

Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of AFS
February 22nd, 2019
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, MS

2019 MSAFS Business meeting notes

1. Call to order was made at 9:50 AM by Jill Hendon
2. An introduction of the Executive Committee members was made: Jill Hendon (President), Jerry Brown (Past President), Nathan Aycock (President-Elect), Jeremy Higgs (Secretary/Treasurer) Bradley Richardson (MSU Subunit President), Olivia Lestrade (USM Subunit President).
3. A quorum was determined by the EXCOM (27 members and 4 officers). A total of 49 people were in attendance.
4. General Announcements
 - a. New Roberts Rule dictates that there is no need to motion to approve minutes or agenda.
5. Agenda Modifications
 - a. Video for National AFS was provided by the Parent Society and not Southern Division
 - b. Jimmy Rayburns report will be conducted by Ryan Jones
6. Introduction of Guests
 - a. Wes Neal was recognized as the President of Southern Division
 - b. Dennis Riecke was recognized as the Past President of Southern Division
 - c. FJ Eicke was recognized as representing CCA
 - d. Past EXCOM members were recognized as distinguished members. A total of eleven Past Presidents and eight secretary/treasurers were in attendance.
7. Old Business
 - a. 2019 Business Meeting Minutes were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs
 - i. Minutes were approved
 - b. 2019 Treasurer Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Higgs
 - i. Minutes were approved, changes to be made due to file corruption
 - c. Jeremy Higgs gave the 2018- February 2019 membership status report. There were 84 MSAFS members with 79% registered as National and Chapter members. Additionally, there were 42 MS residents only registered as National Members
 - i. Comment from FJ Eicke: A news release would be beneficial to the chapter as National membership keeps National members informed, but State only members do not get the updates
 - ii. Nancy Brown-Peterson suggests that MSAFS sends the MS only members an email encouraging them to join National
 - d. Southern Division report was provided by Dennis Riecke
 - i. Southern was held in Galveston TX and 550 individuals attended, 7 committee meetings were held, and 15 workshops were conducted
 - ii. Southern Division agreed to co-host the Annual Society meeting in Baltimore with the North East division
 1. Share duties and revenue from the meeting

- iii. The procedure manual for Southern Division has been updated
- iv. The Southern Division listserv is a great opportunity for job and news updates.
 - 1. Over 1600 subscribers
 - 2. Interested participants need to request subscription
- v. AFS is interested in increasing membership: \$25 students, \$50 for early professional, and \$95 for professional
- e. Jill Hendon provided information on how the email list works. The MS Chapter is given a list from National, if you are not a member of National you do not appear on the list. As such, the possibility of setting up a friends of AFS email server is being considered
- f. Dennis Riecke provided information on upcoming meetings
 - i. National
 - 1. 2019 Joint meeting with the Wildlife Federation Reno NV
 - 2. 2020, 150th anniversary in Columbus Ohio
 - ii. Southern Division
 - 1. 2020 in Little Rock AR
 - 2. 2021 in Virginia
 - 3. 2021 in South Carolina
 - 4. 23 in Tennessee
 - iii. Jill Hendon proposed that MS consider hosting Southern Division in 2024
 - 1. 23 of the 49 attending individuals support this consideration
- g. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation report was presented by Ryan Jones.
 - i. Harriett Perry was awarded the Conservationist of the Year award.
 - ii. The Wildlife Federation is involved and interested in sustaining MS resources and joint partnerships with other groups to increase legal and political influence.
 - iii. Reaching out to other groups to hopefully institute barriers and commercial fishing to help monitor and manage Asian carp
 - iv. FJ Eicke was acknowledged for being on the Board of Directors by Jim Franks
- h. Jill Hendon provided an update on the Recovering American Wildlife Act
 - i. MS would get \$15 million a year
 - ii. Letters have been sent on behalf of MSAFS and MS Wildlife Federation
 - 1. The bill was not supported but has been reintroduced
 - 2. Mark Peterson inquired if we received any response from our letters
 - a. We had not at that point in time
 - 3. Jill Hendon expressed that she was very impressed with the chapter as we become more political
- i. Jill Hendon provided an update on the 2018 EXCOM meeting
 - i. Subunits agreed to keep their own websites and social media sites
 - ii. Student Research Fund was instituted
 - iii. Discussion on the planning for the 2019 Annual Meeting
 - iv. The EXCOM had instituted a dropbox to help with institutional knowledge
 - v. The Subunits agreed to develop a MS Chapter shirt
 - 1. Agreed that dryfit shirts would be developed
 - 2. The winning subunit will be awarded monetary gain

3. Winning shirt design was submitted by MSU (paddlefish)
4. Subunits will move forward with developing shirts

8. New Business

- a. Jill Hendon recognized those involved in making the meeting successful
- b. A video from National was viewed by the membership. Included information on the National meeting as well as the benefits of membership.
- c. An announcement about the Invertebrate section was made. Dr. Zach Darnel at USM-GCRL is proposing the new section. A petition is at the registration desk.
- d. AFS will be holding their 150th anniversary in Columbus Ohio at the 2020 meeting.
 - i. Chapters are encouraged to contribute a display on their history
 - ii. Jill Hendon encourages the MS Chapter to provide a display.
 - iii. A discussion about the chapter history was engaged with comments from Larry Bull and Jim Franks on prior information on the MS history
 - iv. Dennis Riecke provided feedback from Southern Division
 1. No chapter has committed yet, but it is actively being discussed
 2. If MS does submit, we must have representation and someone in attendance for the meeting in Columbus
 - v. Larry Bull and Jim Franks decided they would like to lead this if a committee was formed
 - vi. Keith Meals says sending out old photographs would help with previous chapter participants
 - vii. It was decided that a virtual display would probably be the most sufficient means to be involved.
 - viii. Larry Bull, Jim Franks, Jill Hendon, Harriett Perry, and Jeremy Higgs agreed to be involved in a committee to start development
 1. Larry Bull agreed to be point of contact and committee chair
 - ix. Jan Hoover mentioned he likely has photos from the first meeting at Tara, 50 or 60 years ago
 - x. Intended to be put together for the 2020 MS Chapter meeting for a preview to the members
- e. Student Research Awards were developed and awarded in 2018 (Developed and signed by EXCOM)
- f. Jill Hendon acknowledged the recipients of the Southern Division Travel Awards
- g. USM Student Sub-Unit Report as presented by Olivia Lestrade
- h. MSU Student Sub-Unit Report as presented by Bradley Richardson
- i. Jerry Brown announced the nominees for the position of President-Elect Robert Leaf and Dennis Riecke. Biographies were made available in the meeting program as well as handouts prior to the business meeting. The chapter voted by paper ballots.
- j. Jill Hendon acknowledged members for their accolades
 - i. Tom Hollman – 2018 Fisheries Biologist of the Year – Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - ii. Jack Killgore – 2018 Conservationist of the Year – MS Wildlife Federation
 - iii. FJ Eicke – 2018 Fisheries Conservationist of the Year – MS Wildlife Federation

- iv. Harriet Perry – 2019 Fisheries Conservationist of the Year – MS Wildlife Federation
 - v. Harriet Perry – Lifetime Achievement Award – Southern Division of AFS
- k. Jerry Brown announced Chapter Awards
 - i. Keith Meals – Lifetime Achievement Award - MS AFS
 - ii. Bradley Richardson – Excellence of Public Outreach
 - iii. Carly Somerset – MS Chapter Fisheries Conservation Award
 - 1. Program Director of Tails and Scales
- l. Robert Leaf – Best Student Paper Awards
 - i. Acknowledged CCA for their contribution and how grateful we are of their support
 - ii. Thanked Judges for their participation
 - iii. Thanked Students for their presentations
 - iv. Students may contact Robert Leaf for their scores and comments
 - v. Awards:
 - 1. 1st Nathan Jermain
 - 2. 2nd Lauren Fuller
 - 3. 3rd Mackenzie Gunn
 - 4. Honorable Mention: Olivia Lestrade
 - vi. FJ Eicke provided input on the Awards and CCA's contribution
- m. Jill Hendon acknowledged Keith Meals for his Lifetime Achievement Award
- n. Jerry Brown announced that Dennis Riecke was voted President-Elect by a vote of 21:7
- o. Installation of New Officers: Dennis Riecke entered as President-Elect. Jill Hendon became Past President as she handed the gavel to Nathan Aycock who took over as President. Jeremy Higgs remained Secretary/Treasurer.
- p. Nathan Aycock presented Service Awards to the following outgoing officers
 - i. Jill Hendon as MSAFS President
 - ii. Jeremy Higgs as MSAFS Secretary/Treasurer (2016-2018)
 - iii. Bradley Richardson as MS State Sub-Unit President
 - iv. Olivia Lestrade USM Sub-Unit President
- q. The Chapter discussed venues for the 2020 Annual Chapter meeting
 - i. Possibility of having a joint meeting with the MS Wildlife Society
 - 1. Longer meeting to accommodate, might need to change dates
 - 2. Possibly hold it at MSU
 - ii. Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested Natchez
 - iii. Keith Meals suggested meeting with other States
 - 1. Nancy Brown-Peterson suggested Arkansas
 - 2. Dennis Riecke suggested Tennessee, Arkansas, or Alabama
 - iv. Dennis Riecke suggested Hattiesburg
 - v. Jerry Brown suggested Tunica
 - vi. Nathan Aycock suggested Cleveland
 - vii. Jill Hendon asked for clarification on MDWFP out of state travel
 - 1. Permission to travel out of state is difficult to get approval
 - viii. Dennis Riecke will keep the Chapter updated as we develop a better plan

- r. Nathan Aycock provided a statement on the Mobile Bay Natural Estuary Program
 - i. We were asked if the MS chapter would like to provide comments to the program report.
 - ii. Robert Leaf provided feedback on the need and the Chapter discussed
 - iii. Nathan Aycock asked Robert Leaf to provide a draft letter to the EXCOM, for submission to the Chapter for approval prior to submission
- s. Dennis Riecke addressed the Members present
 - i. Thanked those who have served on the EXCOM, student Sub-Units, Robert Leaf for student awards, FJ Eicke for CCA support
- t. As there was no more new business, Rick Burris made a motion to adjourn, and Mike Andres/Nancy Brown-Peterson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57am by a unanimous vote of the membership