

Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the 42nd Annual Meeting
Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg MS
March 11, 2016

1. Call to order was made at 10:41 AM.
2. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (28 members, 6 officers). A total of 57 people were in attendance.
3. General Announcements
 - a. Our chapter is growing. This year's meeting had a great turnout with 57 professionals and 27 students in attendance. Overall, the meeting went well with many intriguing presentations that covered a diversity of topics ranging from fish to aquatic plants.
 - b. The sub-units held another successful silent auction.
 - c. Acknowledgements were given to Harriet Perry (not in attendance) for organizing and providing the great gift baskets for the live auctions.
 - d. MDWFP was acknowledged for the in-kind donation of printing the meeting programs
4. Introduction of Guests, Distinguished Members
 - a. 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".
 - b. Dennis Riecke was recognized as the President of Southern Division of AFS.
 - c. The following Past Presidents of the chapter were recognized as distinguished members: Larry Pugh, Steven Brown, Larry Bull, and Eric Hoffmayer.
 - d. The following past Secretary/Treasurers of the chapter were recognized as distinguished members: Jerry Brown, Larry Bull, Jill Hendon, and Eric Hoffmayer.
5. Old Business
 - a. 2015 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Green. Larry Pugh motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Jill Hendon, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
 - b. Jennifer Green gave a 2015- February 2016 membership status report. There were 107 MSAFS members, with 71% of these members registered with the national chapter. Also, there were 7 MS residents that were reported as only members of the national chapter.
 - i. Peter Allen and Wes Neal encouraged folks to join the national membership. The importance of paying chapter dues through the parent society was emphasized due to the 3% kickback rebate our local chapter receives for every regular (\$80) membership paid through the parent society.

- ii. Susan Adams suggested the chapter send out reminders to update MSAFS membership online through the parent society.
- c. 2015-2016 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Green. In September 2015, a total of \$10,000.00 was invested through the Parent society AFS Investment Portfolio. The monies for this investment came from matured CD accounts which totaled \$9,045.47; an additional \$954.53 from the MSAFS chapter account was also included in the investment. Jill Hendon motioned to accept the treasurer report, seconded by Jerry Brown, and the members unanimously passed the motion.
- d. A report from Southern Division was given by Dennis Riecke.
 - i. Dennis reminded the chapter that we are all members of Southern Division AFS and encouraged everyone to attend upcoming Southern Division meetings and events.
 - 1. Informed the chapter that students and members who are also members of national AFS receive discounted meeting registration fees.
 - 2. Upcoming Southern Division meetings are as follows: Oklahoma City in 2017, Puerto Rico in 2018, Texas in 2019, and Arkansas in 2020.
 - ii. Alabama Chapter wants to have a joint meeting with MSAFS in 2017.
 - iii. The Southern Division AFS webpage was hacked and as a result has temporarily moved to the national AFS server at sd@fisheries.org. He emphasized to avoid going to the old site because of a virus and encouraged people to use the new temporary webpage.
 - iv. Southern Division has a new webmaster. The webmaster is an undergraduate from Virginia Tech.
 - v. Dennis recognized the following awards that were presented at the 2016 Southern Division meeting:
 - 1. MSU received a 2015 Merit Award. MSU is the only university in our division to have ever received this award.
 - 2. The Best Student Subunit for 2015 was awarded to MSU.
 - 3. The Best Student Presentation for 2015 was awarded to David Dippold.
 - vi. Encouraged leaders to do their job. Become engaged with AFS and get others to do the same. To students, one of the best thing you can do the initiative and get involved with AFS. These activities/involvements with AFS at the chapter and national level can boost up your CV or resume.
 - vii. Dennis encouraged the chapter to attend national AFS meeting. Upcoming National AFS meetings are as follows: Tampa in 2017, Atlantic City in

2018, Reno in 2019 (this will be a joint meeting with the Wildlife Society), and possibly Baltimore in 2020 (location still in discussion).

- viii. The Change of Officer form for state chapter and student subunits needs to be completed and submitted to Dennis each time an officer changes.
 - e. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Ryan Jones (MWF Liaison for MSAFS). The 56th Mississippi Conservation Award Banquet was held in February in Jackson, MS. Dennis Riecke was presented with the 2015 Fisheries Conservationist of the Year Award. Ryan reminded Chapter members that the Wildlife Federation involved in monitoring legislation and is a voice for Mississippi resources across the entire state. The Federation has many affiliates, such as MSAFS and CCA, which help to make legislation actions happen; therefore, it is important for the Chapter to support legislation movements and provide member input regarding current and upcoming legislation decisions. Ryan served as the MWF Liaison for MSAFS for many years and would like to step down from this position. He announced MWF holds 3 meetings at the BassPro in Pearl, MS and an annual meeting for those interested in becoming the next MWF Liaison for MSAFS. Ryan was thanked by the membership for his service.
 - f. Peter Allen announced that Samantha Stelmack was the MS AFS logo contest winner. Samantha was presented with a \$100 award and a 1 year membership to MS AFS.
 - g. A review of the mid-year EXCOM meeting was given by Peter Allen
 - i. Discussion on planning for the 2016 annual meeting.
 - ii. Updates were given about the Chapter CDs and investment portfolio. Larry Bull was recognized for taking care the CDs. It was also mentioned that the Chapter can add more money to the investment at any time.
 - iii. The Chapter received a donation request from the AFS Education Section and decided to donate \$500 to support the Skinner Fund.
6. New Business
- a. Nomination and election of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer
 - i. As chair of the nominating committee, Larry Pugh stated Jerry Brown and Robert Leaf as the two candidates that were nominated for President-Elect, and Lillian Collins and Jeremy Higgs as the two candidates nominated for Secretary-Treasurer prior to the meeting. Biographies for each candidate were provided with the business agenda. The floor was opened for additional nominations and Jim Franks moved to accept the current nominations, Dennis Riecke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Chapter voted by paper ballot for each candidate.
 - ii. Jerry Brown was elected President-Elect by a vote of 19 to 16.

- iii. Jeremy Higgs was elected Secretary-Treasurer by a vote of 26 to 9.
- b. Report from USM Student Sub-Unit was given by Morgan Corey (President). The USM Student Sub-Unit currently has 12 active members and at least half are Chapter members, and $\frac{3}{4}$ are also members of National AFS. The sub-unit was well represented at the Graduate Student Symposium in USM and Vicksburg; Page Vick and Morgan Corey won awards for their presentations. Members attended several other conferences and the following members won research and presentation awards: Beth Jones, David Dippold, Kaitlin Doucette, and Dani Bailey. There were journal publications by student members. The sub-unit organized and hosted the Merry Fishmas Fun Run and raised \$1,700. Members helps with several Marine Education Center outreach events including: Science Bowl and OCEARCH. They were also volunteered at the Point Cadet Cobia Tournament and other community events. The new tripletail sub-unit shirts have been a big hit and have raised \$750 so far. The sub-unit also raised \$689 from the silent auction.
- c. Report from MSU Student Sub-Unit was given by Kevin Keretz (President). The sub-unit currently has 15 active members, many of which are also members of National AFS. The sub-unit participated in many outreach and community events. Members have been active in the community through educations outreach teaching fish dissections and anatomy to various school groups. They have also organized fisheries field sampling technique demonstrations and gave lessons on boating safety and maintenance. Members also organized and hosted a Fish Dish competition and fishing rodeo. The new official MSU Student Sub-unit website is msuafs.org
- d. Tyler Stubbs recognized the following students for receiving Travel Awards to MSAFS 2016. All of the students volunteered to help with meeting registration or moderate a session. The Chapter covered the cost of registration for each student and would like to continue with similar student awards for future meetings.
 - i. From USM: Trevor Moncrief, Grant Adams, Morgan Corey, and David Dippold
 - ii. From MSU: Bryant Haley, Chelsea Gilliland, Maddy Ruble, and Christian Shirley
- e. Peter Allen recognized external Awards presented to Chapter members
 - i. Jill Hendon for becoming Fisheries Certified through AFS
 - ii. Nagaraj Chatakondi for receiving the 2015 AFS Best Paper in the North American Journal of Aquaculture Award. "*Evaluation of a gonadotropin releasing hormone analog of cGnRH II as a spawning aid for channel catfish versus analogs of mGnRH I and sGnRH III*"
- f. MS AFS Chapter Awards were presented by Wes Neal

- i. C.A. Schultz Award was presented to Eric Dibble. This award was presented to Eric at MSU prior to the meeting. Since Eric could not attend the meeting Wes read Eric’s response to receiving the award, which recognized the importance of MSAFS, to the Chapter.
 - ii. Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Harold “Hal” Schramm
- g. 2016 MSAFS CCA Best Student Paper Awards presented by Eric Hoffmayer
 - i. First Place- Morgan Corey (USM); *“Age validation and the length-at-age relationship of Mississippi’s Southern Flounder stock”*
 - ii. Second Place- David Dippold (USM); *“Assessing the status of the Mississippi Spotted Seatrout stock using a statistical catch-at-age model”*
 - iii. Third Place- Trevor Moncrief (USM); *“Preliminary results from a study of the reproductive biology of Vermilion Snapper (Rhomboplites aurorubens) from the north central Gulf of Mexico”*
- h. Installation of New Officers: Jerry Brown entered as President-Elect. Peter Allen became Past President as he handed the gavel and official wine opener to Tyler Stubbs who took over as President.
- i. Tyler Stubbs presented Service Awards to the following outgoing officers:
 - i. Peter Allen as MSAFS President
 - ii. Morgan Corey as USM Student Sub-unit President
 - iii. Clay Raines as MSU Student Sub-unit President; Kevin Keretz accepted the award on Clay’s behalf
 - iv. Jennifer Green as MSAFS Secretary-Treasurer
- j. During the discussion of venue for 2017 meeting Dennis Riecke and Tyler Stubbs suggested to have a joint meeting with Alabama Chapter. Jill Hendon agreed that a joint meeting with Alabama would show good support to a new chapter. It was also mentioned that it might be time to have the meeting on the coast since it’s been held at Pickwick the past two years. Grant Adams agreed with hosting the meeting on the coast and Jim Franks suggested the IP Casino in Biloxi.
- k. Other New Business
 - i. Peter Allen mentioned there were a number of members in the State that do not attend Chapter meetings, and asked the Chapter for ideas of how to get more folks involved and attend meetings. One suggestion was to target young professionals to become National members. It may be possible to have an award for young professionals; one award per year that would have MSAFS cover the National Member dues for 3 years. Peter motioned to fund National Member dues for young professional for 3 years, Susan Adams seconded, and the Chapter unanimously passed the motion.
 - ii. Wes addressed the Chapter with information regarding a donation request to support a symposium at the 146th AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City (August 2016). The symposium is entitled “An examination into

influencing the future of angling participation to sustain conservation support”. Information presented at the symposium would eventually become a textbook on angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation for consideration. Funds provided would aid in travel assistance and \$35,000 book publication costs. There was discussion among the Chapter. Jim Franks motioned for the Chapter to donate \$500, Larry Pugh seconded, and members unanimously passed the motion.

1. As there was no additional business to discuss, Larry Pugh made a motion to adjourn and Stephen Brown seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM by a unanimous vote of the membership.