

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting -- Education Section  
2007 Annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society  
San Francisco, California  
September 2, 2007

- I. Call to Order**—Meeting was called to order by President Donna Parrish.
- II. Introduction of Guests**—Past Presidents of the Section, Education Section officers and AFS staff were introduced by D. Parrish. D. Parrish recognized Past President C. Kohler and President-elect Mary Fabrizio who were in attendance.
- III. Determination of Quorum**— A quorum (10% of membership) was present and confirmed by S. Chipps.
- IV. Approval of Agenda**—D. Parrish introduced agenda. Gwen White’s addition to the agenda, an update from the Equal Opportunity Section (EOS) in ‘Additional Reports’, was acknowledged and approved.
- V. Approval of Minutes from 2006 Business Meeting**—D. DeVries moved to approve the minutes from the 2006 Education Section meeting as written; C. Paukert seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- VI. President’s Comments**—D. Parrish thanked Section members for their work this past year. Acknowledged efforts of EXCOM members and student judging committing for all their assistance with evolution resolution and student paper/poster judging. President Parrish noted that membership is declining, like other sections, but the Education Section continues to play a vital role for the Society.
- VII. Treasurer’s report**—S. Chipps presented the Treasurer’s report. Total assets of the Section as of September 1, 2007 were \$190,845.44.
- VIII. Report by AFS officer**—Past President C. Kohler thanked members for remaining active in the Section. President Mary Fabrizio reported that the AFS budget is in good shape; mentioned new AFS initiatives to fund projects aimed at online products (electronic services) and highlighted our new electronic journal focused on marine systems. Also noted that *Fisheries* will soon be available as an on-line publication. President D. Parrish mentioned that the Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was not included on AFS banner, only the poster and reminded AFS officers that this is an AFS award administered by the Section.
- IX. Committee Reports**

Newsletter and Web page: Mike Meeuwig asked members to pass along any suggestions/ideas for the webpage. President Parrish asked that we acknowledge Rebecca Zeiber and Dan Dauwalter (neither were present) for their hard work and assistance with the newsletter and to forward on any ideas/suggestion for the fall newsletter.

Excellence in Fisheries Education: Mike Quist described the award and nomination procedure and discussed the committee's efforts to develop a standardized format/application form. He noted that committee members serve a three year term and that a student and representative from NCD are needed to round out the committee. Mike noted that there were three, well-deserving nominations for the 2007 Excellence in Fisheries Education award. Mike asked Andrew Dolloff to summarize the nomination for Eric Hallerman, this year's award winner. Andrew highlighted Eric's many accomplishments as an educator and his strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate education. Brian Murphy pointed out that Eric's picture and bio-sketch were not included on the AFS awards banner and to remind AFS staff that this is an AFS award.

Skinner Committee: Craig Paukert thanked those who served on the 2007 John E. Skinner Memorial Award Committee. The Committee received 57 applications for the Skinner Memorial Award and was able to provide 10 Skinner Awards and five Honorable Mentions. Craig acknowledged Dr. Peter Moyle's generosity; Peter donated \$1,000 to the 2007 Skinner Award fund. Dr. Moyle's donation allowed the committee to provide an additional \$200 of support to five students (honorable mentions) who attended the meeting. The 2007 Award winners were: Jessica Brewster (North Carolina State University), Christin Brown (North Carolina State University), Mark Carter (University of Illinois), Jeff Eitzmann (Kansas State University), Jesse Fischer (Kansas State University), Julianne Harris (North Carolina State University), Jeff Jolley (South Dakota State University), Lisa Kerr (University of Maryland), Bryan Spindler (South Dakota State University), and Melissa Wuellner (South Dakota State University). Honorable mentions were: Nathan Bachelor (North Carolina State University), Kristopher Bodine (Oklahoma State University), Lisa Kamin (University of Alaska), Michael Meeuwig (Montana State University), Norm Ponferrada (University of California-Davis).

Past-president C. Kohler asked Craig how much money was in AFS account for Skinner funds. Craig reminded members that funds are variable from year-to-year depending on the amount of interest earned. In the past, we have been able to provide about 10 Skinner Awards per year with these funds. C. Kohler discussed the need to increase this to potentially 15 awards each year and asked the section to consider donating funds to support this effort. C. Kohler moved that the Education Section develop a strategy to increase the John E. Skinner Memorial fund to allow for 15 full awards each year and that we contribute \$25,000 to the fund; B. Murphy seconded the motion. The floor was open to discussion. T. Kwak wondered if we should let the Skinner Chair determine how much financial support would be needed to provide 15 awards. C. Kohler noted that, regardless of how many additional awards we could provide, we need to set a goal so that the fund is higher. B. Murphy agreed, and noted that we are in a financial position to contribute to this effort; asked if the EXCOM had any plans/needs for section funds (e.g., pedagogical fund). B. Murphy made a friendly amendment to the motion on the floor.... in addition to the \$25,000, the Section would match additional funds, up to \$25,000, contributed by other Sections. Friendly amendment was seconded by C. Kohler and motion carried.

Student posters/papers: T. Sutton summarized process/results from last year's student judging efforts. One best student paper (Kris Homel) and two honorable mentions (Bart Durham and Brent Murry) were awarded at the 2006 meeting. One best student poster (Ann Gulka) and one honorable mention (Belita Nguluwe) were awarded. Because of difficulties in objectively judging student papers/posters, an ad-hoc committee was formed last year to implement new judging guidelines for the 2007 meeting. At this year's meeting, 15 student papers and three student posters were selected for judging, based on submitted extended abstracts. Students competing for best paper presented their work during a one-day symposium (Mon afternoon and Tue morning) where all talks were 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. T. Sutton noted that the committee will work to develop a process for providing feedback to students not competing for awards at next year's meeting. Trent also indicated that he will be stepping down as committee chair next year and is looking for a replacement. Several members had questions/comments about the new judging process. C. Guy recommended that we get feedback from students regarding the new judging process. D. Parrish noted that this would be a good activity for the student subsection and will be incorporated into next years judging effort. S. Cooke commented that lack of participation (i.e., posters) may say something about interest. T. Sutton/D. Parrish noted that the goal this year was to get more completed studies judged, maybe word of mouth will improve participation next year. D. DeVries agreed that word of mouth will help and added that increased participation might burden the committee next year to the point where additional criteria/decisions might be needed. C. Paukert added that the early deadline may restrict some students from participating in the competition. T. Kwak noted that this year is an "experiment" and we welcome any feedback from professionals and students.

Membership Committee: S. Lochmann discussed results from the 'fish contest'. Expectation to recruit new members was not very successful and will not try this as a recruiting effort again next year.

Program committee: T. Kwak noted that Education Section activities were well represented at the meeting. Tom highlighted section-sponsored events that included (1) the student paper symposium, (2) help with the student-mentor luncheon, and (3) the student colloquium, that is now organized by the student subsection.

## **X. Ad hoc committee & Special projects**

Fisheries Techniques (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). A. Zale said the book is slowly progressing. Seventeen of 21 chapters have been completed and reviewed. Acknowledged that the Editors' workloads are part of the hold up with reviews because diverse reviews are making the process time-consuming. Technical writing has been an issue with some chapters, although the content is excellent. Editors are very appreciative of everyone's patience.

Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data. C. Guy said the book is completed. Chris thanked all of the authors for their patience. The book will be distributed by AFS on September 7, 2007. They will develop a web site that has box examples for a variety of statistical software packages. The price of the book is \$98 – not sure about the member/non-member difference in price.

Inland Fisheries Management in North America (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). M. Quist and W. Hubert (not present) are serving as editors for the third edition. Mike discussed the online survey that was used to get an idea of what professionals/students were looking for in a revised edition. They developed a steering committee consisting of Education and Fisheries Management Section members to review/summarize the online survey results and guide the publication process. The editors developed an outline of chapter titles and selected lead authors for each chapter. An ambitious time-line is in place with draft chapters due by January 1, 2008. Mike requested that the Education Section contribute \$5,000 to publication costs for the third edition. Because a formal request was submitted to EXCOM, no motion was solicited and D. Parrish opened the floor for discussion. President Parrish brought the motion to a vote; the motion carried to provide \$5,000 in funding for the third edition.

“Writing” book. B. Vondracek and C. Jennings (not present) have volunteered to serve as editors to update the 1990 publication, Writing for Fishery Journals (J. Hunter, ed.). The 1990 publication is woefully out of date. They want to make the book broader than just fisheries journals and have identified 15 potential chapters, some of which are from the symposium on writing/publishing presented at the 2005 annual meeting in Alaska. About half of the chapters have designated authors. Bruce requested \$5,000 from the Section to help support publication costs. T. Kwak was concerned about changing the title of the book to something more broad; from a marketing standpoint this might affect sales/perception among AFS professionals/students. C. Guy asked if Education Section might get any royalty from sales that are generated. T. Kwak asked who negotiates royalties with AFS – the Section or the Editors? B. Vondracek thinks royalties should come back to the section. C. Paukert asked if the book is to have broad application (e.g. Writing for Natural Resources Journals) would it be composed of diverse authors or fisheries professionals. Similarly, S. Lochmann asked if diverse authors would conflict with fisheries journals? Past-President I. Adelman asked what the \$5,000 would be used for; B. Vondracek replied that most funds would be used to cover printing costs. D. Parrish commented that our mission (Education Section) is important to consider, despite profit (which should be considered less); the important point is that this book meet our students’ needs if broadened. D. Parrish reminded that the 1990 publication definitely needs to be revised. B. Murphy moved that the Education Section contribute \$5,000 to the writing book. A. Zale seconded the motion. D. Parrish opened the floor for discussion (none) then a vote by the membership. The motion carried.

Standardized sampling book. S. Bonar thanked section members for contributions to the book. D. Willis and W. Hubert are serving as co-editors with Scott on this new book. The book includes 15 chapters covering standardized sampling techniques for lakes, ponds, and rivers. Includes information on the spread of invasive/exotic species and

advice on electrofishing. Ten partners have contributed funding to support the book and include State and Federal resource agencies. Forty-seven authors are contributing to the book. Reviews from over 30 different agencies provided input on the first draft. J. Margraf commented that animal use and care protocols should be included in relevant methods sections.

## **XI. Additional Reports**

(a) Hutton program. D. Hawkins discussed the summer mentoring program for high-school students. This year, there were 36 students in the Hutton program working with a variety of state and federal agencies across 21 states. She mentioned that many of these students go on to a career in fisheries. Since 2001, the program has supported 271 students.

(b) Evolution resolution. R. Jackson discussed the evolution resolution. The resolution was presented to the Section for comments/suggestions, then the Resolutions Committee, then to the Governing Board for approval, and will now be voted on by the Society at the business meeting. About 70 other science organizations have adopted similar resolutions against the teaching of alternatives to evolution in science courses. D. Parrish thanked Randy for all of his hard work with this and encouraged members to read the background information that Randy put together (can be accessed from the Education Section website).

(c.) Student subsection. J. Davis noted that subsection membership is around 40-45 and has increased significantly since last year (about 15 members). This year the subsection revised their bylaws and developed a new email list serve set up by AFS for student members ([students@fisheriessci.org](mailto:students@fisheriessci.org)). The subsection business meeting is being held at a different time this year in an effort to enhance participation. The subsection organized the student colloquium on writing/publishing that featured three invited guest speakers; D. DeVries (Editor, Transactions of the American Fisheries Society), M. Quist (Associate Editor, North American Journal of Fisheries Management), and Brad Parsons (Research Biologist, MN DNR). The subsection is planning to revise their procedures manual and get involved with the student/mentor luncheon and student judging activities at next year's meeting in Ottawa. D. Parrish added that door prizes (10 free AFS memberships) will be provided at the student subsection meeting and encouraged students to attend.

\*\* Update from G. White. On behalf of the Equal Opportunity Section (EOS), Gwen thanked the Education Section for financial support for student travel. This year, EOS was able to provide travel funds to support 11 students at the meeting. Gwen also mentioned the EOS luncheon that highlights international student involvement in AFS and encouraged students to participate.

\*\* J. Carlin discussed the AFS Web Advisory Board, the new electronic services committee that is being formed/approved by the Society. The purpose of the committee is to 'fix' and expand online information services; the structure of the committee would include Education Section representation. The Section could provide input on what

services we would like to see offered. Joel volunteered to serve as Education Section representative for the first year and will keep us updated on the progress/evolution of the committee. He is active with the Web Advisory Board; they sponsored a workshop at this year's meeting to help with newsletters, etc...

## **XII. Other Awards and Recognition of Outgoing Officers**

D. Parrish presented Trent Sutton with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in developing and implementing the new student judging criteria.

D. Parrish presented S. Chipps with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as Secretary-Treasurer of the Education Section (2005-2007).

D. Parrish presented Certificates of Appreciation to Jill Jenkins (Southern Division) and Chris Myrick (Western Division) for their service as Division representatives for the Education Section (2005-2007; certificates will be mailed)

## **XIII. Old business**

None.

## **XIV. Installation of New Officers**

Tom Kwak was installed as new President of the Education Section. Steve Chipps was installed as President-elect. Mike Quist was installed as Secretary-Treasurer. Derek Aday was installed as the new Southern Division representative and Dan Dauwalter was installed as the new Western Division representative to the Education Section.

## **XV. Recognition of Past President**

T. Kwak recognized Donna Parrish as Past President of the Section. Tom thanked Donna for her service and leadership over the last two years and presented her the President's Gavel Award.

## **XVI. New President's Address**

T. Kwak discussed the importance of the Section mission in educating and preparing students for professional careers in fisheries science. Tom summarized many of the accomplishments over the past few years related to student activities that included: the student-mentor luncheon, revisions to student paper/poster competition, and the student colloquium. President Kwak also noted that membership (i.e., recruitment) is an important challenge facing the Section and encouraged members to become involved with recruiting new members and highlighting Section activities. Tom will continue working with the student subsection and assist with recruitment of new student members.

Tom said he looks forward to working with the new EXCOM over the next two years and thanked everyone for their participation in the Section.

**XVII. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. C. Kohler seconded. Motion carried.

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