

**Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
**Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of AFS**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**The Marriot Courtyard, Oxford, MS**

1. Call to order was made at 10:28 AM.
2. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (26 members and 4 officers). A total of 44 people in attendance.
3. General Announcements
  - a. The special session on the Importance of Museum Collections was a great success
  - b. Jerry Brown extended appreciation to Jill Hendon for organizing the meeting
  - c. Jill Hendon extended appreciation to the Chapter for making the meeting a great success
  - d. MDWFP was acknowledged for the in-kind donation of printing the meeting programs
4. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Wes Neal was recognized as the Southern Division of AFS representative (report below)
  - b. Past EXCOM members were recognized as distinguished members. A total of eight past presidents and four secretary/treasurers were in attendance
5. Old Business
  - a. 2018 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs. Tom Holman motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Dennis Riecke, membership unanimously passed the motion.
  - b. 2018 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs. Keith Meals motioned to accept the minutes, second by Tom Homan and the members unanimously passed the motion.
  - c. Jeremy Higgs gave a 2017-February 2018 membership status report. There were 110 MSAFS members with 69% registered as National and Chapter members. Additionally, there were 18 MS residents only registered as National members.
  - d. Southern Division Report was provided by Wes Neal
    - i. Puerto Rico Update
      1. Three weeks away and the meeting is well planned
      2. MSAFS Hurricane relief funds were collected
      3. Puerto Rico Chapter will be planting mangroves for future storm protection
    - ii. SDAFS partnership with Florida for the 2017 National meeting resulting in \$18,000 funds
      1. Six thousand of which will be made available for student rooms for the 2018 National meeting
    - iii. SDAFS Student Group is setting up a handbook for Subunits to follow to ensure institutional knowledge is passed down
    - iv. The SDAFS website is still dealing with the effects of being hacked. Funds are available to move the website if needed

- v. The 2019 National meeting will be in Atlantic City
  - vi. The 2020 National meeting will be joint with the Wildlife Society in Reno
  - vii. SDAFS has set goals to increase diversity, communication and education
  - viii. Wes acknowledged the success of the Museum Collection Symposium
  - ix. The National Membership fee increased by \$5 but now there will not be any fees for the online journals
  - x. Recommendation was also made that the Chapter try to communicate with missed members, i.e. those who no longer attended or are unaware of the
    - 1. Reach out to Alcorn State, Delta State, and email other state universities
  - xi. Jerry Brown extended appreciation to Wes Neal for his report on SDAFS
  - e. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Ryan Jones. Lindsey Lemmons is the new executive director of the Wildlife Federation replacing Brad Young. FJ Eicke will be recognized as the Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.
  - f. Tyler Stubbs briefly discussed the merchandise for the Chapter
    - i. Subunits will be developing ideas and presenting to the EXCOM
    - ii. Will further discuss at the 2018 EXCOM meeting
  - g. Jerry Brown provided an update on the Lake George and Yazoo Pump letters
    - i. Five letters were sent in regard to Lake George with no response
    - ii. Letter was sent on Yazoo Pump
  - h. Jerry Brown provided an update on the 2017 EXCOM Meeting
    - i. Discussion on planning for the 2018 Annual meeting
    - ii. Subunits provided updates
    - iii. Discussion about future nominations
    - iv. Kevin Hunt stepped down as website and Michael Colvin will be filling this role
    - v. Student Research Fund guidelines will be developed
6. New Business
- a. Stephen Brown introduced the nominees for the position of President-Elect. Biographies for Ryan Jones and Nathan Aycock were made available in the meeting program as well as handouts prior to the business meeting. The chapter voted by paper ballots. Nathan Aycock was voted President-Elect by a vote of 18 – 9.
  - b. Larry Pugh addressed membership about Chapter clothing and Wes Neal added that members expressed interested about it to him as well.
  - c. USM Student Sub-Unit Report as presented by Meg Oshima.
  - d. MSU Student Sub-Unit Report was presented by Chelsea Gilliland.
  - e. Jerry Brown acknowledged moderators for their assistance.
  - f. Jerry Brown and Jim Frank acknowledged external awards presented to chapter members.
    - i. Larry Pugh received Award of Excellence from AFS
    - ii. Jack Killgore will be receiving Conservationist of the Year from the Wildlife Federation
    - iii. FJ Eicke will be receiving Fisheries Conservationist of the year from the Wildlife Federation

- iv. Kevin Hunt was acknowledged for his contribution to the MSAFS website
- v. DMR and GCRL received the Fishery Conservation Award Jointly
- g. Peter Allen acknowledged the students for their presentations and FJ Eike and CCA for their contribution allowing the CCA Award Student award
  - i. Awards winners:
    - 1. Hunter Hatcher
    - 2. Ehlana Stell
    - 3. Ashley Shannon
    - 4. Meg Oshima (Honorable Mention)
  - ii. Jill Hendon thanked Peter for stepping in for Robert Leaf this year
- h. Installation of New Officers: Nathan Aycock entered as President-Elect. Jerry Brown became Past President as he handed the gavel to Jill Hendon who took over as President. Jeremy Higgs remained Secretary/Treasurer.
- i. Jill Hendon presented Service Awards to the following outgoing officers
  - i. Jerry Brown as MSAFS President
  - ii. Meg Oshima as USM Subunit President
  - iii. Chelsea Gilliland as MSU Subunit President
- j. The chapter discussed venues for the 2019 Annual Chapter meeting.
  - i. Joint meeting was discussed and determined that the 2019 meeting would be well served to approach partners (Arkansas or Louisiana)
    - 1. Wes Neal suggested Arkansas due to Southern Division
  - ii. Wes Neal suggested holding the meeting in Tunica
  - iii. Jill Hendon suggested the meeting t be held on Arkansas border if we jontly meet
  - iv. Peter Allen suggested Jackson
  - v. Larry Pugh suggested Delta State
    - 1. Larry Bull and Todd Slack said previous meeting held on Campus
- k. Jill Hendon acknowledge the success and importance of the Museum Collection Symposium
  - i. Jack Killgore motioned to draft a committee related to the symposium
    - 1. The committee would draft a letter supporting the importance of collections and preservation of collections
      - a. Letter to be submitted to Chapter EXCOM then SD then National
    - 2. Motion to develop letter or mission statement for Collections passed with a unanimous vote to proceed 30/30
- l. Dennis Riecke motioned that the Chapter donate to the Instream Flow Committee on his behalf
  - i. Dennis proposed that he would donate \$500 to the MS Chapter, then the Chapter donates \$500 to the Instream Meeting so that we would be represented as the contributors to the meeting
    - 1. Larry Pugh seconds and the chapter discusses

2. Tom Hollman ask why the Chapter doesn't donate on it's own behalf and not 'for' Dennis
  3. Jill discussed Chapter donation priorities
    - a. When originally requested the Chapter had meet donation limits for the year
  4. Jill suggested we donate as a chapter or open a request to donate from interested members
  5. Dennis agrees that the Chapter can donate but regardless of the collective decision he would still like to proceed with his \$500 donation to the Chapter to then donate on the Chapter's behalf to Instream
  6. Larry Pugh asked for clarification so that Chapter understood exactly what the vote was on.
  7. Peter Allen thanked Dennis for his donation through the Chapter
  8. Chapter passes vote unanimously
    - a. Jill requested that Inflow sends another request so we can proceed accordingly
- ii. Keith Meals inquired upon the Puerto Rico donation
    1. A total of \$240 was raised through the Chapter
    2. Dennis asked if the Chapter donated additional monies to the Puerto Rico Chapter
  - iii. International Fisheries Section Fellowship was announced by Jeremy Higgs and students were encouraged to consider the opportunity
    1. Jim Franks acknowledged the success of the International Fisheries Section
  - iv. As there was no more new business, Tom Hollman made a motion to adjourn, and Dennis Rieke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:58AM by a unanimous vote of the membership