



# American Fisheries Society

## Fisheries Administration Section

### Joint Meeting with the Fisheries Management Section

#### 2023 Annual Meeting

August 20, 2023, 1:00-5:00 PM (EDT)

DeVos Place – Grand Gallery Overlook C

## Minutes

1:00–2:30 Fisheries Administration Section Meeting

1:00-1:15 – Welcome/call to order

Gary Whelan/  
George Scholten

- Introduction of AFS and FAS officers/staff, guests
- Determine quorum
- Review agenda
- Approve March 2023 meeting minutes
  - Dirk Miller motioned to approve, Justin Hasz seconded, meeting minutes were approved.
- Membership Report
  - 93 members
- Financial Update and approval of Treasurers Report
  - Justine Hasz motioned to approve, Dirk Miller second, financial report approved

1:15-1:30 – SFR Project Awards

Lynn Quattro

- 2023 Award Report – will be presented at board/commission meetings in those states
- 2022 Award Report
  - NC complete
  - NY complete
  - OK pending

1:30-2:15 – Reports and Updates

- Communications – Website
  - Ken K. – continues to work on and update website. Ken is positing awards on website and social media after the meeting. Thank you, Ken, for all your hard work.
- Section Workplan
- USFWS Update
  - AD FAC position: Dave Miko continues as the acting AD for the USFWS Fish and Aquatic Conservation program. We anticipate a permanent selection to be made by the end of the calendar year.

Gary Whelan

Gary Whelan  
Allan Brown

- WAFWA YY Consortium Request: FAC is establishing a cooperative agreement with WAFWA to provide \$79K funding (from FAC (\$40K), Colorado Fish Recovery Program (\$20K) and Bureau of Land Management (\$19K)) in support of the work of the YY Male Consortium. The Consortium currently includes the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. The Consortium also receives funding support from the Kalispell Tribe and most recently \$150,000 from the U.S. Forest Service. The YY Consortium is experimenting with eradication projects utilizing integrated pest management, including use of YY males in the field. As part of the cooperative agreement the Service will continue with feasibility and effectiveness studies on use of YY Male Brook Trout at Carson NFH (\$32K) and apply for approval by the Food and Drug Administration for an INAD for estradiol use in fish for YY Male work. Work of the Consortium includes development and/or refinement of sex markers and sex reversal recipes for Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Common Carp, Walleye and Northern Pike; distribution of YY Male Brook Trout eggs; and field studies to evaluate effectiveness at eliminating invasive Brook Trout populations.
- Early Detection/Rapid Response Framework Rapid Response Fund: DOI allocated \$4 million (\$1 million annually over the next 4 years) from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fund a pilot Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species to be coordinated through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). We anticipate a Notice of Funding Opportunity to be published soon making these funds available for use.
- Fish Passage Update: USFWS Staff continue to support non-traditional conservation partner work with respect to fish passage:
  - Service staff started a 6-month detail with FEMA's National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) to provide expertise, guidance, and other support as FEMA expands dam removal components of the NDSP. This position will also be assisting FEMA in the development of their NOFO, project evaluation, cross-programmatic and interagency coordination, as well as FEMA's efforts to update flood maps where dam removals have occurred.
  - The USFWS also coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Program). Serving on the Culvert program project selection team and providing support to their NOFO development.
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Program: Changes to the NFHP Board composition included a new appointment for Board chair and new Corporate and Habitat Conservation Organization Board representatives, as well as reappointment of several other Board positions. Board Chair Ed Schriever (ID), appointed in 2020, retired in February 2023. Ed Schriever was replaced by Robert Boyles, Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on February 11, 2023. Boyles had served as the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

(SEAFWA) Representative to the Board since 2022. Austin Booth, Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, replaced Boyles as the SEAFWA Board representative. The Board held their first elections as a full Board under the ACE Act, re-electing the following members at the February 2023 in person meeting; Gene Gilliland, Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (B.A.S.S.) (representing Freshwater Recreational Anglers), Mike Leonard, American Sportfishing Association (representing Recreational Sportfishing Industry), and Bryan Moore, Trout Unlimited (representing Habitat Conservation Organizations). In addition to those representatives re-elected, the Board elected Amy Singler (American Rivers/Nature Conservancy) to represent Habitat Conservation Organizations. Jake Slager of Coca Cola was elected to the Corporate Industry Board seat at the June 2023 virtual Board meeting.

- The FY24 projects have been forwarded to the Secretary of Interior (as required by the Ace Act) for approval.
- Military Partnership work under the Sikes Act. USFWS-U.S. Air Force Natural Resource Conservation Partnership: Service staff coordinated with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, regional Air Force staff and the Service's Regional Military Lands Conservation Coordinators to ensure continuity of operations, execute over 150 on-the-ground conservation projects on Air Force-controlled lands, and to meet and exceed customer service expectations. So far in FY23, a total of \$19.1M has been transferred by the Air Force to the Service to support on-the-ground delivery of conservation projects as well as provide assistance and expertise from Service personnel, conservation law enforcement officers, and wildland fire experts.
  - The Service is working hard to expand cooperation with the U.S. Army: Service staff coordinated with Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installation, Energy, and Environment) to secure \$4.925M for USFWS to develop and coordinate climate change projects on and near installations. Funding is divided into five tasks that fall within a 5-year period of performance and include access to the Service's training and library services, incorporation of climate change considerations into Army INRMPs, conducting species planning level surveys and habitat restoration projects, facilitating partnerships with Conservation Corps Organization for youth and veteran environmental projects within installations, and securing the USFWS National Army Liaison position for two more years.
  - Budget 2024: Both the house mark and senate mark have passed. House budget shows a \$19 million FAC decrease and the Senate, a \$ 5.6 million increase in the senate, both are lower than the president's budget request.
  - If we go under a CR, expect 1% below current funding levels.
  - Applications for vice AD Hoskins position are under review, they hope to have a name by next quarter.

- Fall BIL Application process will be the same as last years. With a focus on Ecological, and Community Processes and state and partnerships being the third big category. The letter of interest is going to be the same format as last year.

Partnership with FEMA – national dam safety program, federal highway commission on culverts, dept of army - \$5M allocated for partnership for conservation and veterans

2:15-2:30

- Election Results Lynn Quattro
  - Christian Waters (NC WRC) will be our next President-Elect and George Scholten (IA DNR) will continue to be our Secretary-Treasurer. Gary Whelan (MI DNR - Retired) will move to the Past-President post and will continue his fine service to the Section.
  - We had 43% of our membership voting...a very impressive number and I am delighted with the enthusiasm from our Section.
  - We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Justine Hasz (WI DNR) for her willingness to run for office. Many thanks also go to Jim Fredericks (ID DFG) for his years of dedicated service to the Section; we are very grateful for his efforts.
- New Office Installation Gary Whelan
- New Business Lynn Quattro
  - Thank you, Gary, for your service to Section and all your help. Thank you, Jim Fredericks, for your service as well.
  - Plan of Work
    - Continue increasing visibility of section. Work with AFWA and American Sportfishing Association. ASA issuing press releases for SFR Awards
    - Continue relationship with FMS
    - Continue to focus on policy engagement – AFWA and AFS. Provide opinion letters when needed.
    - Help Julie with procedures manual for FAS and FMS. Will send it out for review and comment. Bylaw changes will go out to section for approval and then to Governing Board
    - Re-establish relationship with IFGM
  - Multistate Conservation grants (Jeff Kopaska) – AFS awarded 2 of 3 proposals (i.e., AFS Bluebook Revision and Midwest Walleye Challenge) that they submitted. Still need to be approved by AFWA. Please talk to your AFWA representatives about approving these awards.

2:30-3:30 Joint Fisheries Management Section and Fisheries Administration Section Meeting

- Society Update
  - Officer perspective Gary Whelan
    - Engagement – AFS Leadership and staff have focused on listening to the needs of membership. Reviewing survey results
    - Internal processes – identified areas where we can be more efficient. Share information with society, update/creating policies,

updating awards process, recommendations from Audit and Financial planning committee.

- AFS Officers attending chapter meetings every 3 years
- Latin American Fisheries Conference – 375 attendees, brought together Latin America fisheries community and opened the door to AFS
- Hutton Summit – 40 participants, see what it is like to be student in Fisheries program, over 500 applications
- AFS Journal retreat – editorial staff members and stakeholders to discuss current state of journals and future issues.
- Executive Director perspective Doug Austen
  - Fascinating sessions being developed for Honolulu meeting in 2024.
  - 2025: San Antonio, 2026: Columbus, 2027 – open right now (considering Canada)
  - World Fish Conference
  - Rebidding contracts for AFS journals, new contract second quarter of next year
  - Journals are 25% of income, open access changing model
  - Multi-state grants – need to put more good projects forward
  - Drew Winters working 1/3 time now, trying to remain relevant, RAWA, Coop Unit committee, establishing AFS as the voice for fish
  - Re-defining professional development, looking for 25 people to review how AFS provides training, want state agency people in particular
  - Kopaska – is AFS involved with Farm Bill? Austen – in the past AFS had a more active role, but need members who are more knowledgeable to get AFS more involved, work with partners to provide Fisheries perspective. Drew will help but she can't do it on her own.
- Legislative Update from AFWA Ali Schwaab
  - Lacy Act Amendment – extend the prohibition of transport
  - Stop the spread of invasive mussels – financial assistance to states for decontamination – AFWA engaged and providing recommendations
  - Hydropower Act – amend federal power act to address licensing, ability to require fishways, timing of studies. FWS and FERC have provided comment, hearing in July
  - Water resources development act = engaged with interstate agreements
  - Difficult budget year, state and tribal research grants, Coop Unit budget
  - Rotenone – EPA was requiring a \$1M inhalation study. EPA is in direct conversation with registrant, some human health information they provided was incorrect – work or address this
    - USGS will host webinar about use of antimycin.
  - NOAA Fisheries – barrier removal
- Angler Survey Committee Update David Smith

- Building a community of practice for management states that are using creel surveys
  - Good engagement so far, 85 members at introduction meeting in January, several webinars since then
  - 150 members on distribution list, 40 different states, Europe and Canada
  - 80% of members are state employees, Academia (10), 7% federal
  - Measure angler preference or behaviors, gather data to inform management decisions were most important motivations
  - Three primary duties
    - Improve tools that feed into management
      - 4 subcommittees focusing on different aspects
        - Survey design and estimation
        - Data management
        - Human dimensions
        - Emerging technologies
    - Improve communication across boundaries
      - Hosting quarterly webinars, next one in mid-October
      - Angler survey directory – close to 100 members
    - Development BMPs
      - Current books from 1990s serve as techniques manuals, but a lot has changed in 30 years.
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition to Angler Survey Methods is long overdue
  - Developing multi-state grants to address these needs
- Potential Status of Fishes Project Doug Austen/Gary Whelan
  - Describe the state of the nation's fish - need a way to convey to the public a singular message to public
  - Developing concept paper that will lead to a feasibility evaluation
  - Daunting task – very difficult data to work with, only a very few places that have consistently collected data
  - Techniques necessary to overcome issues with data
  - Complete on a rotating basis – period to be determined
  - Inland and anadromous fish
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Update Gary Whelan
  - Board membership changes
  - FY24 projects should be announced soon
  - FY25 Funding – new scoring rubric, new conservation priorities (same as last year), projects due to Board by end of March, how much money do we have and how far down the list we can go, Secretary of Interior reviews, takes a while to get proposals approved.
  - 2023 FHP Workshop in Charleston, SC
  - FHP Congressional Designation Process – all designations should be submitted at the same time, template that they all are using, drafts due by end of year
  - Beyond the Pond – 501c(3), not getting large private investments, looking at how to re-build

- Development of a joint symposium for the Honolulu Meeting Julie Carter/  
Lynn Quattro
- Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Potential Partnership Doug Beard

- Located in Hayward WI, been around since the 1970s
- Trying to increase professional membership
- Discussing a more formal partnership with AFS
- Need people to form a nomination committee
- Sections will work together on a plan

- Black Bass 2025 Tom Lang/Dave  
Phillip
  - First Symposium in 1975 in Oklahoma – stand alone meeting that resulted in the green Black Bass Bible
  - 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the AFS meeting in St Louis in 2000
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025
  - 10-member steering committee in the process of brainstorming how this will be different.
  - Publication Committee – open access?
  - Academia, AFS, agencies, professional anglers, and industry summit.
  - Major league fishing, BASS – potential partners
  - Topical sessions – science, case studies, angler observations
  - 2025 in San Antonio Texas

- R3 Book update Tom Lang
  - Done and being shipped now

3:30-5:00 Fisheries Management Section Meeting