

Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Minutes of the 2024 50th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of AFS
February 16th, 2024
Tupelo, MS

- I. Meeting called to order by Michael Andres at 11:38
 - a. Quorum determined – met quorum (36 National members)
 - b. General announcements made
 - c. EXCOMM introduced
 - i. Robert Leaf
 - ii. Michael Andres
 - iii. Jeremy Higgs
 - iv. Olivia Lestrade
 - v. Adele Taber
 - vi. Alyssa Pagel
 - d. 2023 Meeting minutes sent out 2/16/2024
 - i. Edits requested
 - ii. Minutes approved
 - iii. Meeting recorded
- II. Secretary Treasurer Report
 - a. Chapter account starting balance as of end of February 2023: \$14,899.65
 - b. Chapter account ending balance as of February 14 2024: \$20,247.09
 - c. Investment Portfolio balance \$15,995 as of December 2023 (invested 10,000 in 2015)
 - d. Total Disbursements: \$6,245.85
 - e. Pending Disbursements: ~\$11,500
 - f. Total Income: \$11,622.97
 - g. Pending Income: \$1,750
 - h. February 2024 membership:
 - i. Total MSAFS chapter members-78
 - ii. National and State chapter members-54
 - iii. State chapter members-24
 - i. Treasury report approved
- III. Dennis Reike SDAFS report (I have Dennis's report, can attach)
 - a. Meeting was 2 weeks ago (630 people)
 - i. Anthony Overton's term started
 - ii. His charge for 2024 is to find someone for division awards
 1. Better communications between chapters/excoms
 2. Wants to increase undergrad participation at meetings
 - a. Special hybrid undergrad meeting (2025) Ashville, NC
 3. Reminder to submit change of officer form so updates to website can be made
 4. Remember to follow the code of conduct
 - b. News from parent society and Division
 - i. Search committee has been formed in order to replace Doug

- ii. Next national meeting: Honolulu, HA, September 15-19, theme: Conserving Fishes (GET FROM RECORDING)
 - iii. Evaluating for welcoming environment at the meeting for all
 - iv. Membership in the parent society continues to decline (~7500) used to be ~9000
 - v. Next meeting is in Santonio, TX
 - vi. Another meeting GET FROM RECORDING
 - vii. SDAFS meeting in future:
 - 1. 2026 GET FROM RECORDING
 - 2. 2027 New orleans
 - 3. 2028 Mississippi
 - 4. 2029 Puerto Rico
 - viii. Sandra and Jill asked about getting in contact with members of parent/division and having a hard time
 - ix. Sandra brought up that the parent society should push/promote more benefits for membership and give access to those benefits (i.e. helpful training documents, travel funding for early career (define early career
- IV. Michael Murphy-MS Wildlife Federation liaison
 - a. Working on various exhibits, programs, and events such as:
 - i. Habitat Stewards: transitioning to the boys and girls clubs
 - ii. Youth fishing events- March 23
 - iii. Mississippi Wildlife Extravaganza- July 26-28
 - iv. Biloxi boat show and kids fishing 101- March 8-11
 - b. Engaged in the following environmental projects:
 - i. Mississippi Sound Estuary Program
 - ii. Lower Mississippi River Study
 - iii. The Northern Gulf Institute: public meeting about the Bonnet Carre Spillway
 - iv. The Corps of Engineers completed its consultation process with NMFS
 - v. MWF is following the lawsuit the Mississippi Sound Coalition has filed against the Corps of Engineers and determining impacts to the Mississippi sound
- V. EXCOM meeting review and President's Report- Michael Andres
 - a. Many meetings to prepare
 - b. Undergraduate sponsorship for meeting
 - c. 50th meeting plans and logo design contest was conducted
 - i. Wes Neal designed new logo
 - d. Helped with 50th Panel
 - e. Submitted reports to SDAFS and AFS
 - f. Reorganizing Google Drive files/folders
 - g. Handled selection process for student research awards
 - h. Donated to the Tennessee chapter to host the 2023 SDAFS meeting
- VI. President-Elect Report – Jeremy Higgs
 - a. Planned 2024 50th meeting
 - b. Secured support for meeting and got some soft funding for next year
 - c. Special thanks to moderators of the meeting:

- i. Logan Collom,
 - ii. Calvin Chee
 - iii. Adele Taber
 - iv. Kasea Price
 - v. Ceci Quesada
 - vi. Josh Perry
 - d. Esteemed gratitude to the 50th meeting panel
 - i. Special thanks to the student subunit presidents
 - ii. Special thanks to the other panelists: Dennis Rieke, Nancy Brown-Peterson, Mark Peterson, Jim Franks, Eric Hoffmayer, Todd Slack,
- VII. New Business – Michael Andres
- a. Acknowledged
 - i. Big thank you to Jeremy for planning
 - ii. Sponsors for the meeting (CCA, USM GCRL, USM School of Ocean Science and Engineering, CFRD, MS State Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, MDMR, MDWFP)
 - b. Host SDAFS in 2028
 - i. Where do we want it?
 - ii. Four years to plan
 - iii. Need volunteers to begin planning process:
 - 1. Jill Hendon, Mike Andres, Jeremy Higgs are volunteering so far
 - 2. Request for new volunteers and chairs of committee members
 - a. Dennis Reike volunteered for sponsorship chair
 - b. Fundraising needs to be filled 1st
 - c. GET OTHER CHAIRS FROM RECORDING
 - 3. Last meeting preparations took 2 meetings and made money (money was split between MSAFS and SDAFS)
 - 4. Will begin to start requesting volunteers formally
 - iv. Host social at aquarium
 - v. Start thinking about the theme to announce
- VIII. MSU Subunit Report – Adele Taber
- a. Thanking sponsors for donating to silent auction (\$2000)
 - b. 20 consistent members
 - c. Matt Wagner speaker
 - d. Workshops:
 - i. Electrofishing
 - ii. Trailering
 - iii. Radio telemetry to come
 - iv. Fish ID to come
 - e. Future speakers coming in the future
 - f. Thanks to all other officers
- IX. USM State Subunit Report – Alyssa Pagel
- a. Introduced officers

- b. Events
 - i. Included undergrads
 - ii. Beach cleanup
 - iii. Fly tying workshop
 - iv. 13th Merryfishmas fun run
- c. Events to come:
 - i. Clothing swap
 - ii. New events to come: SEE SLIDES
- d. Scholarships: 1,000 dollars in awards
- e. Finance report
- f. Live auction-1700 and silent auction-1000 for 2024 meeting
- X. Presentation of Student Research Awards – M. Andres
 - a. Rose Divya (MS State) - \$500
 - b. John Nguyen (MS State) - \$500
 - c. Breelyn Bigbee
 - d. Alyssa Pagel
- XI. Presentation of Student Presentation Awards – M. Andres and J. Higgs
 - a. Acknowledged students for their quality of work
 - i. talks, posters student presentations (undergrads present)
 - ii. Thanked CCA for the student presentation awards
 - 1. Jeremy spoke on behalf of FJ Eike about support of students
 - iii. Thanked all of the judges
 - 1. Peter Allen, Nancy Brown-Peterson, Sandra Correa, Robbie Ellwanger, Nicky Faucheux, Paul Grammer, Jill Hendon, Jeremy Higgs, Wes Neal, Mark Peterson, Dennis Riecke, Matt Wagner
 - b. Best Poster – Logan Robinson - \$100
 - c. 3rd place talk – Lindsay Bomgardner - \$100
 - d. 2nd place talk – David Pounders - \$200
 - e. 1st place talk – Michaela Palmieri - \$300
 - i. Get with students to pay after meeting
- XII. Presenting C.A. Schultz Conservation Award- M. Andres
 - a. Matt Wagner
- XIII. Service awards presented– M. Andres
 - a. Acknowledged: Tom Holman, Life time achievement award of Excellence in Public Outreach – Jill Hendon
 - b. Executive Committee Service Awards
 - i. President- Robert Leaf
 - ii. Outgoing student subunit presidents- Elizabeth Greenheck and Josh Stafford
- XIV. Election of President Elect and S/T – M. Andres
 - a. Must be current national and MS member to vote
 - b. Presidents:
 - i. Ryan Jones (MDWFP)
 - ii. Robbie Ellwanger (MMNS, MDWFP)
 - iii. Christian Shirley (USFWS)

- c. President elected: Ryan Jones
- d. Secretary/Treasurer:
 - i. Kasea Price (USM)
- e. Secretary/Treasurer elected: Kasea Price
- XV. 51st Annual MSAFS Meeting Discussion– J. Higgs and M. Andres
 - a. Joint Meeting?
 - i. Arkansas, meet a week off from is Dylan Honn is president elect, soon to be president
 - ii. Tennessee
 - b. Locations suggestions
 - i. Starkville
 - ii. Waterways station, is that a possibility? Stoneville, lodging would be an issue
- XVI. Call for other new business
 - a. Increasing meeting days: full 3 or 2 days
 - i. Call for suggestions to modify meeting:
 1. Moving meeting earlier on first day, have talks that day
 2. Lightning talks for students
 3. Student/professional development
 - a. Student mentor lunch on first day of meeting, mentor pays and match up with an unknown mentor
 - i. Student subunits put together list of students interested
 - ii. Mentors volunteer
 - b. Pole students for events they would enjoy for each year
 - i. Add to member survey
 4. Adding a symposium to next meetings
 - a. Process based Ecosystem Restoration suggested Loren Stearman (get with him for further clarification)
 5. Adding a technical workshop with skills gained or certification
 6. Dedicating a day for just students talking, so undergrads or grads that can only come one day can participate
 - a. Register for a single day
 - b. Help with justification for students
 7. Adding a presentation on membership for students and new members in order to understand benefits of being a member
 - a. Is there a video from national?
 - b. A few current members give personal stories/input
 8. Brought up certification as professional scientist and we could provide a CE courses workshop or training session for those interested in getting certified
 - a. Add to survey for members
 - b. Call for chapter history to be sent to Jeremy Higgs and Jill Hendon to be added to a repository.
 - i. Pictures
 - ii. Documents

iii. Certificates

iv. Stories

v. See if we can add to the website

XVII. J. Higgs closed meeting at 12:59