



Minutes of the 2014 NCAFS Annual Business Meeting

Millennium Hotel, Durham, North Carolina
February 19, 2014

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: President Greg Cope called the business meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and received confirmation from Secretary-Treasurer Todd Ewing that enough members were present to constitute a quorum.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME: President Greg Cope welcomed chapter members and visitors to the business meeting. He acknowledged President-Elect Brena Jones for organizing a great annual meeting. President Cope welcomed Mr. Fred Harris and Dr. John Boreman, both of which are past presidents of the American Fisheries Society. President Cope then welcomed Mr. Dave Coughlan, Vice President of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. He also recognized all past-presidents of the Southern Division and Chapter who were present.

AFS PARENT SOCIETY UPDATE: AFS Past President John Boreman discussed some current activities of the [AFS Parent Society](#). The Parent Society has a new Executive Director, Mr. Doug Austen. A major focus of Mr. Austen will be increasing the involvement of marine fisheries workers into the Parent Society. Dr. Boreman also advised us that the Management Committee will be taking on more duties dealing with the day-to-day operations of the Parent Society and that the Governing Board will be dealing with longer-term issues. A major focus of the Governing Board will be advocacy. The current 5-year Strategic Plan is coming to an end and the 2015-2020 Plan is being drafted and should be presented to membership soon. The Parent Society is also evaluating the requirements for becoming a Certified Fisheries Professional. The hope is to make certain that certification requirements mesh with current hiring requirements. Dr. Boreman also reported that the Parent Society is in the process of evaluating and updating their constitution. The goal is to have a more streamlined document. The updates should be available to membership sometime next fall.

[Dr. Boreman presented a Golden Membership Award to Dr. Richard Noble.](#) This award recognizes Dr. Noble's 50 years of membership and service to the American Fisheries Society.

SOUTHERN DIVISION UPDATE: SDAFS Vice President Dave Coughlan reports that the recent [Southern Division Spring Meeting in Charleston, SC](#) was a success. The SC Chapter was able to raise \$40,000 in donations to support the meeting. Elsewhere in the Division, the Striped Bass Committee is very active, proceedings from the Black Bass Symposium are in the process of being published, and the new chapter from Puerto Rico is up and running. Future SDAFS meetings are:
2015 Savannah, GA
2016 Wheeling, WV
2017 Oklahoma

2013 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES: President Cope indicated that the minutes from the NCAFS 2013 Business Meeting were distributed in the [March 2013 Newsletter](#) and that the minutes needed to be approved. President Cope reported that that no additions or corrections to the minutes were received by Secretary-Treasurer Ewing. Therefore, President Cope suggested that a motion be made to have the minutes from the 2013 Business Meeting approved. The motion was made by John Boreman, seconded by John Crutchfield, and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program and Arrangements Committee: Our NCAFS 2014 Meeting Program and [25th Anniversary Poster](#) was completed with an enormous thank you to Bryn Tracy, who went above and beyond the call of duty, and did a tremendous job with some very special materials. Thanks as well to Ann Runyon, for giving permission to use her charming Bluehead Chub illustration in the program; she is a freelance illustrator who creates, among many other things, the illustrations in the back of the Wildlife In North Carolina magazine. Thank you to all the volunteers who offered help, particularly our excellent moderators: AFS Past-President John Boreman, Andrea Leslie, Kim Sparks, and Corey Oakley. A debt of gratitude is owed to Greg Cope and Jim Rice for providing a huge amount of information and guidance in putting the program and celebratory materials together, which also allowed us to correct [the Chapter history on our website](#). Additional thanks for assistance with that effort goes to Dave Coughlan, Mike Abney, Scott Van Horn, Bob Curry, and all the folks who worked hard to put past newsletters online. We also could not have made programs available, posted, full of great content without not only our presenters, but Dr. Joe Hightower, who generously donated the extremely educational Continuing Education workshop on side-scan sonar, and our webmaster and President-Elect, Kim Sparks, who kept the website drafts up to date. This year's program will be added to [the online archives](#) and will include searchable keywords with the [abstracts which will be linked to the podcasts](#) recorded thanks to the hard work of Jessica Baumann, our A/V coordinator. In addition, if any members have paper or electronic copies of pre-2006 meeting programs and abstracts, please submit them to Kim Sparks (kim.sparks@ncwildlife.org) or Brena Jones (brena.jones@ncwildlife.org) so we can add them to our online archives!

Newsletter Committee: Editor Kevin Hining mentioned that the Newsletter Committee, also comprised of Brena Jones, Dave Coughlan, and Ben Ricks succeeded in assembling and [e-publishing four quarterly newsletters in 2013](#) comprised of 71 pages, 45 articles, and 7 spotlights on students and young professionals. Editor Hining thanked all the contributors for continuing to provide information for the newsletter, as well as the student and young professionals that allowed spotlights to be made about them. If anyone has anything they would like to see included, or new ideas regarding the newsletter format, etc., please call or email Kevin Hining at kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org , 336-877-1087.

Environmental Concerns Committee: Greg Cope reported on behalf of Ben Ricks. Ben Ricks graciously agreed to become Committee Chair after the 2013 Annual Meeting and that the two major items that he worked on and got accomplished were providing Chapter support in the form of formal support letters for the Federal Invasive Species Screening Act legislation and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies [National Support Letter for the State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program](#). Ben has agreed to remain Committee Chair for 2014 and members should send him items of concern with which they think the Chapter should be involved.

Education and Outreach Committee: Committee Chair Chris Wood reported that 25 attendants participated in the continuing education workshop titled "[Techniques for Fish Habitat Monitoring using Side-Scan Sonar](#)" taught by Dr. Joe Hightower. Chris also announced that podcasts of the presentations from the Chapter meeting would be available soon on the Chapter website.

Webmaster: Webmaster Kim Sparks reported that this year we added the Podcasts from the 2013 Annual Meeting, and will add the Podcasts from 2014 as soon as they are available. We are also planning to add the [abstracts from previous meetings](#) that have not been posted before. An

[NCAFS Facebook page](#) has been created that can be accessed from the website homepage. The AFS Parent Society is now offering some website support and is providing a tool that we can use to allow more people to participate in contributing to the website. Hopefully we will migrate our existing content to the new site and format sometime this year.

Finance Committee: Chair Todd Ewing reported that the NC Chapter finances look good. Registration and donations for the 2014 annual NC Chapter meeting did not quite meet costs. Costs for the meeting were \$7727.67 and income, including a \$1500 donation from Duke Energy, was \$6745.71. However, the investments have been increasing steadily since funds were transferred to Edward Jones in June of 2011.

NCSU Student Subunit: The [NCSU Student Fisheries Society](#) had another successful raffle. Over \$2000 were brought in to help support the Unit. The Student Subunit meets once per month and Chapter members are welcome to attend and come speak at the meetings. The Subunit won the 2014 Southern Division American Fisheries Society Best Student Subunit. This is the eighth time the NCSU Subunit has won that award. Five members of the Subunit presented at the last Parent Society Meeting in Little Rock, AR.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS: President Greg Cope expressed his thanks to Past President Chris Wood for his guidance and support over the past three years and relieved him of his duties. Greg then welcomed President Elect Kim Sparks to the Executive Committee and passed the presidency to Brena Jones.

President Jones then presented a certificate of appreciation to Greg Cope for his service and work as president.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: Thank you to everyone who helped me organize and execute the extremely complex project that is our annual meeting, including Greg Cope for his tireless support and guidance, Todd Ewing for his quick and accurate records of financial information, helping me rebuild our listserv, and coordinating a great registration table, Kim Sparks for her invaluable work posting information online, Jessica Bauman for not only taking care of podcast recording, but coordinating Dr. Hightower's workshop, John Crutchfield for his ongoing phenomenal work as Awards Chair and making the financial support of Duke Energy possible, and Chris Wood, Kevin Hining, Bryn Tracy, the staff of the Millennium Hotel, who definitely went out of their way to accommodate our group with its unique set of constraints, and all the other folks who offered their time along the way.

I very much look forward to working with our EXCOM and Committees over the next year to shepherd this amazing group of scientists through the next step forward, in whatever small way I can, and I am truly honored by the opportunity to do so. My goals include an overhaul of our website to more closely align with the SDAFS and AFS pages, as well as building our online presence and creating numerous opportunities for member interaction and contribution to the website itself. In addition, we will sit down and take a hard look at our meeting structure and scheduling, which will be a discussion both with EXCOM and our membership, in an attempt to navigate to a better solution to complicated travel and budgetary restraints.

President Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Todd Ewing, Secretary-Treasurer, March 25, 2014