.00	3/26/2015
Total Income: March 24, 2014 – March 26, 2015	\$ 2,674.40	3/26/2015

Other Committed Monies Not Yet Received From:	Amount
MSU Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture (2015 Meeting Donation)	\$ 1,500.00
CCA (2015 Meeting Donation for Student Awards)	\$ 600.00
DMR (2015 Meeting Registration; 5 people @ \$75 each)	\$ 375.00
<i>Total of committed monies not yet received</i>	\$ 2,475.00

C. A. Shultz Conservation Award

Issue/Renewal Date	Amount Invested (\$)	Interest Rate (%)	Earnings (\$)
9-7-12	2,466.76	0.90	27.83 ^A
9-7-15	2,494.59 ^B	0.90	28.12 ^D
9-7-15	2,522.71 ^C	0.90	

^A Interest earned since September 7, 2012 is \$27.83

^B Balance as of February 26, 2014 is \$2,494.59

^C Balance as of March 16, 2015 is \$2,522.71

^D Interest earned since February 26, 2014 is \$28.12

1-year Certificate of Deposit (CD)

Issue/Renewal Date	Amount Invested (\$)	Interest Rate (%)	Earnings (\$)
9-7-12	6,452.98	0.40	29.88 ^A
9-7-13	6,482.86 ^B	0.25	20.24 ^D
9-7-14	6,503.10 ^C	0.25	

^A Interest earned since September 7, 2012 is \$29.88

^B Balance as of February 26, 2014 is \$6,482.86

^C Balance as of March 16, 2015 is \$6,503.10

^D Interest earned since February 26, 2014 is \$20.24

2014 Membership Roster

- 87 Mississippi Chapter Members
 - 68 are members of National AFS and MS Chapter
 - 38 Regular, 1 Life, 2 Young Professional, 27 Student
 - 19 are National AFS only
 - 8 Regular, 1 Life, 2 Young Professional, 8 Student