

**Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**Minutes of the 2017 Joint Annual Meeting of the Mississippi and Alabama Chapters of AFS**  
**February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**IP Casino and Resort, Biloxi, MS**

1. Call to order was made at 8:08 AM.
2. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (30 members and 5 officers). A total of 41 people in attendance.
3. General Announcements
  - a. Joint meeting with AL was very successful with 162 attendees (121 Mississippi and 41 Alabama; 44 students and 118 professionals)
  - b. Tyler Stubbs extended appreciation to Jerry Brown and Steve Rider for organizing the Joint Meeting.
  - c. Subunits held very successful auctions, generating funds to help support their members
  - d. 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 briefed the AL Chapter on happenings of Southern Division
    - i. Wes Neil reported on Dennis' behalf for the MS Chapter.
  - b. F.J. Eicke was recognized as the representative for CCA Mississippi and was thanked by the membership for CCA's continued support for the "CCA Best Student Presentation Awards"
  - c. Past EXCOM members were recognized as distinguished members. A total of 10 past presidents and four secretary/treasurers were in attendance.
5. Old Business
  - a. 2016 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs. Mark Peterson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Jill Hendon, membership unanimously passed the motion.
  - b. 2017 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs. Nancy Brown-Peterson motioned to accept the minutes, second by Mark Peterson and the members unanimously passed the motion.
  - c. Jeremy Higgs gave a 2016-February 2017 membership status report. There were 124 MSAFS members with 69% registered as National members. Additionally, there were 15 MS residents only registered as National members.
  - d. Southern Division Report was provided by Wes Neal, as Dennis was reporting to the AL Chapter.
    - i. Provided updates about the website, prior Southern Division Meeting, promoted benefits of national membership, and provided information on services available to chapters for meeting planning.
    - ii. Reported on future meetings
      1. Future National Meeting: 2017 Tampa, 2018 Atlantic City, 2019 Reno, 2020 Columbus(150 year anniversary)

2. Future Southern Division Meeting: 2018 Puerto Rico
    - a. Very affordable meeting at a great venue promoting professionalism and collaboration between societies
  - e. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Jimmy Rayborn. Jimmy replaced Ryan Jones as the MWF Liaison for MSAFS in following the 2016 meeting. The 57<sup>th</sup> was scheduled to be held in March of 2017 and all of MSAFS members were encouraged to join and participate in the meeting. It was also acknowledged that Nathan Aycock would be receiving the Fisheries Professional of the Year.
  - f. Tyler Stubbs discussed new chapter merchandise
    - i. Subunit Presidents tasked with designing MS Chapter shirts
      1. USM to design quick-dry fishing shirts
      2. MSU to design polo shirts
    - ii. Both designs are to have the chapter logo
    - iii. Proceeds will go towards student funding to attend the MSAFS Annual Meeting
  - g. A review of the mid-year EXCOM meeting was given by Tyler Stubbs
    - i. Discussion on planning for the 2017 annual meeting
    - ii. Chapter insurance renewal was discussed
    - iii. Both MS State and USM Subunits provided updates on their sections
    - iv. Discussion of Research Award for students
    - v. National AFS approved us for funding for the meeting in 2016 (we sponsored a cyber café)
    - vi. Discussion about Puerto Rico meeting
6. New Business
- a. Stephen Brown introduced the nominees for the position of President-Elect. Biographies for Jill Hendon and Rick Burris were made available in the Meeting Program as well as handouts prior to the business meeting. The chapter voted by paper ballots. Jill Hendon was voted President-Elect by a vote of 26 to 11.
  - b. USM Student Sub-Unit Report as presented by Meg Oshima on behalf of Trevor Moncrief
  - c. MSU Student Sub-Unit Report was presented by Keven Keretz
  - d. Tyler extended appreciation to student volunteers
    - i. Moderators and Registration desk
  - e. Tyler announced external awards presented to chapter members
    - i. Nathan Aycock was awarded Fisheries Professional of the Year by the Wildlife Federation
    - ii. Hal Schramm was made an American Fisheries Society Fellow
  - f. Chapter awards were presented by Peter Allen and he expressed gratitude for members who submitted nominations and strongly encouraged members to continue nominations in the future
    - i. Harriett Perry was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award
    - ii. Jack Killgore was awarded C.A. Schultz Award
  - g. 2017 Student Presentation Awards were awarded in conjunction with the AL Chapter

- i. Award winners were:
  - 1. Hunter Hatcher (MS Chapter - MSU)
  - 2. Kevin Keretz (MS Chapter - MSU)
  - 3. Kristin Hannan (AL Chapter - USA)
  - 4. Grant Adams (MS Chapter - GCRL)
- ii. CCA contributed funding for this award
  - 1. Greatly appreciate their prior and continued contributions
- iii. Robert Leaf was thanked for his contribution to the new judging methods and taking the lead on this effort
- iv. Robert acknowledged the students and thanked the judges for their service
- h. Installation of New Officers: Jill Hendon entered as President-Elect. Tyler Stubbs became Past President as he handed the gavel to Jerry Brown who took over as President. Jeremy Higgs remained Secretary/Treasurer.
- i. Tyler Stubbs thanked Peter Allen for his service and commitment to the Chapter as he stepped off the EXCOM platform.
- j. Jerry Brown presented Service Awards to the following outgoing officers
  - i. Tyler Stubbs as MSAFS President (Despite him ditching us and heading to Iowa)
  - ii. Trevor Moncrief as USM Subunit President (Accepted by Meg Oshima on Trever's behalf)
  - iii. Kevin Keretz as MSU Subunit President
- k. Tyler Stubbs acknowledged and congratulated Trevor Moncrief on completing his Master's Degree
- l. Mark Peterson asked to address the Chapter
  - i. Acknowledged Trevor Moncrief for being awarded the GCFI Ronald L. Schmeid Scholarship to attend the GCFI meeting in the Grand Caymans
  - ii. Opened the discussion about the Lake George Damning Project and the political issue there involved
    - 1. Provided detailed background on the project
    - 2. Provided a in-depth statement about the River and the project
    - 3. Requested that MSAFS provide a statement, in the form of a letter, on behalf of the River
      - a. Largely based on the science and importance of the river and not political standpoint
      - b. The proposed letter would be to not support the damning of the River
  - iii. Mark's request and background result in a Chapter wide discussion involving numerous members from local, state, federal and academic backgrounds.
  - iv. Resulted in a vote for the EXCOM to move forward and determine how to proceed based upon AFS Guidelines
  - v. Membership voted unanimously for the EXCOM to move forward and draft a letter for consideration and approval of the membership

- m. Dyan Gibson asked to address the Chapter in relation to the Society of Concerned Scientists. Asked the membership to support and provide signatures of support for a professional stand on political concern. Membership vote was not unanimous and the motion was tabled.
  - n. The chapter discussed venues for the 2018 Annual Chapter meeting.
    - i. Joint meeting was discussed and determined that the 2019 meeting would be well served to approach partners (Arkansas or Louisiana)
    - ii. Larry Bull suggested Tupelo, Mark Peterson suggested Natchez, FJ Eike suggested Vicksburg, Larry Pugh suggested Oxford, Jill Hendon suggested MS State, Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested Jackson at the Museum
  - o. Tyler Stubbs addressed the Chapter and thanked them for the opportunity to be involved in the chapter and express his gratitude as the 2017 meeting may be his last year to attend.
7. 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 9:34AM by a unanimous vote of the membership.