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Minutes, Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Minutes, Business Meeting

MINUTES
Business Meeting
28th Annual Meeting • Southeastern Fishes Council

The 2002 meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) was called to order by Chairperson Mary Freeman at 5:18 PM on 23 February 2002. The meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas. Executive Committee members attending were Mary Freeman (Chair), Chris Skelton (Secretary), and Hank Bart (Chair-elect).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the 2001 SFC business meeting held in the Radisson Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, were distributed by Secretary Skelton for review. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, and was carried by voice vote. Chairperson Freeman acknowledged Gerry's efforts during his tenure as secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was distributed by Chairperson Freeman for review. Chairperson Freeman reminded everyone to check their membership status and to send outstanding dues checks to Peggy Shute. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as printed, which was carried by voice vote. Chairperson Freeman acknowledged Peggy's efforts as treasurer for the recent term.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

No Report.

Editorial Committee

Frank Pezold initiated a discussion concerning the status of the *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings*. He said that the next issue, which would feature one article and a book review, would be out pending receipt of the regional reports. As always, the question of how to get more submissions was discussed. One idea was for SFC to sponsor a symposium and then publish the proceedings. There was also discussion as to whether the *Proceedings* should be distributed electronically. There was consensus that the *Proceedings* is a good outlet and that the manuscripts go through a stringent review process. Two papers were rejected last year. The cost of printing the *Proceedings* has been reduced from about \$1600 per issue to around \$700 per issue. Chairperson Freeman indicated that George Sedberry has been Associate Editor of the *Proceedings* for several years and

would like to step down. Possible replacements proposed were a student chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) or the Nongame Aquatics Committee of the Southern Division AFS.

Technical Advisory Committee

No Report

Resolutions Committee

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Freeman acknowledged Kelly Bibb as co-chair of the Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Organization (SIF). Chairperson Freeman then recapped the history of the organization and opened a discussion as to what the role of SFC might be with this initiative. We talked about publishing the SIF strategy and the possible development of a condensed version that could be sent to decision makers. The discussion then turned to the change of venue for the SFC meeting. The general consensus was that midyear meeting of the Southern Division AFS was a good venue for SFC.

J.R. Shute informed the meeting participants of a plan to develop a 750 acre retirement community, complete with a golf course, on a parcel of land currently owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The development, which is to be located below Wilson Dam near Muscle Shoals, AL, is apparently being "fast tracked" for development. He noted that there was opposition in the neighboring community and wondered if SFC should write a letter supporting the opposition. Interested persons were advised to follow-up with Peggy Shute. Chairperson Freeman provided information on a forthcoming Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation lifetime ecology achievement award.

Dave Etnier mentioned a proposed water withdrawal project being considered on the upper Buffalo River. He also announced that he and his graduate student Ben Keck were organizing a large scale collecting effort on the Hatchie River (Hatchiefest) for early June. Hank Bart entered the meeting at 6:10 pm. After five more minutes of discussion about the *Proceedings*, Chairperson Freeman moved to adjourn. The meeting was so adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher E. Skelton