

**2019 Business Meeting**  
**Southeastern Fishes Council 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Holiday Inn at World's Fair Park, Knoxville, TN**  
**Thursday 14 November 2019**  
**Chair: Tanya Darden**  
**Secretary: Matt Wagner**  
**Treasurer: Michael Sandel**

**I. Call to Order – Chair, T. Darden**

**II. Approval of 2018 Business Meeting Minutes – T. Darden**

The 2018 meeting minutes were sent out via email before the 2019 business meeting to be reviewed by the membership. Minor edits were made and resent to members. A Motion to Approve the 2018 meeting minutes was made by Pat Rakes, seconded by Bruce Bauer, and given a majority approval at the beginning of the 2019 business meeting. No edits were made, and minutes were subsequently uploaded to the SFC website.

**III. Report of the Secretary – M. Wagner**

The website was updated for the annual meeting. Much of the year was devoted to answering emails and dispersing messages to the membership via email. Quarterly phone calls were attended with the executive committee. Purge of inactive members was continued if they had not paid dues for three consecutive years; however, due to increased membership, purging of inactive members did not keep the society below the wild apricot limit for a lower price.

**IV. Report of the Treasurer – M. Sandel**

a. A Motion to Approve staying with wild apricot even though they cannot process our abstracts and will no longer be using PayPal was made by Mollie Cashner, seconded by Malorie Hayes, and given a majority approval.

**b. INCOME DISTRIBUTION**

ACCOUNT	01-JAN-2018	31-DEC-2018	Change
SFC Checking Account	\$17,423.47	\$10,104.23	\$7,319.24
SFC Savings Account	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00
SFC PayPal Account	\$74,538.08	\$75,862.44	\$1,324.36
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$91,963.55</b>	<b>\$85,968.67</b>	<b>\$5,994.88</b>

**c. 2018 EXPENSES**

DESCRIPTION	INCURRED	PAID	OUTSTANDING
PayPal Transaction Fees	\$528.64	\$528.64	\$0.00
Wild Apricot Web Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Awards	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$0.00
Venue (meeting room)	\$891.00	\$10,350.54	-\$9,459.54
Catering	\$4,759.20	\$8,000.25	-\$3,241.05
T-shirts	\$1,862.85	\$3,974.60	-\$2111.75
<b>TOTAL 2018 EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,382.49</b>	<b>\$25,954.03</b>	<b>-\$14,812.34</b>

**d. 2018 INCOME**

DESCRIPTION	INVOICED	RECEIVED	OUTSTANDING
Regular Memberships 103 X \$30 (11 new)	\$3,090.00	\$3,090.00	\$0.00
Student Memberships 72 X \$15 (44 new)	\$1,080.00	\$1,080.00	\$0.00
Family Memberships 5 x \$40 (0 new)	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Lifetime Memberships	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Meeting Registration	\$4,770.00	\$4,770.00	\$0.00
T-shirts	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Auction	\$2,018.00	\$2,018.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL 2018 INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,758.00</b>	<b>\$11,758.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**e. TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES**

**\$26,570.34**

**V. Report of the Committees**

**a. Constitution Committee – ExCom, T. Darden**

Code of Conduct that was approved at last year’s Business Meeting was finalized, appended to Constitution, and posted online

**b. Program Committee – B. Alford**

Nothing new to report

**c. Resolutions Committee – A. George**

Nothing new to report

**d. Membership Committee – M. Hayes**

193 active members, 80 of which are students

We need to increase our social media presence and encourage members to submit stories, photographs, publications, and positions

**e. Proceedings Committee – B. Keck, B. Fluker**

We have 10,000 downloads and over 4 articles coming out next year

**f. State Reporters – S. Powers**

State reports will be coming out with the SFC proceedings

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

The 2020 SFC meeting will be hosted by Jon Armbruster and Dave Werneke in Columbus, GA

The 2021 SFC meeting will be hosted by Duncan Elkins and Brett Albanese in Athens, GA.

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

During the past year, Ben drafted an Investment Policy based on the Tennessee Aquarium’s policy that has been approved by the ExCom and was sent to the membership last week for a vote and comments. Ben has incorporated the couple comments received and poll has closed with 22 in favor, 1 opposed providing acceptance of the new Policy. As the new Policy includes external management of our investments to provide a degree of separation for ExCom and Committee members, Ben has been looking at options for external management of the SFC investments and provided a recommendation to use TD Ameritrade. They are in the process of dropping many of their fees, resulting in our costs being a 0.9% fee. Based on our Investment Policy goals, investments would include 40% bonds and 60% mutual funds with projections of several thousand dollars that could be available for withdrawal (if desired) periodically. The Investment Development Committee would coordinate an annual meeting with TD Ameritrade to communicate any desired changes, which would require ExCom approval. ExCom unanimously agreed this was a good direction; Ben and Mike are proceeding to finalizing the arrangement and fund transfer.

Cindy Williams mentioned that we should have a benchmark that we aim for with our investments.

Anna George voiced concerns that we should be divesting from non-green mutual funds.

**i. Website Committee - J. Schaefer**

Website domain name registration: Jake has renewed the SFC domain name registration for another 10 years (maximum allowed; \$295). The SFC domain name will now expire in May 2029.

Bernie Kuhajda finished the first version of the species table and Jake put it on the website under Fishes. It includes 18 states with described species, undescribed species, and evolutionary significant units with the statuses. Bernie was asked to put the citations on there as well and agreed. Malorie suggested that we create a Google document with locked cells to provide comments. Jim Williams mentioned that we should on keep natives on the list.

**j. Awards Committee – Mollie Cashner**

**Boschung Student Travel Awards 2019:**

Twenty \$100 awards out of 50 applicants were awarded to students. Only those students presenting were eligible for the Travel Award.

There were 47 student presentations considered for awards, and the award committee and volunteer judges assessed 22 student oral presentations and 25 student poster presentations. The winners are:

**Etnier Best Student Oral Presentation 2019:**

1<sup>st</sup> (\$300) Austin Hannah (Austin Peay State University)

2<sup>nd</sup> (\$200) Daniel Akin (Auburn University)

3<sup>rd</sup> (\$100) Daemin Kim (Yale University)

**Suttkus Best Student Poster Presentation 2019:**

1<sup>st</sup> (\$200) Alexis Mross (Arkansas State University)

2<sup>nd</sup> (\$150) Mack White (TN Tech University)

Tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$75)

Anna Eastis (University of West Alabama)

Nastasia Disotell (Austin Peay State University)

**Cashner Best Undergraduate Presentation 2019:**

Oral (\$100) River Watson (Arkansas State University)

Poster (\$75) Logan Bodiford (Clemson University)

**k. Committee vacancies –**

There are still vacancies on the Awards, Membership, and Resolutions committees

**VI. Elections of Officers – R. Johansen, P. Rakes, M. Thomas (Nominating Committee)**

**a. Chair Elect**

Mark Cantrell was elected for a two year term as Chair elect

**b. Treasurer**

Sarah Sweat was elected for a two year term as treasurer

**c. Secretary**

Bernie Kuhajda was elected for a two year term as secretary

The ExCom received a proposal for a change in our nomination methods to include a notification of the membership regarding the availability of upcoming officer positions and a method to volunteer or nominate others. A resulting discussion indicated some concern with a wide-open invitation, mostly regarding the desire to maintain an appropriate level of experience (both professionally and with SFC in particular) for ExCom members. ExCom and Nominating Committee agreed that a membership-wide call for nominations coupled with a vetting process at the Nominating Committee level would make their jobs more efficient in the future.

**VII. Old Business – T. Darden**

**a. SFC Logo**

With input received at last year's meeting, a final logo design was developed by Casper Cox based on Mike Pinder's sketch. An online poll accepted the new logo with 53 voting for it, 6 against. The new logo has been incorporated into parts of the webpage; will be completed soon. You also see that it has been incorporated into this year's meeting name tags and shirts. As a follow-up, ExCom was asked if there was interest in producing stickers with the new logo (4-6 inches, vinyl style). Membership expressed interest in having stickers with the logo to be included as meeting SWAG and given out at with t-shirts at registration at meetings at no cost to members.

**b. SFC financial audit process**

As mentioned at last year's business meeting ... per our Constitution, we are required to engage in an annual financial audit but don't have an official policy on what constitutes this audit. Mike has done a great job researching available reports within Wild Apricot and our financial accounts that are easy to create annual summaries for which the Chair will then review, approve and officially sign off on each year. He has created a reporting package that can generate a single pdf inclusive annual document that the Treasurer and Chair can review, sign off on, and archive for this process. Mike and Tanya are finalizing a 1-pager that will layout the required review summaries and provide a signature template that can then be kept on record. Additionally, we are setting up a Google Drive with an SFC email account that will allow these records to be archived and accessed in the future. When finalized, we will send to membership for a vote and then include in the SFC Policies Document. No concerns were voiced by the membership.

**c. Restoring America's Wildlife Act**

As a very brief update just to keep it on our radar, hopefully everyone is keeping an eye out on this piece of legislation that we have been mentioning at the Business Meeting for a couple years now – it has gotten some significant movement and backing in the last year. The program (as it stands now) would provide billions of dollars annually to the states (\$10-20M/state) to replace the current SWG program for conservation and restoration – there is still a match requirement, but it is been reduced to the current SWG level (35%) to make it more reasonable. Many states are working on plans to meet this match and there will likely be lots of opportunities for creative partnerships if this is finalized.

## **VIII. New Business – T. Darden**

### **a. Wild Apricot**

- i. We have been struggling for several years now to keep our membership as clean as possible to remain under Wild Apricot's contact limit for our account level to reduce costs, but with this year's meeting and new members we have exceeded that threshold even with Matt and Mike's diligent organizational efforts. Mike has updated our membership account, which is now ~\$900/year for this service. Due to some challenges with Wild Apricot, Mike has investigated potential alternate hosting options due to these rising costs. However, based on several comparison websites it looks like we are already in the best place possible in terms of balancing both functionality and cost. All ExCom members agreed to stay with Wild Apricot for both logistical and cost reasons. Only 2 limitations we are currently aware of are: using multiple payment methods for a single invoice (which Mike is trying to resolve with Wild Apricot staff) and meeting abstract submissions (which is a functionality that Wild Apricot is currently working on). No concerns were voiced by membership.

### **b. Mussels of Mississippi – Matt Wagner**

Free and openly available as a PDF. Email Matt for PDF download:

[matthew.wagner@mmns.ms.gov](mailto:matthew.wagner@mmns.ms.gov) . Printed copies will be made in 2021.

### **c. Hidden Rivers Snorkeling Guide**

- i. Casper Cox is assisting with production of a snorkeling guide to accompany the Hidden Rivers video that we just viewed. This past summer, they were looking to raise funds for production and asked if SFC would be willing to contribute. They already raised sufficient funds and were moving towards production in early fall, but there may be a need for funds with a second edition/production in the future. Casper had copies available at the meeting.

An in-depth discussion was had on how to financially support this snorkel guide/Hidden Rivers/Freshwater Illustrated. Concerns were voiced on how to financially support this endeavor. A suggestion was made to have SFC purchase a large quantity and distribute them, but were met with concerns over how to distribute the book to schools in a fair way that would give open access, while being aware schools have low funding and may not be able to purchase them. Additional concerns were voiced that the book is only available at showings of the Hidden Rivers Film.

Anna George called for a Motion to Approve supporting this endeavor, seconded by Mollie Cashner, and given a majority approval.

Malorie Hayes called for a Motion to Approve \$2500 financial support for this endeavor conditional that the executive committee has in writing what the money will be used for before any money is sent. This motion was seconded by Cindy Williams and called for a vote. The vote was

counted with 31 votes for, 11 votes against, and 8 abstentions. The motion was therefore approved

**d. Toyota Spring Pygmy Sunfish endowment**

The endowment is being created and will be headed by Mike Sandel with Bernie Kuhajda to do research to benefit the species.

**IX. Closing Remarks** - Wayne Starnes related that the SFC had basically come full circle back to the place of its birth, as he and attorney Joe Congleton, a key ally with Trout Unlimited in the struggle against the Tellico Project on behalf of the endangered Snail Darter, incorporated the organization less than two blocks from the meeting venue back in the 1970s.

**X. Adjourn – T. Darden**