

2021 Business Meeting
Southeastern Fishes Council 47th Annual Meeting
Columbus, Georgia
Thursday 18 November 18 2021, 16:45
Chair: Brian Alford
Secretary: Bernie Kuhajda
Interim Treasurer: Bernie Kuhajda

I. Call to Order – Chair, B. Alford

Brian asked membership to allow the SFC Business Meeting to be recorded on Zoom. Duncan Elkins made a motion and Malorie Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of 2020 Business Meeting Minutes – B. Alford

A draft of the 2020 meeting minutes was posted on the SFC website and a copy was sent out via email in December 2020 to be reviewed by the membership. Minor edits were made throughout the year and the final draft was resent to members the Tuesday before the 2021 SFC Meeting (16 November). Brian asked if there were any edits to the 2020 business meeting minutes. Hearing no response, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Jon Armbruster made the motion, and it was seconded by Kyle Piller. Brian asked for a vote, and the minutes were approved unanimously. The “draft” label for the 2020 business minutes on the SFC website was subsequently removed.

III. Report of the Secretary – B. Kuhajda

Bernie thanked everyone that helped get this hybrid meeting up and running, especially the local committee. The turnout has been great and a “thank you” to everyone.

IV. Report of the Interim Treasurer – B. Kuhajda

Bernie reported that he is currently the Interim Treasurer for SFC. The former Treasurer Sarah Sweat took another job and was unable to fulfil her duties, therefore Bernie took over as Interim Treasurer.

The Treasurer’s report follows. See below text for tabulated income, expenses, and investments. 2020 income is tracked by the program SFC uses, Wild Apricot. Our main income was SFC memberships and some income from registration for the 2020 virtual meeting (non-members) and donations.

2020 expenses included 1) subsidizing the cost of printing more Conasauga Snorkeling Guides, 2) a down payment of this year’s meeting venue in Columbus Ga, 3) the cost of our website and processing fees for transactions, 4) stickers with our new SFC logo, and 5) other incidentals. The \$40,000 “expense” was moving funds into an investment portfolio.

The 2020 ledger started at zero because most of our excess funds were in PayPal, and some in an Alabama Credit Union account. Actual income is in the second column. Same for expenses, \$40,000 of that was moving funds into an investment portfolio. Actual change was +\$1,517.53.

2020 investment has netted \$10,040 in one year and 10 months, an increase of 13%.

2021 partial ledger shows \$15,300 income and \$18, 519.39 expenses. Meeting expenses include t-shirt design, t-shirts, catering, and the venue in Columbus GA.

Cost and attendance of past SFC meeting from 2015-2019 show that the cost of the Columbus meeting is very similar to most past meetings. A Zoom participant asked if it is typical to lose money on meetings, and Bernie replied that it depends. If you have 150+ in attendance you can make money because certain costs, such as the meeting venue, are static regardless of the number of participants. Due to the pandemic, we only have 100 in attendance and therefore will lose some money on this meeting. Incoming Chair Mark Cantrell noted that the mission of SFC is to hold meetings, preserve aquatic habitats and the critters that live in them, and introduce student to this profession. Therefore, it is ok if meetings cost some money. We are a non-profit, not here to make money.

Report of the Treasurer – B. Kuhajda

a. 2020 Income (Wild Apricot):

Item	Member	Total
Regular Memberships	138 x \$30	\$4,140.00
Student Memberships	44 x \$15	\$660.00
Family Memberships	4 x \$40	\$120.00
Lifetime Membership	3 X \$400	\$1,200.00
Virtual Conference Registration	139 (48 Student and 91 Regular)	\$420.00
Donations		\$600.00
Auction + Posters		\$0
TOTAL		\$7,825.00

a. 2020 Expenses:

Item	Cost
Conasauga River snorkeling guide	\$2,500.00
Columbus GA venue	\$1,026.00
Wild Apricot Web Fees	\$1,001.16
Wild Apricot Processing Fees	\$147.66
SFC Logo Stickers	\$237.00
2020 Meeting T-shirts/Social/Venue	\$0.00
Student Awards	\$1,225.00
Banking	\$20.00
TN business fee & tax exempt	\$92.45
Conference reimbursement	\$50.00
Mail	\$8.20
TD Ameritrade investment	\$40,000.00
TOTAL	\$46,307.47

a. 2020 Ledger

Account	2020	2020 actual
January 1, 2020	\$0.00	
Income	\$78,458.11	\$7,825.00
Expense	\$46,307.47	\$6,307.47
Balance as of 31 December 2020	\$32,150.64	
Change	\$32,150.64	\$1,517.53

b. 2020 investment update

Account	2020
Investment 28 Jan 2020	\$40,000.00
Investment as of 16 Nov2021	\$50,040.00
Change	\$10,040 (+ 13.00%)

a. 2021 partial Ledger

Account	2021	
January 1, 2021	\$32,150.64	
Income	\$15,380.00	Columbus meeting
Expense	\$18,519.39	\$16,582.90
Balance as of 17 November 2021	\$29,011.25	
Change	\$3,139.39	

	Knoxville	Hickory Knob, SC	Chattanooga	Jackson	Gainesville
Year	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Early Registration Fee Student Member	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Early Registration Fee Regular Member	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Room Rate+tax/night	\$97.00	\$53.96	\$151.25	\$94.00	\$91.02
# reg registrants	84	79	101	61	84
# student registrants	80	79	91	43	47
Total Paid Registrants	164	158	192	104	131
Total \$\$ from meeting registration/workshop fees/t-shirt sales	\$16,020.00	\$17,085.00	\$19,680.00	\$10,650.00	\$14,275.00
Meeting Room/Break, Social, and Reception Food	\$26,362.22	\$5650.20	\$6,788.00	\$6,607.00	\$10,068.45
Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poster Display	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	N/A	\$300.00
Aquarium Rental/Food	\$1,353.68	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	N/A	N/A
Supplies	\$0.00	\$246.44	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$165.78
Labor Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00		N/A
Misc. Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Meeting t-shirts	\$2,441.74	\$1,862.85	\$1,500.00	\$2,394.00	\$2,600.00
Meeting Artwork	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Awards	\$2,875.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Total Meeting Costs	\$33,532.64	\$10,859.49	\$17,038.00	\$11,126.00	\$14,734.23
Net	-\$17,512.64	\$6,225.51	\$2,642.00	-\$476.00	-\$459.23

Before moving on to committee reports, Brian Alford stated officially for the business meeting minutes that when Treasurer Sarah Sweat stepped down due to taking another job, Brian appointed Bernie as Interim Treasurer. A new Treasurer will be elected by membership today.

V. Report of the Committees

a. Constitution Committee – ExCom, B. Alford

i. Edits being made to reflect bylaw changes from previous meetings

Bernie is working on updating the version of the SFC Constitution that is currently on our website by referring to past meeting minutes. The current version was updated in 2006. We have had a number of bylaw changes since then, mostly minor language edits, but also some major changes such as dropping State Reports. He will provide membership with an updated version soon.

b. Program Committee – J. Armbruster/D. Werneke, Auburn University

Brian asked for a round of applause for Dave Werneke, Jon Armbruster, Malorie Hayes (who is also SFC's social media administrator), Akila Abesinghe, Dan Akin, Corinthia Black, and Courtney Weyand, who put on an outstanding hybrid meeting. Brian reminded membership that Dave and Jon also ran the virtual meeting in 2020. Co-sponsoring institutions included the Museum of Natural History at Auburn University, Columbus State Community College, and Southern Union State Community College.

c. Resolutions Committee – A. George

i. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee resolution

Anna George could not be present at this year's meeting, so Brian reported on the resolution to bring more awareness and fairness into our society's membership, policies, and procedures. The SFC Executive Committee decided to create a standing committee as part of our constitution and bylaws called the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. In order to do this, we needed a resolution, which is a statement that has to pass with a majority of membership vote. The resolution allows for the creation of the committee, it does not lay out the details on how the DEI Committee functions. Brian noted the resolution is available on the SFC website. Bernie mentioned that he sent out emails letting membership know it was posted on the website, and he received no comments or suggested edits, which could have been made privately or publicly on the website. Brian read the following resolution:

WHEREAS the objectives of the SFC are to disseminate information on and promote the diversity and conservation of fishes in the Southeastern United States, and

WHEREAS the SFC membership is comprised of people who reflect diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, ability status, and many other forms of diversity, and

WHEREAS the membership of SFC does not currently reflect the full human diversity of the southeastern United States, and

WHEREAS SFC recognizes that people from underrepresented backgrounds may have been systematically devalued, treated unfairly, and threatened in the United States, or simply discouraged from pursuing careers in the biological and environmental sciences, and

WHEREAS SFC strives to give honor justly by welcoming diverse ideas, equitable recognition of accomplishments, and inclusivity of each of its members, and

WHEREAS diversity in natural ecosystems promotes strength and resilience across communities, and the mission and work of SFC will similarly benefit from greater inclusion of scientists from underrepresented backgrounds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SFC hereby strengthens its commitment to inclusion and equity in all of its programs, membership, and activities by creating the regular standing committee titled the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

The Resolutions Committee and the Executive Committee approved of the DEI resolution. Brian opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion, and Brian asked for a motion to vote on the DEI resolution, as written. Malorie Hayes made a motion to vote on the resolution, and the motion was seconded by Rebecca Johansen. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Membership Committee – M. Hayes

Malorie reported that SFC has 161 active members (5 new this year), and 159 of those active members were in attendance at the SFC meeting (106 in person and 53 virtual). In person attendance was 48 professional and 58 student members, virtual attendance 39 professional

and 14 student members. Membership recruitment includes Twitter (@SEFishesCouncil) and Instagram, with 227 and 231 followers respectively. You can use these social media outlets if you need help with field work or need to connect with others. Malorie will post your fish photos and any story you want to tell on the SFC Instagram account if you send them to her, either through Instagram or email (mhayes@suscc.edu).

e. Proceedings Committee – B. Keck, B. Fluker, S. Powers

Brook reminded membership that the SFC Proceedings went online in 2016, and since then there have been just under 19,000 downloads of past and present Proceedings issues from 114 countries. In the past 12 months, 4,700 issues have been downloaded. Most downloads (excluding the University of Tennessee and Arkansas State) were made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and TVA. Four articles have been published this year and another two were accepted and will likely be included in the current issue (Number 61). Brook reminded membership that editors are not elected, they volunteer to serve on the editorial board, and if anyone is interested, please contact Brook, Ben, or Steve.

i. \$50 off registration for service as a reviewer

Brian reminded membership that if you are a reviewer for the Proceedings, you get \$50 off your meeting registration.

f. Meeting Site Committee – B. Kuhajda, T. Darden, M. Wagner

i. Athens, Georgia in 2022 – D. Elkins, B. Albanese

Duncan reported on the SFC meeting venue in 2022 in Athens GA. The meeting will be in the University of Georgia Special Collections Library's auditorium and ballroom. The building is only 4-5 years old and is a repository for rare book, manuscripts, and maps from disciplines such as journalism and political science. The auditorium has the capability to stream online meeting. If Covid-19 would force canceling the in person meeting, the venue would not charge us anything. A block of rooms will be reserved at the Springhill Suites, which is just a block away from the Special Collections Library, and several other hotels are in close proximity. Details still to work out include anticipated head count (back to approximately 150 in person?), silent or live auction, and planning any campus tours after the meeting on Friday (natural history museum, fish labs, special collection tour). A show of hands indicated that half of membership at the Business Meeting is interested in a tour of the natural history museum. Dates will be 16-18 November 2022.

Meeting venues for 2023 and 2024 were discussed. Arkansas folks always show up to the meeting and bring lots of students, and it is time to have a meeting in Arkansas. Ginny and Reid Adams and Brook Fluker indicated that a venue or year is not settled yet. Therefore the 2023 meeting will be in Chattanooga or Arkansas, with the 2024 meeting at the site not chosen for 2023.

g. Investment Development Committee – B. Keck, D. Heins, J. Schaefer

Nothing to report by this committee.

h. Website Committee - J. Schaefer

i. Species Table – B. Kuhajda

Jake indicated that a list of fish species has historically been posted on the SFC website, and Bernie has updated the list and included much more information on

each species. Bernie noted that the list will always be in need of updating. Currently there are 864 fish taxa across 18 states and 52 drainages comprising over 60,000 cells in a spreadsheet. There are obviously mistakes in this large of a data set. The Proceedings Editors want to publish the list, but the amount of data are too much for one or two reviewers to vet. Therefore, a copy of the spreadsheet will be made available on Google Docs (link will be sent out later) so anyone can review their favorite state or taxonomic group and make edits through the notes feature. Once membership vets the list it will be submitted to the Proceedings and go through the editorial process. Jake let membership know that a static table of the fish list is currently available on the SFC website under the "FISHES" tab. There are limitations to our current website that restricts how the table can be presented.

ii. Malcolm Pierson's photos of Alabama streams to be curated by SFC

Jim Williams presented a new project archiving photos of Alabama streams on the SFC website. In the mid-2000s, Jim had asked Malcolm Pierson (former Alabama Power aquatic biologist and photographer) to use his best photos of Alabama stream and Jim received 125 slides, which he scanned at high resolution. Since Malcolm's death in 2007, Jim has held onto these image files, but now wants to make them available free of charge to anyone that wants to use them, as long as they give photo credit to Malcolm. Jim has received permission from Malcolm's wife, Stephanie Puleo, for this project. Jake will have a gallery with a link to the high resolution photos and metadata (site name, date, etc.).

Jake then talked about the limitations of the current website. Wild Apricot is our membership and meeting management software, and the website that is included in the software is secondary to these. With the current website constraints, Jake struggles with posting fish tables, hosting large photo databases, and as Malorie may want to do, posting photos and social media material from members. Jake wants membership to consider hosting a more aesthetically pleasing website that is less constrained. We have ownership of the "sefishescouncil" domain and could fold the hosting fees for a website into our domain fees. Jake asked if anyone has experience in web development and is interested in undertaking such a task. Malorie asked if we could make a motion to look into creating such a website, and Brian responded that a motion is not necessary, this is something that can be a directive from the new Chair Mark Cantrell and can be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

i. Awards Committee – M. Cashner, G. Adams, S. Walsh, Tanya Darden

Mollie Cashner was not at the meeting, so Ginny Adams presented the committee's report. Fourteen judges were recruited to evaluate student presentations. Information on volunteers and attendees were made available well in advance of the meetings (26 October), and that helped the committee get organized. Currently student registration has a box to check to enter the pool for a random drawing for the Boschung Student Travel Award, but it was difficult for the Awards Committee to determine who was giving a presentation and therefore who was eligible. Additionally, many students did not sign up for the award as they did not know what it was. Ginny suggested that the registration form be edited to contain more information for the student. Boschung Student Travel Awards were given to 29 students from 8 states and 13 institutions. Student Lightning Talk awards were not given out

at this year's meeting because there were no presentations in this category. In the future do we want to keep this category for students? This should be discussed in New Business.

A big thanks to the 13 SFC members for serving as student presentation judges: Reid Adams, Brett Albanese, Sue Colvin, Tanya Darden, Duncan Elkins, Ani Escobar, Luke Etchison, Brook Fluker, Rebecca Johansen, Calvin Rezac, Mike Sandel, Jeff Simmons, and Kit Wheeler.

There were 33 student presentations at this year's meeting, 19 oral and 14 poster, 8 undergraduate and 25 graduate. The winners of the Student Awards were:

Etnier Best Student Oral Presentation 2021:

1st (\$300) Nastasia Disotell (Austin Peay State University)

Tie for 2nd (\$200)

Julia Wood (Yale University)

Mack White (Tennessee Tech University)

3rd (\$100) Loren Stearman (University of Southern Mississippi)

Suttkus Best Student Poster 2021:

1st (\$200) Alexis Culley (Austin Peay State University)

Tie for 2nd (\$150)

Langston Haden (University of Southern Mississippi)

Ryan Hudson (Tennessee Tech University)

3rd (\$75) River Watson (Austin Peay State University)

Cashner Best Undergraduate Presentation 2021:

Oral (\$100) Grace Davenport (University of Central Arkansas)

Poster (\$100) Cade Richesin (University of Central Arkansas)

VI. Nominating Committee – R. Johansen, P. Rakes, M. Thomas

Rebecca let membership know that two positions, Chair-Elect and Treasure, needed to be filled this year. The Nominating Committee put out two calls for nominations from membership, and this produced several nominations; some accepted and those are the names on the ballot. The committee also reached out directly to several other potential nominees, they all declined, but may be interested in two years. All current members of this committee (Rebecca, Pat, and Matt) have been serving for a really long time, and they feel they may not be in touch with younger SFC members. Rebecca offered to talk to anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, noting that the workload is pretty low.

There were two candidates for Chair-Elect, Shawna Fix from the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute and Mike Sandel from the University of West Alabama. For Treasurer, the two candidates were Stephanie Brandt with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Jeff Ray from the University of North Alabama. Rebecca thanked all those who agreed to be nominees for these two offices. Virtual attendees voted anonymously on a Zoom poll and in person attendees voted on paper ballots. Winners will be announced at the end of the Business Meeting. Brian emphasized that one does not need to be a faculty member or a long serving professional to be on committees and be officers, and he encouraged students to serve on committees and to run for office. Even if a student can only serve for a year, that is fine, the chair of a committee can just appoint someone else to fill the vacancy.

VII. Old Business – B. Alford

a. Letter sent to USACE to propose construction of invasive species barrier from Tenn-Tom Waterway to Mobile River Basin

Brian noted that at last year's virtual meeting Jim Williams informed membership of the threat of invasive fishes moving from the Tennessee River drainage into the Mobile Basin through the Tenn-Tom Waterway. Jim had several ideas on how to minimize this threat and wanted SFC to send a resolution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). From that discussion a resolution was written by Anna George (Resolution Committee), approved by the Executive Committee, then approved by membership. Brian sent a letter to the USACE but has not received a response. Jim stated that the feedback he has received indicates the USACE might begin a planning process for a study in 2022, which is unacceptable. Jim is going to "raise hell" at the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species in early December.

b. Recognizing founding members of SFC

Mark Cantrell recognized the founding members of SFC present at the meeting, which included Wayne Stearns, Jim Williams, and David Hines. SFC was founded in the summer of 1975, 46 years ago. Wayne Starnes commented on observations over the last 46 years, and Brian quipped "let it be officially recorded in the Minutes that Wayne approves of young people." All agreed that SFC has fared very well since it became a stand-alone meeting rather than co-occurring with the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologist (when they met in the Southeast) or the Association of Southeastern Biologists meetings. Jim noted that SFC was modeled after the Desert Fishes Council meetings.

VIII. New Business – B. Alford

a. Resolution to create a standing committee called the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The resolution for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee drafted by Anna George (Resolutions Committee) and approved by the Executive Committee after minor edits was presented to membership earlier in this Business Meeting. This resolution was approved unanimously by the membership. The proposed amendment to the SFC Constitution and Bylaws was approved by the Executive Committee and is now presented to membership.

i. Amend Bylaws adding new DEI Committee if resolution passes

The proposed amendment to the SFC Constitution and Bylaws to add a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) was read by Brian (amendment also appeared on the screen). Brian noted that the amendment will require 2/3 vote to pass. The motion to pass the amendment and the amendment read:

Motion to add the following section to **Article III: Committees and Regional Reporters** of the Bylaws:

"Section 15. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.—The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) shall be comprised of one committee chair that is appointed by the Chair of the Council. Membership shall consist of a minimum of 4 additional active members of the council to be appointed by the chair of the DEI committee. The committee chair will serve a two-year term and must be reappointed by the Council Chair to serve successive terms. Additional members of the committee

shall serve one-year terms, and they must be reappointed annually by the committee chair to serve successive terms. The DEI committee shall ensure that all Council programmatic areas, including but not limited to the annual meeting organization, award dissemination, membership and recruitment, *Proceedings* editorial affairs, officer nominations, and all other council business supports and encourages diversity, equitability, and inclusivity of its members and programs”.

Brian asked for any discussion or suggested edits from the floor or Zoom. Brett Albanese asked what was meant by editorial affairs, and Brian answered that editors would make sure our reviewers are fair and responsive to DEI issues. Patrick Lewis asked if there will be any active recruitment of underrepresented folks at universities or other organizations, and Brian replied that those details will be left up to the Committee Chair. Duncan Elkins asked how the DEI Committee would get money or if they would have their own budget, and Brian replied that all committees generally come to the Executive Committee with requests for funds, and this would be the same for the DEI Committee. Brian asked for a motion from the floor to vote on the amendment, the motion was made by Ginny Adams and seconded by Nastasia Disotell. The motion passed unanimously. Brian noted that the first step is getting a volunteer to be the Chair of the DEI Committee. The Committee Chair would then be responsible for finding others to serve on the DEI Committee. Email Mark Cantrell, the incoming SFC Chair, if you are interested.

b. Election of Chair-elect and Treasurer

i. New Chair is Mark Cantrell

Mark Cantrell moves from Chair-elect to Chair at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. Brian Alford becomes Immediate Past Chair.

ii. New Chair-elect and Treasurer

Rebecca Johansen (Nominations Committee) announced that the vote for both positions was close, as it seems to be every year. Mike Sandel is the new Chair-elect and Stephanie Brandt the new Treasurer. Brian welcomed them to the Executive Committee.

Brian recognized Tanya Darden for her six years of service to SFC. Tanya is rolling off of her Immediate Past Chair position. Brian noted that Tanya helped to start the investment of our excess funds, which has grown 13% over the last year and 10 months.

c. Other new business from the membership

Ginny Adams (Awards Committee) noted that we did not have any Student Lightning Talks this year. This category was created last year during the virtual meeting to fill the vacancy left by not having the Student Posters category. Bernie noted that Lightning Talks are less work than an Oral or Poster presentation and Student Lightning Talks were created because of the pandemic. He thinks we should keep them for now and have a discussion in six months and see what is happening with COVID-19. Ginny thinks that the status of the Student Lightning Talk category can be determined by the Awards Committee and discussed with the Executive Committee as we get closer to next year’s meeting. Ginny wanted membership to know that virtual and in person Student Oral presentations were judged the same way, and

we even had two judges that were virtual. Brook Fluker asked if eliminating all Lightning Talks was being considered, and Brian replied it was only the Student Lightning Talk awards that were being discussed, Lightning Talks without any awards would still be an option for all presenters. Matt Wagner agreed with not keeping Student Lightning Talk awards long-term and noted that the Lightning Talk category was useful for presenting preliminary data.

Matt then spoke on how seriously the State of Mississippi and USFWS are about the risks imposed by invasive species moving to new drainages through the Tenn-Tom Waterway. These agencies have met on this subject and visited a barrier that is currently installed elsewhere. Matt does agree with Jim that movement on this needs to be expedited but wants to reiterate that the abovementioned agencies are taking this threat seriously. Matt was at SFC as private citizen.

IX. Adjourn – B. Alford

Hearing no other new business from membership, Brian asked for a motion to adjourn. Jon Armbruster made the motion and Ginny Adams seconded it.