

Minutes of the 2008 Business Meeting Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

The 2008 annual business meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held January 30, 2008, in Eatonton, GA. President Scott Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Thirty-eight (38) members were present, constituting a quorum. Scott welcomed all of those present and Don Harrison handed out copies of the agenda. The agenda was approved.

Secretary/Treasurers Report: Joel Fleming passed out the treasures report and minutes from the last meeting to everyone in attendance. Joel reviewed the transactions over the last calendar year. Scott added that the chapter was doing fairly well financially, noting that we typically do not generate a lot of income but that we do not really need a lot of income. Scott also noted several solicitations for donations this year, most of which he turned down. A motion to accept the report and minutes as written was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Past-President Report: Past-President Ted Will had nothing to report.

Financial Audit Committee Report: Ted Will noted that no financial audit was required this year, and that these are only necessary every other year. Scott did asked for volunteers to sit on next year's audit committee. Bill Davin stated that he would volunteer on this committee.

Awards: Scott stated that the awards ceremony would take place at the Social later that evening. Steven Patrick thanked everyone that submitted nominations for awards. Scott noted that we would be discussing the naming of some of these awards under the "new business" section of this meeting.

Membership/Student Affairs: Rebecca Brown asked Joel Fleming how many had paid in for 2007. Joel replied, stating that he did not know how many members were "current" with payments for their memberships but that the 2007-2008 national roster had 87 members at that time, but that does not include the members that paid their GA AFS dues at the meeting. Scott stated that, if anyone knows someone that is not a member, ask them to join, noting that our numbers have gone down slightly over the last few years. Cecil Jennings stated that it is very convenient to pay for GA AFS dues when submitting the national membership dues. Scott followed by encouraging everyone to become national members.

Resolution/Environmental Concerns: Ted Will indicated that there were no reports from the resolution and environmental concerns committees. Scott noted that this committee provides an excellent opportunity for the chapter to submit opinions on certain issues throughout the state, using the states current water resources allocation issues as an example. He encouraged future participation in this committee.

Progrom/Local Arrangements: Scott stated that there was nothing to report on the local arrangements and stated that he hoped the accommodations met everyone's needs.

Southern Division Report: Cecil Jennings, Southern Division Vice-President, presented an update on Southern Division and parent chapter activities. He began by stating that the mid-year meeting was coming up on February 28th in Wheeling, West Virginia. He encouraged everyone to attend. He stated that, at the annual meeting in San Francisco last fall, Tennessee won the award for the best small chapter and East Carolina won the award for the best sub-unit.

Cecil stated that this was the first year that the Southern Division started voting electronically and that this went very well. He stated that Fred Jackson was voted Vice President and that he (Cecil) would be moving up to the position of President Elect at the West Virginia meeting. He went on to say that Steve McMillan would be moving into the position of President.

Cecil stated that the Southern Division created a formal disaster relief program which was inspired by situations in Mississippi and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. He noted that the southern division scrambled to offer professional supplies to fisheries professionals in those areas, but the process was done in an ad hoc fashion. This activity clearly demonstrated the need for a more formal process and that is one of the things that the southern division has been working on over the past year. He noted that the parent society meeting was to be held in August in Ottawa, Canada and encouraged all to participate.

He discussed the Hutton student program, briefly describing the program. He then stated that the deadline for submitting new nominations for this program was coming up soon.

Cecil began explaining that Fred Heidtman (past president) has an interest in getting more AFS member professionally certified and has been on a campaign to encourage people to do so. Cecil encouraged everyone to become certified as a Fisheries Scientist through GA AFS. Scott then thanked Cecil for his report.

Student Sub-unit Reports: Kevin McAbee presented and update from the UGA student sub-unit and noted that they were very active this last year. The sub-unit had participated in several outreach activities including: Rivers Alive efforts, outdoor adventure day, a crappie tournament, UGA recycles day and training 15-20 members in the “Project Wet” campaign. Scott thanked the sub-unit for all of their hard work this year.

Old Business: Scott Robinson began by stating that last year we decided to contribute \$500.00 to the GA Wildlife Federation to support a kids fishing camp. He noted that there were some problems that arose and that it did not make it off the ground last year. They also received some significant donations from other entities and they plan to proceed with the camp this year. No other old business was discussed.

New Business: Scott Robinson opened the floor to new business. Scott stated that several people had mentioned that they would like to discuss the GA Water coalition during this meeting and get opinion as to whether this chapter should sign on the Coalition. Janet Pearson, a member of the coalition, described the coalition and discussed her involvement in the organization and highly recommended GA AFS participation. Scott opened the floor for discussion on the subject. The members discussed capacity in which they could join the coalition, talking about the factors and potential negative factors that would be involved in joining. After a great deal of discussion, Russ England then volunteered to represent GA AFS in the coalition and several members stated that they thought he would be a good representative. The members discussed how to move forward, within AFS procedure, from this point. A motion was made to join the GA Water Coalition and the motion was seconded. The motion then passed.

Scott Robinson then stated that at this time he would like to discuss the potential for naming awards after certain individuals, as the chapter had received several of these requests over the past year. Scott stated that the executive committee could not find any precedence for this in the GA or Southern Division Chapters. He stated that they found awards that were named after people but could not find any procedures for this action. One of the members stated that, for several scholarships within the Southern Division, the naming is done yearly through a motion from one of the members. After a great deal of discussion about the rules of AFS, Cecil Jennings suggested that a committee should be formed to develop nomination and evaluation criteria for candidates to

develop proper procedures to ensure a totally transparent process. Scott Robinson then stated that he thought the issue should probably be tabled and that executive committee could discuss and further clarify the issue for the next meeting.

Patti Lanford stated that last year we discussed sending the “best student paper award” recipient to the Southern Division to present there. There was a discussion about the cost associated with that action and the timing of the two meetings presenting a problem. Many other points were discussed and Scott Robinson stated that the tasks the award committee to come up with a resolution on this subject and present it next year to the chapter for further discussion.

No other new business was presented.

Nominating Committee: Joe Slaughter stated that the committee accepted nominations for the president elect over the past year. He explained that the only person to be nominated for this position and accept the nomination was Brent Hess. The floor was opened to additional nominations and none were submitted. Scott noted that there really was not a need for an election unless someone objected to this nomination. There were no objections and Brent agreed to serve as President Elect.

Incoming President: Don Harrison presented Scott Robinson with the Past-President plaque and thanked him for his service. Scott then announced that Don is now officially the chapter’s president and turned the meeting over to him. In closing, Don made a call for supervisors to encourage their employees to become involved and for new employees to become familiar with and willing to serve the chapter. He then made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer