

<b>No. 34</b>	<b>Arrangements Committee</b>	<b>Darrell Bowman</b>
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## **AFS Little Rock 2013 Planning Committee Report for 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting**

To: John Boreman, President

From: Darrell Bowman, AFS Little Rock, General Meeting Chair

Date: August 7, 2013

### **I. Motion Report (2 pages max)**

- A. Recommended Motion: NA
- B. Minority View:
- C. Background for Motion:

### **II. Activity Report (5 pages max)**

- A. Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan.

#### **Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership**

Objective 1.1. Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities (see also Objective 3.4)

#### Strategies

1. Continue to host and sponsor excellent conferences and meetings at local, regional, and international levels of AFS to provide the platform for managers and scientists to exchange ideas.
  - (a) Since receiving bid approval in Nashville, 2009, to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting in Little Rock 2013, the Arkansas Chapter AFS has been planning this important event. A core group of approximately 43 members have planned every detail of the meeting and all meeting major planning details are complete and now being implemented. Based on established regression model for submitted abstracts, attendance was predicted at one of smallest in recent history at 1,200. Budget and associated activities were planned appropriately for the predicted attendance registration fee along with an exceeded goal for local fundraising, and was “in the black” for an estimated \$14K or greater profit. Recent developments with federal government budget cuts mandated by Congress and known as “sequestration” has had an extremely negative impact on the predicted

attendance, now set at 900. Therefore, the meeting budget is likely to go into red if maintained as planned throughout meeting. All vendors in the Little Rock Downtown River Market, City of Little Rock, and especially the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau have been very helpful and hospitable and they look forward to hosting AFS members. The planning team has worked very hard and all socials and events should be very comfortable, accommodating, and enjoyable for the AFS President, Officers, Governing Board, staff, and members to be able to enjoy themselves, network, and conduct the Society's business.

- (b)** AFS Meetings Oversight Committee has recommended that AFS consider hiring a meeting planner for non-program aspects of future meetings. As General Meeting Chair of the Little Rock meeting, after watching my colleagues incredible amount of effort as well the amount of time that I have devoted to this, I recommend that AFS strongly consider following the recommendation of the Oversight Committee – hire a meeting planner for future meetings! Also, I recommend that somehow within that future meeting structure, local fundraising also be conducted by a hired professional that pays their own wage as part of the fundraising effort.

- A.1.      Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education**
- A.2.      Goal 3: Value of Membership**
- A.3.      Other**