

**Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2021 EXCOM Meeting**

ADEM Complex - ADEM Lab  
Montgomery, Alabama  
27 May 2021  
(submitted by Dennis DeVries)

Present: Keith Henderson (President), Josh Yerby (Immediate Past President, Nominations Committee Chair), Cal Johnson (President Elect, Program Committee Chair), Colin Dinkin (Treasurer), Dennis DeVries (Secretary), Taylor Beaman (Auburn University Student Subunit President, Student Affairs Committee Chair), Dave Armstrong (Member at Large), Ruthie Perez (Member at Large), Chad Fitch (Website Committee Chair), Kyle Bolton (Sponsorship Committee Chair), Heath Haley (Sponsorship Committee)

Meeting Minutes:

- Lunch began at 11am.
- The meeting was called to order at 11:40am.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- President's report:
  - Annual meeting was postponed from spring 2021 to later in September 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. It will be held at the Kickback Ranch south of Montgomery. More information will follow to the membership.
- President elect's report:
  - Considering some sort of EXCOM retreat for the future; to be discussed under new business.
  - Starting to look at locations for the 2022 annual chapter meeting.
- Immediate Past President's report:
  - Nothing to report.
- Secretary's report:
  - Minutes from the 2020 Annual Business meeting have been drafted and will be distributed to the EXCOM to help fill in any gaps in details that might be there.
- Treasurer's report:
  - Provided updates on the balances in the Regions Bank and Paypal accounts.
  - Upon the vote of the officers, money was invested in an American Fisheries Society mutual fund which has thus far provided a good return on the investment.
- Committee reports:
  - Nominations Committee (Josh Yerby)
    - Will need candidates for President elect this year.
    - Other offices are set (3-year terms for Treasurer and Secretary that were filled in 2020).
    - Will need an official vote on the President elect as a candidate for President.
    - Members at Large are appointed by the President for 1-year terms.
  - Membership Committee (Luke Roy)
    - The Committee is trying to recruit more aquaculture participation via word of mouth.

- Scholarship Committee (Katie Lawson)
  - An essay will be added to the application procedure for the Bayne Scholarship this year.
  - Efforts continue to increase the number of applications for the scholarship.
  - Another goal is to increase the prestige of the scholarship.
- Program Committee (Cal Johnson)
  - Cal asked for input about how to organize or arrange talks for September's annual meeting. Discussion included organizing talks around subject areas as much as possible, working with those talks that are submitted (i.e., not charging program section chairs to recruit talks for their sections, consider distances traveled when scheduling the first or last talks in the meeting, etc.
  - The call for papers will come out soon.
- Student Affairs Committee (Taylor Beaman)
  - Taylor has worked to get in touch with as many universities around Alabama as possible to generate interest in the Chapter from the student's perspective.
  - He has generated a list of 14 contacts for emails to go to when announcements are sent out. This list is/should be included in the master email list for Chapter announcements.
  - This list of contacts is intended to be stable point of contacts for their respective Universities that can send out information to new students/professors to help spread the word.
- Sponsorship Committee (Kyle Bolton)
  - Kyle has a letter drafted concerning sponsorship to go out to potential donors.
  - There was discussion concerning the sponsorship levels and the benefits for those levels.
  - Sponsorship levels were modified to rename the Platinum level as the Gold level and the Gold + Silver level as the Silver level. Friends of ALAFS will have no minimum donation amount. These changes will be made on the web page and in the draft sponsorship letter.
- Website Committee (Chad Fitch)
  - Chad provided an overview of the newly-developed AL-AFS web page. The web page is at [alabama.fisheries.org](http://alabama.fisheries.org), and an email blast will be sent to the membership informing them of the site.
- Audit Committee (Larry Lawson)
  - Given that this is a newly formed committee, they have had no activity yet.
- Officer and Committee Duty Assignment (Dave Armstrong)
  - The rationale for this committee was described, to help provide continuity among years, for potential officer candidates to know what expectations were, etc. Given that this is a newly formed committee, they have had no activity yet.
- Other Old Business
  - New logo.
    - This is an ongoing project that has bridged across officer tenures. There remains a need in the most recent version of the logo to fix the area around Baldwin County and the red snapper so it doesn't look like a hole has been taken out of the red snapper's back. The recommendation was for Keith to talk with Alice Best and provide a 1-month deadline for the logo to be completed and this project finished.

- Bylaws edits and approval.
  - Bylaws amendments were successfully drafted, reviewed, and approved, and now appear on the AL AFS web page.
- New Business
  - ALAFS invested \$10,000.00 in the American Fisheries Society's Investment Plan, which has seemed to already provided a reasonable return on investment.
  - A \$300.00 donation was made to the AFS Southern Division Meeting.
  - A \$500.00 donation was made to the Go Fish Alabama Foundation program.
  - Decision was made for a low country boil at the 2021 Annual Chapter Meeting.
  - The Chapter continues to increase its social media and web presence. This will be enhanced as more people go to the new web site and increase the number of hits there.
  - There was discussion about a possible officer's retreat or EXCOM retreat. Some discussion points included:
    - Who to include: Should this be officers only, EXCOM only, include committee chairs, etc.
    - Purpose(s) of the retreat?
      - camaraderie/team building
      - benefit for volunteer officer, committee chairs
      - aid in longer term planning for the Chapter
    - How often? Likely once every 3 years to allow officers on 3-year rotations to participate at least once during their service.
    - The idea needs to be brought to the membership at the annual business meeting for further discussion.
  - New Meeting registration costs
    - Costs are likely to go up for the meeting, due in part to increased food costs.
    - Sponsorships are likely to be down this year, leading to a larger difference between income and costs.
    - There is also a potential reduction in attendance due to concerns relative to Covid.
    - There was discussion about increasing the registration fees for the 2021 annual meeting. After some discussion, the decision was made to increase professional registrations (both pre-registration and regular registration) by \$10.00 from the 2020 annual meeting rates , while leaving student registrations as they were for the 2020 meeting.
  - Covid-19 Safety protocols for 2021 Meeting
    - There was discussion about safety protocols for the September 2021 Annual Meeting. Given the changes in state regulations and CDC guidelines, the EXCOM decide to wait until closer to the meeting to decide on what protocols might need to be implemented or followed for the meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.