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# 2015 Meeting Minutes

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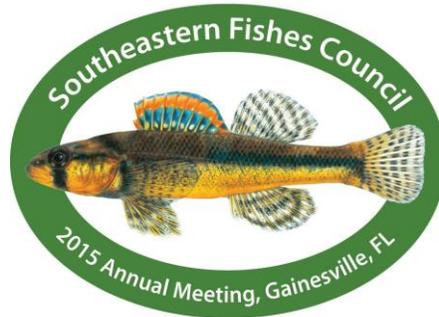
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# 2015 Meeting Minutes

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2015 Business Meeting  
41st Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council  
Gainesville, FL

**Business Meeting: Thursday 12 November 2015**  
**Chair Ginny Adams called meeting to order at 4:15 pm**

### **Report of the Secretary**

**Mollie Cashner:** The 2014 meeting minutes were approved by online survey with 39 votes. Edits and error corrections were made, and the minutes were subsequently uploaded to the SFC website. This process was facilitated by the use of Survey Monkey and was successful, although response was characteristically low for online voting.

Much of the rest of the year was devoted to answering emails and dispersing messages to the membership via email. An additional effort was made to communicate meeting announcements to the SFC Facebook page to enhance social media communication in addition to the focused e-mail communication. Emails have been generally sent to a “contact” list which includes past meeting attendees and members. Only votes for society business (ex. minutes) are targeted to the membership email list. If you are a member but have not received emails, be sure to check your membership account to ensure your email is correct/current.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

**Steve Rider:** Financially – doing well end of the Asheville meeting ~54K in the bank, net gain of \$1800, after meeting. Highest attendance 172 in Asheville. Some of the expenses relate to Wild Apricot (\$424) – useful in keeping information updated.

- Current meeting approximate income \$14K
- Membership for this year 183 members
- After this meeting will have over \$50k in the bank for SFC

- Website – paid ahead for 3 years to compensate for future increase in cost for use of Wild Apricot site.
- Meeting costs – \$19k + tshirt = Net from Gainesville meeting ~\$1800

If you want a copy of treasurer's report, request via email, and it will be sent out.

### **Report of the Committees**

**Nominating Committee:** Rebecca Johansen, Pat Rakes, Chris Skelton

Brook Fluker is being removed from ballot for Treasurer due to his current obligations to editorial process of Proceedings.

Thank you to the nominees who are willing to serve. Ballots distributed and votes cast.

**Awards Committee:** Kyle Piller, Bryn Tracy, Alexis Janosik and Ginny Adams initiated and began offering travel awards for students at the 2015 meeting. The proposal was submitted to the membership for an online vote and passed unanimously (74 votes total). For the 2015 meeting 20 students applied and 10 were awarded travel awards (\$100 each) that encompassed six universities based on a random draw of names. A donation option was added for student travel to the meeting registration and \$595 was donated by a total of 22 members via Wild Apricot, with some additional monies via check.

The Awards Committee puts forth the following motion to the membership:

In honor of founding members of the society that have played a substantial role in the mentorship and development of students throughout the years, the Awards Committee would like to make a motion for the naming of the following awards:

The student travel award will be named the Boschung Student Travel Award.

The best student oral presentation award will be named the Etnier Best Student Presentation Award.

The best student poster presentation will be named the Suttikus Best Student Poster Presentation Award.

Call for vote: Unanimous voice vote – motion passed

**Resolutions Committee:** Rebecca Johansen, Pat Rakes, and Chris Skelton  
Wayne Starnes brings resolution to floor:

Resolution – SFC standing 11<sup>th</sup> Student Travel Award to be named the Wild Turkey Travel Award, in honor of Bo & David Etnier

Motion to accept resolution:

B. Kuhajda – great ideas

T. Near – Wild Turkey 101; clarification

W. Starnes – 11<sup>th</sup> award to add to the 10 standing awards and Call 101<sup>st</sup> Travel Award

Near, second

All in favor – unanimous pass with “ayes” Resolution passes

**Program Committee:** Jim Williams

Overview of Gainesville meeting

- Number of states: 15 (furthest away, Hawaii) – Loyal Merhoff
- Total attendance: 136
- Student attendance: 47
- States with highest attendance: TN (28), FL (23); GA (17), AL (17), AR (13)

**Constitution Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Proceedings Committee:** Ben Keck and Brook Fluker

Online format – 3 articles published, 3 in process, one will be published soon, the other two are waiting for revisions. Over 1600 downloads since the website is up. We have an international readership. The State Reports for 2015 will be published in February 2016.

Review process – average of 49.5 days for an initial decision from submission. 20% rejection rate. No page or figure charges. Working on being listed by DOAJ – need to name an editorial board that provides direction to the journal, also have to split old issues up (by article, vs. by issue). The UT Library is working on splitting the PDFs up from past issues to help facilitate this transition. Once those main tasks are complete, we can submit application to DOAJ.

Plea – submit articles: original research articles, notes (range expansions, etc).

B. Fluker – Ben has done a good job in making our progress so far.

J. Williams asked if every time a new pdf is generated, can we send an email to membership to encourage membership involvement and ms submission.

**Technical Advisory Committee:** SFC responded to one call for action in 2015 related to proposed dams on the Pascagoula River, update by J. Schafer/J. Williams

K. Piller drafted the letter that went out on behalf of the SFC.

J. Schafer: Army Corps received a lot of noise about Pascagoula impoundment. Active backlash from locals. This particular one was problematic, because the Corps found oil spill money (BP Deep Water Horizon) to pay for it, which elicited fears that Corps would go around the normal channels.

J. Williams, K. Piller, and J. Schafer on top of it. Staying in contact with press and politicians. Appears to be dead due to high degree of negative pushback from public in Mississippi. Seems to have been averted, but must keep vigilant.

G. Adams – remember to bring these types of issues to our ExCom to keep our conservation and environment issues active.

**Membership Committee:** Jim Williams

G. Adams – Total members 2015 = 187, including 52 student members

J. Williams – information for ways to encourage local participation:

FL Chapter of AFS. Recommend getting info to Southern Division of AFS for meeting advertisement. Focus on regional state Chapters and send through newsletter process (no postage necessary).

G. Adams – new members present at this meeting, which is one of the goals of moving around the meeting location.

**Website Committee:** Jake Schaeffer

Abstract and process went well.

On website, Noel Burkehead began list of fishes with pictures, call for volunteers to update and maintain list on website. If interested contact Jake.

**Meeting Site Committee:** Presentation of locations for a vote- Jackson, MS meeting venue, Matt Roberts suggested the MMNS, which has lots of space for oral presentations (~200+ seats), large area for social and poster session (alcohol allowed on grounds). One negative is that the museum is not walkable from the hotel to the venue. Possible to hire/volunteer shuttle rides to the

hotels from the meeting. Opportunities for social, cook out, etc. Hotels Hilton & Marriott walkable distance to food.

Cost to SFC to meeting in Museum, no charge at all. Food and transportation would be the only costs to SFC.

C. Williams – See if hotels will provide shuttle service

G. Adams – is it available for this time?

C. Williams – hold meeting 2-weeks before Thanksgiving. We should look at 2016 Veteran's Day schedule for dealing with travel for federal employees.

M. Wagner – We can check with museum to determine scheduling.

C. Williams – Does the museum have a caterer?

M. Wagner – The museum has catering kitchen, so catering on site doable.

B. Alford – Children's science museum in Jackson is walkable

B. Kuhajda – Veteran's Day is on Friday in 2016, would possibly interfere with federal employees during the meeting.

C. Williams – It creates problems with federal employees working on holidays.

B. Kuhajda – Academic's need Thursday and Friday meeting. Possible Nov 3&4

J. Williams – An earlier week will run into Southeastern Naturalist's meeting, advantages to meeting the 2 weeks before Thanksgiving.

Chair Adams – Call for vote in Jackson, MS.

Unanimous approval

2017, Chattanooga local committees have agreed to host...

Start thinking about 2018, local committees think about volunteering.

### **Old Business**

Investing money – need volunteers to populate a committee to investigate.

Chair Adams – Suggest taking money in the bank and look at investment options.

Call for volunteers to be part of the committee

Cindy Williams

Chair Adams – want to have some suggestions brought to the floor of society with options.

### **New Business**

Election Results:

Secretary – Matt Wagner

Treasurer – Michael Sandel

Chair Elect – Tanya Darden

At this point Chair Adams would normally hand over authority to Chair Elect from 2013. Due to his current condition, Piller asked that Ginny will take over until he is recovered.

Move

Second

Unanimous approval

SDAFS – Wes Porak is a new member of ExComm of SDAFS. Here to improve communication between SFC and SDAFS. Send any communication information to W. Porak. This way we can improve communication between committees. Andrew Taylor – student at OK state, ensures that there are conservation biodiversity researchers at SDAFS, encouraging SFC membership participation in SDAFS. Committees and board positions available. There is an email list serve with jobs, grants, academic positions available if join list serve. You don't have to be AFS member to give a paper at a meeting. Trying to promote linking website to SFC website. Mutual co-operation between societies to help advertise meetings through both types of organizations.

Chair Adams – SDAFS link multiple organizations that engage in aquatic research. Nongame aquatics committee. Need a presence of people to participate in these committees.

S. Rider – B. Wagner chair. S. Rider was chair, but participation was lacking.

B. Alford – Warmwaters Stream Chair, discussion of joining the Nongame aquatics committee being subsumed to Warmwaters Stream Committee (in AFS).

S. Rider – Contact difficult to get enough people without other obligations – difficult to make multiple committees relevant to lots of people. Suggest melting together instead of resurrecting the Nongame committee.

W. Porak – Looking to emphasize a significant component of conservation into SDAFS. Encourage bringing the science to as many venues as possible and want to bring the conservation component (therefore SFC membership) to participate in SDAFS. Another venue/format to get information out.

W. Starnes – combine warmwater + diversity as a single committee to make it maybe more appealing in a conservation format.

W. Porak – will reach out to see if the diversity committee is amenable.

B. Alford – 2 years ago subsume nongame into warmwater (voted against), the following year, no members showed up to participate. Recruitment is problematic.

C. Williams – SDAFS session on crayfish; lots of nongame people.

B. Kuhajda – Worry about more meetings resulting in meeting fatigue and resulting low attendance.

T. Darden – lots of SFC participation that already attends the SDAFS.

J. Williams – link of SDAFS on SFC website, and vice versa to encourage advertisement and communication between the societies. Trying to meet with multiple meetings, regional issues, because SDAFS has a larger breadth than the SFC focus so, some issues may be strictly regional.

P. Rakes – membership discount for SFC members to join SDAFS?

W. Porak – possible.

P. Rakes – “nongame” is derogatory, rebrand the name to diversity.

M. Cantrell – Proceedings could be a great place for SDAFS members to look for possible publication opportunities.

B. Albanase – more exposure to the nongame committee meetings could improve participation.

J. Williams – disconnect with AFS headquarters, treatment of conservation papers when sent to Fisheries, strong restrictions on publications of that nature. These conservation papers are highly cited in Fisheries, but seems that a priority is not placed on those. Seems to be a severe disconnect. However, the SDAFS seems to be doing a good job in conservation.

C. Williams – there have been a lot of changes in the national level.

Chair Adams – Recommend that any SFC students may participate in SDAFS and participate in the Warmwater Committee. There are 2 workshops (data management) & symposium (sampling techniques). Other training workshops through other committees. Next year any SFC members encouraged to participate.

J. Freedman – 2017, national AFS in Tampa. Think about SFC participation.

W. Porak – national meeting, expecting ~3000 attendees.

M. Wagner – Confirmed that there will be no charge for MS museum venue.

C. Williams – Greg Moyer left. No conservation geneticists. Looking for a replacement, look out for a new announcement soon. Looking for conservation genetics work at Warm Springs, GA. Good lab, lots of work, sturgeon, darters, etc. If anyone is interested or know someone who is interested, please give Cindy email so she can add your email to her list.

B. Kuhajda – move to adjourn

S. Rider – seconded

Meeting adjourned at 4:20