

SDAFS Small Impoundments Open Forum
Virtual Conference
April 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Small Impoundments Committee (SIC) was called to order at 1:05 pm EDT on 4/6/21 via a virtual conference on Zoom by Chair Brett Timmons. The Virginia Chapter of AFS hosted the conference with Brad Fink, meeting chair checking in to make sure everything was running smoothly and meeting was being recorded. Brett welcomed and thanked those in attendance.

Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

A role call was taken with all members and guests asked to introduce themselves. It was determined there was a quorum of at least 10 members present.

Committee members/proxies in attendance were:

Graves Lovell – Alabama DCNR
Taylor Beaman – Alabama Auburn University
Brett Timmons – Arkansas AGFC – Chair
Tim Bonvechio – Georgia GDNR
Dane Balsman – Kentucky KDFWR – Secretary/Treasurer
Brad Launey – Louisiana WDLF
Wes Neal – Mississippi Mississippi State University
David Belkoski – North Carolina NCWRC
Keith Thomas – Oklahoma ODWC
Preston Chrisman – South Carolina SCDNR
Mike Bramlett – Tennessee TWRA
Steve Owens – Virginia VDGIF
Steven Bardin – Texas Pro Lake
Aaron Cushing – Solitude Lake Management

Guests in attendance were:

Scott Jones – Arkansas UAPB
Patrick Allison
David Cobb
Greyson Wooten
Jacob Martin – Arkansas AGFC
Andy Yung – Arkansas AGFC
Ben Thesing – Arkansas Central Arkansas Water
Chris Anderson
Patrick Allison- Ole Miss
Kris Nault – Arkansas AGFC
Tyler Hern
Tyler Thomsen
Jonathan Leiman – Maryland MDE

Approval of Minutes

The SIC met in Little Rock, AR in 2020. The minutes were emailed to the group prior to the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was presented and passed with no objections.

Treasurers Report

The financial report was presented to the SIC. The only committee income is textbook royalties which amounted to \$70.07 in 2020. Book royalties are minimal and funding opportunities to increase revenue for long term growth need to be considered.

- \$1,698.43 as of 1/1/20
- + \$70.07 Small Impoundment book royalty 8/6/20
- \$1,768.50 as of 4/6/21 BB&T Bank

Old Business

Member Updates

A brief discussion on membership was discussed. West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Maryland do not currently have state reps on the committee. Several individuals from the private industry as well as universities have been appointed to committee recently. It is the SDAFS president's role to make sure state reps are filled.

State Updates

State updates can be found on the website and were emailed out to committee members prior to the meeting. Most states submitted reports and the document was quite extensive this year. Brett commended states for the amount and quality of work done during the pandemic. In the interest of time, updates were not reviewed during the meeting.

Highlighted Research

Taylor Beaman, Auburn University gave a presentation on "Evaluating mechanical removal rates for rehabilitating over-crowded largemouth bass populations in Alabama small impoundments."

New Business

Workshop Ideas/Future Funding

The idea was pitched that the SIC committee could use a workshop as a way to increase funding, stay relevant and provide a service to SDAFS members. Money raised could be used for travel awards for students to present research pertinent to SIC committee or professionals to teach workshops. Every few meetings a workshop could be hosted by SIC to train students/young professionals, in addition to more specialized workshops for small impoundment managers. Ideas were introduced including lake aeration, nutrient sequestration, blue-green algae issues, fertilization schedules/programs, nutrient balance and green algae. A plant management/identification workshop was reintroduced and freezing plants could be possible for winter meeting in addition to photos. This could be a good format/partnership between state and private industry to exchange ideas. A broad workshop could be in the morning with a more specialized session in the afternoon. Or these topics could be split over years into multiple workshops. Additional topics like innovative approaches to bass crowding, effects of lake winter draw downs, forage combinations, starting over, or stocking rates for hybrid or triploid crappie. Could any these workshop ideas be hashed out and planned by the next meeting? It was suggested to form a sub-committee to plan a workshop, possibly consisting of Aaron Cushing, Graves Lovell and Scott Jones.

Officer Nominations/Elections

Brett opened the floor for nominations for the president elect and secretary/treasurer if anyone was interested or wanted to nominate someone on the committee. Brett indicated neither position is a large time commitment. Cynthia Fox-Holt was nominated prior to the meeting for the chair-elect position. With no other nominations, Cynthia will be new chair-elect and resume roll of chair at 2022 meeting.

State Reports

Question was raised on whether we should dedicate time for state reports during annual meetings. Several people expressed interest in giving each state 5-10 minutes to highlight work being done. This may be a way to increase discussions on areas work is still needed or common problems encountered.

Miscellaneous Issues

Scott Jones had a water quality issue on a pond with a high pH and was worried about a fish kill. He solicited help from other committee members to solve problem. Possible cause hydrogen sulfide from well water?

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

American Fisheries Society – Southern Division

2021 Virginia Meeting Agenda

1:00 pm - Roll Call

1:15 pm - Introduction (Timmons)

- Determine quorum

1:30 pm – Approval of 2020 meeting minutes

1:40 pm - Finance Review (Balsman)

1:50 pm – **Old Business**

- Member Updates

2:00 pm – **Highlighted Research**

- Beaman, T. & Catalano, M. (2021, April). Evaluating mechanical removal rates for rehabilitating over-crowded largemouth bass populations in Alabama small impoundments.

2:30 pm - **New Business**

- Membership changes
 - Change in State Appointments – Member List
 - Addition of industry professional and student
 - Addition of Puerto Rico
 - Addition of Maryland
 - Push for filling WV
- Future Funding Discussion
 - Workshops
- Officer Nominations
 - Chair Elect Nominee – Cynthia Fox-Holt
 - Any Additional Nominees
 - Nominees for Secretary/Treasurer
- Officer Voting
 - Chair Elect
 - Secretary/Treasurer

3:00 -3:30 pm - **Adjourn**