

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting -- Education Section
2008 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society
Ottawa, Ontario
August 17, 2008

- I. **Call to Order**—Meeting was called to order by President Tom Kwak.
- II. **Introduction of Guests**—Kwak recognized Past Presidents Al Zale, Joe Margraf, Chris Kohler, Brian Murphy, and Donna Parrish, AFS President Mary Fabrizio, AFS Second Vice-President Wayne Hubert, and the AFS Constitutional Consultant, Gwen White. He also recognized current officers of the Education Section including the President-elect, Steve Chipps, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Quist.
- III. **Determination of Quorum**— A quorum (10% of membership) was present and confirmed by Quist.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda**—Kwak introduced agenda. Margraf moved to approve the agenda as written; Craig Paukert seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Minutes from 2007 Business Meeting**—Bruce Vondracek moved to approve the minutes from the 2007 Education Section meeting as written; Fabrizio seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- VI. **President's Comments**—Kwak thanked Section members for their work this past year and acknowledged the efforts of the EXCOM. Kwak noted that the past year was very busy for the Section. The Subsection was given praise for their leadership and level of activity. Kwak suggested that the Section is the best Section in AFS, but that we are not using our talent to the fullest extent. To further increase the visibility and activity of the Section and to capitalize on the talents of Education Section members, Kwak requested that members contact him with new initiatives for the Section.
- VII. **Treasurer's report**—Quist presented the Treasurer's report. Total assets of the Section as of August 17, 2008 were \$156,693.47. Income from the previous year was \$5,725.73, and expenditures were \$39,877.70.
- VIII. **Report by AFS officer**—President Fabrizio thanked members for remaining active in the Section and AFS. Fabrizio reported that the Governing Board has been busy with old and new business and specifically thanked T. Kwak for his contributions to the Governing Board. Several activities of the Governing Board were highlighted, including efforts to draft a policy statement on the use of lead by the fishing tackle industry, a change in how proceeds from the AFS annual meeting are allocated to local chapters (20% of proceeds versus the historical level of 10%), and efforts to revise the AFS

strategic plan which will include the use of focus groups to provide feedback on how AFS is meeting the needs of members. Fabrizio also noted that membership of young professionals continues to be an issue for attention and that AFS will be working with the Education Section and the Student Subsection to help address issues of recruitment and retention. In the future, all members will have the ability to vote on important issues associated with AFS (e.g., resolutions, policy statements) through an electronic voting system; whereas in the past, only members present at the business meeting were able to cast a vote. Lastly, Fabrizio discussed a new initiatives procedure that would allow for the allocation of extra funds at the end of the year. These funds will be used to improve services of AFS to the membership. Two categories of funds will be available. The first category of funds is for unit services where chapters, divisions, et cetera can apply for seed money to support activities and initiatives. Funds allocated to unit services must be repaid to the parent society. The other category focuses on member services. Funds can be requested by anyone, but the activity should service the AFS membership.

IX. Committee Reports

Newsletter: Newsletter editors, Dan Dauwalter and Rebecca Zeiber were not present to give their report. Kwak thanked the editors for their excellence and long service (4 years). Kwak noted that both editors are stepping down from the committee and that Jesse Fischer at Iowa State University has agreed to serve as editor. Kwak asked the membership to forward names of possible co-editors (i.e., to serve with Fischer) to one of the Section officers.

Web page: The webmaster, Mike Meeuwig was not present to provide a report. Kwak thanked Meeuwig for his hard-work on the website.

Excellence in Fisheries Education: Quist described the award and nomination procedure, and thanked committee members for their service. He noted that committee members serve a three year term and that a student and representatives from the NE Division and S. Division are needed to complete the committee. Mike noted that there were three, well-deserving nominations for the 2008 Excellence in Fisheries Education award. Mike asked Jesse Trushenski to summarize the nomination for Chris Kohler, this year's award winner. Trushenski highlighted Chris' many accomplishments as an educator and his strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate education. C. Kohler thanked the committee for selecting him for the award and noted that this award was the most meaningful award that he has received.

Skinner Committee: Craig Paukert thanked those who served on the 2008 John E. Skinner Memorial Award Committee. The Committee received 45 applications for the Skinner Memorial Award and was able to provide 10 Skinner Awards and five Honorable Mentions.

The 2007 Award winners were: Cindy Chu (Trent University), Robin DeBruyne (Cornell University), Troy Farmer (Auburn University), Scott Favrot (North Carolina State University), Ben Neeley (University of Nebraska), John Niles (West Virginia University), Steven Ranney (South Dakota State University), Jamie Roberts (Virginia Polytechnic), Joshua Schloesser (Kansas State University), and Ryan Woodland (University of Maryland—College Park). Honorable mentions were: Wes Bouska (Kansas State University), David Caroffino (University of Alaska—Fairbanks), Stephen Midway (North Carolina State University), Travis Neebling (Iowa State University), and Ryan Utz (University of Maryland Appalachian Lab).

Student posters/papers: Trent Sutton summarized the process and results from last year's student judging efforts. One best student paper (Kiza Gates) and two honorable mentions (Carrie Holt and M. Meeuwig) were awarded at the 2007 meeting. One best student poster (Melissa Wuellner) was awarded. At this year's meeting, 16 student papers and 3 student posters were selected for judging, based on submitted extended abstracts. Students competing for best paper will present their work during a symposium where all talks are judged by the same panel of five judges. The committee will meet after the symposium to select winners of the best student paper and poster entries and winners will be announced at the AFS business meeting. Sutton noted that Cari-Ann Hayer and Chipps worked on an evaluation that will be used to provide feedback to students not competing for awards at the meeting. Evaluation forms were available in the trade show and poster area. Completed evaluations were to be left in marked envelopes. Evaluations will be compiled and distributed to student presenters after the meeting. Sutton indicated that he will be stepping down as committee chair next year and is looking for a replacement. Parrish encouraged members to participate and noted that an asterisk on the program indicates that the presenter is a student who would like feedback on their presentation.

Program committee: Chipps noted that Education Section activities were well represented at the meeting. Chipps noted that the committee largely focused on the student presentation evaluation form for presentations not being judged for best paper/poster. Chipps also highlighted the student colloquium that will be held during the course of the annual meeting.

Nominating committee: Parrish stated that no elections were held. Two of the division representatives were due for replacement; however, both the North Central Division (Mark Pegg) and Northeastern Division (Randy Jackson) agreed to continue their service. Elections for officers and two division representatives will occur next year. Parrish thanked all of the representatives for their service and requested that anyone who wants to get involved in the leadership of the section (officer or division rep) to contact her by early 2009 to be considered for nomination.

X. Ad hoc committee & Special projects

Fisheries Techniques (3rd edition). Zale told the membership that the book is making progress. Three of the chapters have not been submitted. Of the chapters that have been

submitted, 10 chapters are in their first revision, 3 chapters are in their second revision, and 1 chapter is going through final edits. Zale noted that everything seems to be going smoothly and that all the editors (Zale, Parrish, Sutton) hope to have the book completed by next year's annual meeting.

Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data. Neither editor (Chris Guy, Mike Brown) was present to provide a report. However, Kwak read a portion of the report submitted by Guy. Thus far, over 1,000 copies of the book have been sold. Two book reviews have been conducted, the results of which were published in *Freshwater Biology* and *Quarterly Review of Biology*. Both reviews were very positive. Kwak thanked Guy and Brown for their efforts and noted that the authors are maintaining a website to compile errors and additional software that will be used for future revision.

Inland Fisheries Management in North America (3rd edition). Quist and Wayne Hubert (not present) are serving as editors for the third edition. Quist reviewed the process of structuring the book and selecting authors. The book will contain 21 chapters and will be quite different from previous versions of the book. An ambitious time-line was established: January 1, 2008. To date, 14 of the chapters have been submitted for review and the remainder of the chapters should be very close to submission. Quist reported that all of the chapters received have been well-written, well-organized, and should be of high interest to fisheries students and professionals. Their goal is to have all of the chapters submitted, reviewed, and revised by early next spring.

"Writing" book. Cecil Jennings thanked the Education Section for its support and reminded the membership that he, Vondracek, and Tom Lauer, have volunteered to serve as editors to update the 1990 publication, *Writing for Fishery Journals*. The 1990 publication is woefully out of date. They want to make the book broader than just fisheries journals. The editors originally identified 19 chapters, but have truncated the book to 14 chapters based on recommendations of the AFS Publications Oversight Committee. Jennings noted that the editors had some delays in establishing author "teams", but everything seems to be progressing smoothly. Several of the chapters have been submitted and several are in review.

Standardized sampling book. Scott Bonar thanked Section members for contributions to the book. Dave Willis and Hubert are serving as co-editors with Bonar on this new book. The book includes 15 chapters covering standardized sampling techniques for lakes, ponds, and rivers. Ten partners have contributed funding to support the book and include State and Federal resource agencies. Forty-seven authors from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are contributing to the book. Forty-eight professionals from 33 agencies provided initial reviews of book chapter, followed by an additional 30 second reviews. Bonar also noted that the editors have received comments from seven European agencies. Bonar said that the book is essentially in press and that the hope is to update in the future. Also, Bonar noted that they will provide updated information (e.g., regional averages of population metrics) on the internet.

XI. Additional Reports

- (a) Student Subsection: President M. Wuellner reported that Subsection membership had increased from 50 members in 2007 to 68 members in 2008. Although the increase is good for the Subsection, the Subsection needs to increase its visibility and further increase its membership. One of the goals for the Subsection has been to better integrate their activities with the parent society. Along these lines, the Subsection has facilitated the publication of seven student angles in *Fisheries* in 2008. Wuellner noted that the Subsection undertook an effort, lead by Jeff Jolley, to develop and maintain a database of students interested in providing peer-reviews for AFS journals. Quist noted that the list had not been provided to Associate Editors (AE). Several members serving as AEs (e.g., Quist, Paukert) noted that they would make the database a point of discussion during their AFS editors meeting later in the week. Wuellner informed the membership of “student day” at the meeting, including the student colloquium, student-mentor lunch, and student social. The membership was encouraged to participate in all of these events. Lastly, Wuellner told the membership about the activities on the AFS Membership Committee. The Subsection conducted a survey to help AFS with the on-going problem of recruitment and retention of young professionals. The next step is to discuss results of the survey with the Governing Board and the Education Section, and then identify actions to remedy membership problems.
- (b) Evolution resolution: Kwak discussed the Evolution Resolution and reminded the membership that it was published in the March issue of *Fisheries*. Kwak thanked Jackson for all of his hard work on the resolution and encouraged members to read the article published in *Fisheries* and the background information that Jackson put together (can be accessed from the Education Section website).
- (c) Skinner challenge: Quist gave a summary of the challenge. At last year’s meeting, the membership voted to deposit \$25,000 in the Skinner fund. In addition, the membership voted for the Section to issue a challenge that the Section would match donations to the Skinner fund up to a total of \$25,000. As of the meeting, Quist had received \$5,100 from the following contributors: Fish Culture Section, Computer Users Section, Introduced Fishes Section, Bioengineering Section, Marine Fishes Section, Fish Health Section, Northeast Division, Dakota Chapter, Electric Power Research Institute, Mary Fabrizio and Bill Franzin. In addition, Quist noted that he would be receiving donations from the Fisheries Management Section, Fisheries Administrators Section, Southern Division, Scott LaPatra, and Christine Moffitt.
- (d) Hutton program update and request: Katherine Winkler discussed the summer mentoring program for high-school students and thanked the Education Section for its past support of the program. Winkler highlighted the success of the program and noted that two-thirds of the participants this year were minorities and one quarter of the scholars were female minorities. Two of the Hutton scholars are being mentored by former scholars. Since the beginning of the program, 95%

of the scholars have gone on for higher education and 71% are currently studying or working in the fishery resource field. Kwak discussed some of the issues associated with funding and noted that support by the Education Section is important for the success of the program. Kwak informed the membership that the program requested \$5,000 from the Section and that the EXCOM presents the request as a motion (no second needed). The motion was then discussed at great length. Steve Cooke raised the issue that there are other ways to support minorities (e.g., bringing students into the lab or field) besides the Hutton Program and that 35 students a year is a small proportion of the students that could be reached with alternative methods that require less financial support. He indicated that an additional concern with the request is that the funds partially support an AFS staff member and are, thus, not fully allocated to students. A proposed use of the \$5,000 would be additional funds for the Skinner Award. Kwak clarified the issue of overhead in that 80% of the funds (\$4,000) go to the student and 20% (\$1,000) are used to support AFS staff charged with administering the program. Jason Vokoun asked Winker whether the number of scholars has increased or decreased through time. Winkler responded by saying that the number of scholars has decreased and that the program needs sustainable funding. She also stated that an endowment was suggested to the Governing Board, but that the idea was rejected due to the large amount of funding that would be needed to support the program. Kohler argued that the Section has plenty of funds and should support this effort due to the importance of diversity in our profession. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, Kohler argued that the issue should be taken to the Governing Board. Parrish stated that she agreed with Kohler in principle, but that the membership does not hear about the long-term plans for sustaining the Hutton Program. Margraf also expressed concern of having 20% of the funds going towards overhead for a parent society activity. He argued that if AFS is really trying to improve member services, providing support staff for the Hutton Program should be one of those services rather than requiring units to pay for staff. Steve Lochmann, who chairs the Hutton Oversight Committee, noted that administering the program requires a full-time staff member. If the 20% is not taken from contributions, the program would not exist. Lochmann told the membership that an account does exist for the Hutton Program and is a repository for donations from any unit or individual. Several members indicated that they will support the motion this year, but that they will not support the same request next year if AFS does not begin developing a plan for sustainable funding that removes charging overhead to AFS units for program administration. Motion carried.

- (e) Catfish 2010 symposium and request: Tom Lang told the membership of the plan to have an ictalurid symposium in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2010. The plan is to have about 80 presentations, including 3-5 plenary speakers. The symposium and published proceedings will serve as an update of *Catfish 2000* (AFS Symposium 24). Lang requested \$5,000 from the Section to support the symposium and publish the proceedings, and noted that if the Section supports the effort, they will be acknowledged as a supporter of the meeting and will receive two

complimentary copies of the proceedings. A motion was made by Vondracek to provide \$5,000 to the organizers of the symposium; seconded by Tim Strakosh. Vokoun asked Lang what the Section would receive for \$2,500. Lang responded that the Section would be recognized as contributing, but at a lower funding level. Chipps asked about student participation. Lang responded by saying that students would be able to participate in the symposium. Kwak noted that he was involved in the effort and that it should be well attended by fisheries professionals. Motion carried.

XII. Other Awards and Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Kwak noted that the awards presented at the meeting are not a matter of tradition in that service on a committee does not necessary warrant a certificate of appreciation. Rather, this year's awardees went beyond the "call of duty" in the service to the Section and their respective committees. Dauwalter and Zeiber were not present at the meeting, but both were recognized by Chipps. Chipps read the certificates of appreciation that will be sent to Dauwalter and Zeiber for going beyond expectations associated with the Section's newsletter. Chipps also read a certificate of appreciation for Jackson (not present) for his efforts on the Evolution Resolution. Craig Paukert was present with a certificate of appreciation for going beyond expectations as Chair of the Skinner Memorial Award Committee.

XIII. Old business

None.

XIV. New Business and Announcements

Kwak informed the membership that the Education Section lacks an adequate logo. As such, he has challenged the Student Subsection to administer a logo contest aimed at providing the Section with a logo. Submissions will be due by December 31, 2008 and the Education Section EXCOM will decide on the winner, who will receive an AFS book of their choice.

Kwak also informed the membership that the EXCOM provided \$1,000 to the Equal Opportunity Section for their travel award (no motion needed if \leq \$1,000; just a vote of the EXCOM). White thanked the Section for their continued support of the award.

Joel Carlin from Gustavus Adolphus College made a request to the membership for advice and help with AFS electronic services.

Kwak reiterated his request for new Section initiatives and ideas.

XV. Adjournment

Paukert made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Parrish. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Michael C. Quist, Secretary-Treasurer.