

**Annual Meeting of the Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2020 Business Meeting**

Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge
Rogersville, Alabama
4 March 2020

(submitted by Michael Sandel and Dennis DeVries)

Officers:

President: Josh Yerby
Incoming President: Keith Henderson
Secretary: Michael Sandel
Acting Treasurer: Steve Rider

Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting was called to order by Josh Yerby at 4:00pm.
- A quorum was determined to be present for the meeting.
- Members of the AL-AFS EXCOM were introduced.
- Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting Business meeting were reviewed. Dave Armstrong moved to accept, Rusty Wright seconded. The motion passed.
- Josh Yerby presented the President's report.
- Steve Rider presented the Treasurer's report.
- Michael Sandel presented the Secretary's report. There were no reported changes in membership or policies. Membership is currently at ~80.
- Keith Henderson moved to accept the officer reports. Steve Rider seconded. The motion passed.
- Old Business
 - Daniel Thomas discussed student mentorship and the possibility of having skills training at the school subunit level.
 - Cal Johnson (Membership Committee) noted that a faculty member at University of Alabama has not been identified to take the lead there.
 - Dave Armstrong (Nominations Committee) had nominations for all but President-elect.
 - Kyle Bolton (Sponsorship Committee) listed the meeting sponsors and raffle donors: Alabama Power Company, Alabama Bass Nation, Publications Press, Kleinschmidt, Alabama Aquarium and Pond.
 - Dennis DeVries (Scholarship Committee) noted that there was a tie in the David Bayne Scholarship competition, so there were two awardees this year.
 - Steve Rider updated the membership on the development of a new logo for the Chapter.
 - Josh Yerby led a discussion about a website for the Chapter.
 - The slate of officers was passed by majority vote.
- New Business
 - new officers:
 - President: Keith Henderson
 - President-Elect: Cal Johnson
 - Treasurer: Colin Dinkin
 - Secretary: Dennis DeVries

- Past President: Josh Yerby
- bylaws amendments
 - Keith Henderson explained the amendments to the Chapter bylaws. They include addition of some checks and balances to help protect the Chapter funds.
 - The amended bylaws have been discussed, edited, and approved by the Chapter officers, then sent to the AFS Southern Division officers for their edit/comment, and then sent to the AFS Constitutional Consultant for edit/comment. Edits have been incorporated and the final document forwarded to the AFS Constitutional Consultant and Governing Board for approval.
 - This will be voted on via email after the annual meeting.
- David Bayne scholarship
 - This is a scholarship that had been awarded annually by the Alabama Fisheries Association (AFA) and has been transitioned into the AL AFS Chapter.
 - There have been relatively few applications over the years, despite the financial award and minimal effort required to apply.
 - Is email communication sufficient for getting the word out about this? Can social media be used to help spread the word?
 - Perhaps student liaisons could be identified for each university in Alabama?
 - One member commented that perhaps \$500 is too small for students to be willing to put the effort into applying. Students appeared to not agree with this perspective.
 - Some MS students might be hesitant to apply given that they will compete against PhD students.
 - Comment was raised that we might combine the Bayne and Pearson awards and make three levels- PhD, MS, BS. However, first we need to increase the numbers of applications, and then we might consider more than one award.
- undergraduate scholarship
 - There has been an undergraduate scholarship in the past. Perhaps consider this again?
 - Hard to evaluate undergraduate students against one another.
 - This scholarship still exists and the officers can look more into this over the next year.
- 2020 AL AFS committees
 - Student Affairs- AU Student Subunit President is chair
 - Membership
 - Nomination- Josh Yerby (Past President) is chair
 - Scholarship- Dennis DeVries could continue as chair? Michael Holley and Katie Lawson could be interested as well.
 - Program- Josh Yerby (Past President) is chair
 - Sponsorship- Kyle Bolton is chair
 - Audit- new committee once amended bylaws are approved
 - Web site- Chad Fitch and Anthony Overton both interested (co-chairs?).
- Dennis DeVries moved to adjourn at 5:00pm; seconded by Kyle Bolton.