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Minutes, Business Meeting

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Minutes, Business Meeting

MINUTES

Business Meeting 24th Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The 24th annual meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council was held at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, Louisiana on 16 April 1998, site of the 1998 meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). Executive Committee members attending were Melvin L. Warren, Jr. (Chair) and Gerald R. Dinkins (Secretary). Mary C. Freeman (Treasurer) was unable to attend. Mel called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

Mel stated the 1997 SFC meeting minutes were published in the most recent issue of the Proceedings. In the interest of time, Mel asked that the reading of the minutes be waived. Those in attendance were asked to quickly review the minutes and, if necessary, provide input or corrections to Gerry. A motion was made to accept the 1997 meeting minutes, and was carried by voice vote.

Mel recognized Gerry Dinkins and Steve Walsh for their efforts putting together the 1998 SFC button depicting the recently described Cherokee darter, *Etheostoma scotti*. Gerry stated he would be taking suggestions for next year's button, which would mark the 25th anniversary of SFC. Hank Bart responded that the snail darter would be an appropriate subject, and he has a rendition by Mark Sabaj that could be used. Gerry agreed to coordinate with Hank for next year's button.

Mel then yielded the floor to Steve Walsh for the reading of last year's Treasurer's report (the financial statement is at the end of the minutes). Before the meeting, Steve circulated copies of the Treasurer's report, and summarized expenditures as presented in the report. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mel stated that in conjunction with the 1997 meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, he, Steve Walsh, Mary Freeman, Bernie Kuhajda, and Gerry Dinkins met to discuss ways to increase distribution of the Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings. An outcome of that meeting was the formation of an ad hoc Editorial Committee. Bob Cashner was then given the floor and provided a report of the editorial committee's most recent meeting. Bob discussed changes which have been suggested to the SFC bylaws pertaining to editorial review of the Proceedings.

Mel brought up the subject of changes to SFC bylaws relative to the Editorial Board, and opened the floor for discussion of the proposed changes. Following a discussion of appointing versus electing editorial board members, and whether the editor and associate editor should serve synchronous terms, a motion was made and carried by voice vote to change the SFC bylaws relative to the Editorial Board. Mel stated that the SFC would publish changes to the bylaws in a future issue of the Proceedings.

Turning to committee reports, Mel asked for a report from

the Resolutions Committee. Dave Etnier reported on the need for a consensus to modify the SFC resolution to the US Forest Service pertaining to the stocking of hatchery trout in smoky and yellowfin madtom habitat in Citico Creek. It was agreed that the resolution would ask the Forest Service to stock trout where they historically have been stocked, and to no longer stock trout within madtom habitat. Steve Walsh reminded everyone that SFC had submitted a resolution to DuPont stating our opposition to their proposed titanium mine near the Okefenokee Swamp. Steve provided an update on the proposed mine and DuPont's efforts to push ahead with the project using a conflict resolution group. Mel spoke about his efforts last year to develop a resolution urging ASIH to accept a representative from the SFC on the Environmental Quality Committee and AFS's Endangered Species Committee. Mel also spoke of the SFC's resolution supporting his initiative to develop a list of imperiled fish species emphasizing the southeast. To that end, a committee has been formed, comprised of Wayne Starnes, Dave Etnier, Rick Mayden, Steve Walsh, Bob Cashner, Brooks Burr, Bernie Kuhajda, Henry Robison, Dean Hendrickson, and Gary Garrett. Mel and Brooks Burr are co-chairs. Mel provided a schedule for completing the project, and said the committee thus far has considered 640 taxa, including 49 undescribed species. When the project is complete, outside reviewers will be asked to review and comment on the list prior to publication. Mel informed the group that the US Forest Service has verbally committed to match money for color plates. Mel plans to go to various funding sources for donations. The floor was opened for discussion whether SFC should donate money out of its treasury to support the publication in general and color photography in particular. A motion was made for SFC to provide \$500 and was carried by voice vote.

Turning to old business Mel turned the floor over to Hank Bart, who informed the meeting that SFC now has tax exempt status. Hank discussed what has to happen to keep this status, and said for now he will be in charge of SFC's tax file. A round of applause was given for Hank's diligent efforts to finally resolve SFC's nagging problem of tax status.

Regarding updating SFC's web site, Steve Walsh had no recent information.

Turning to new business, Mel stated that the Executive Committee wishes to advertise in the North American Native Fish Association (NANFA) that SFC buttons are available. Dave Etnier mentioned that NANFA will be meeting at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga within the next month. A motion was asked for and carried by voice vote to place an announcement in the NANFA newsletter about the availability of SFC buttons for \$3.00 each, with group discounts for multi-button purchases.

Mel said that Steve Stevenson had spoken to him about combining the Northwest and Southwest Regions. In support of combining these regions, Frank Pezold said the regions in question are on the outside edge of SFC's stated area of concern (according to SFC's constitution), and have never been well represented at the annual meeting. Mel responded by saying the Executive Committee would prefer to see a change such as this be carried out by referendum in an official SFC newsletter. Hank Bart suggested it might help if one person reported for both regions. Hank's suggestion was well received, and Mel stated that in the future, one person will be allowed to report for both Region V and VI

Moving to the Regional Reports, Steve Walsh noted Noel Burkhead was unable to attend and present the report for Region II (Southeast) due to health reasons.

Dave Etnier provided an update for the Region III (North-Central) report, and began by reporting *Noturus hildebrandi* was collected by a TVA survey crew in Birdsong Creek (western tributary to the lower Tennessee River). For this species to occur there naturally would mean it jumped over the Big Sandy River, indicating a bait-bucket introduction. Dave also reported that Pat Rakes and J.R. Shute of Conservation Fisheries, Inc. are attempting to propagate *Percina copelandi* as a surrogate for *P. aurora*. However, much difficulty is being encountered.

Frank Pezold (Region VI) had no new news to report for the Southwest Region. Neil Douglas (Region V) reported he has live pallid sturgeons in his laboratory.

Mel Warren asked for any other items of interest; none were forthcoming, and a motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and the meeting concluded.

Southeastern Fishes Council Treasurer's Report, April 1998

Checking Account Balance, 16 April 1997 \$1,794.02

Dues and Contributions,
16 April 1997 through 8 April 1998:

Past dues	\$20.00
1997 dues	\$2,060.00
1998 dues	\$320.00
1999 dues	\$20.00
Proceeds from Button sales	\$172.00
Contributions	\$15.00

TOTAL: \$2,607.00

Expenditures, 16 April 1997 through 8 April 1998:

Proceedings # 35, printing cost	\$823.62
TN Secretary of State (annual report)	\$20.00
1998-edition Buttons, production cost	\$215.80
Proceedings # 36, printing cost	\$1,154.34
Proceedings # 36, reprint charge, pp. 7-9	\$47.70
Proceedings # 36, postage	\$154.53

TOTAL: \$2,415.99

Checking Account Balance as of 8 April 1998: \$1,985.03

Paine Webber Cash Fund as of

31 December 1997:	\$2,786.10
Reported Fund, 31 December 1996	\$2,650.53
Earned interest and adjustments, 1997	\$135.57

Total Assets \$4,771.13

Current paid membership stands at 117 individuals and institutions. Complimentary copies of Proceedings #36 were sent to Zoological Record and the American Museum of Natural History. Members as of 1996 who did not renew in 1997 was 35 (however, 1997 dues were still coming in as late as February 1998).