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Business Meeting Minutes

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Business Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

Business Meeting
16th Annual Meeting
Southeastern Fishes Council

The Southeastern Fishes Council met at Charleston, S.C., on June 18, 1990. Chairman Franklin F. Snelson, Jr. presided. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:07 PM local time.

Committee Reports

1. Secretary's Report:

The Minutes of the 1989 meeting appeared in Issue Number 21 of the PROCEEDINGS. The Minutes were approved without correction.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance (1-31-90)	\$1,806.41
Dues & other contributions received	922.50
Expenses	(510.79)
Checking Account Balance (6-1-90)	2288.12
Paine Webber Cash Fund (5-31-90)	1956.22
TOTAL ASSETS (6-1-90)	\$4244.34

3. Report from Treasurer on Tax Status:

The Internal Revenue Service is now able to match reports (W-9 Form) of dividends etc... paid by institutions (i.e. Paine Webber) to the "Taxpayer Identification Number" (TIN) on accounts. This was not possible prior to 1988 (about). Apparently the IRS has no record of our TIN. Therefore they questioned who is receiving these dividends. The TIN we use was obtained for the Southeastern Fishes Council sometime after May 1981, through the Memphis office of the IRS. I have communicated this to the IRS. I have also retained a Certified Public Accountant to examine our financial records and advise us regarding our status with the IRS.

At this time the CPA advises that we file a return and pay back taxes (estimated to be \$300.00) and then file for official tax exempt status with the IRS. This advise was free. However, before he can make a final recommendation he will need more complete financial records on the society. I plan to provide him with this information as soon as I can obtain the records.

Phil Pister advised the members present that the Desert Fishes Council has recently gone through a similar situation regarding obtaining tax exempt status. He is willing to provide whatever information and advice we may find useful or require.

4. Editor's Report

Michael Stevenson reported that he has three manuscripts in

the final stages and plans to put out the next issue (No. 22) of the PROCEEDINGS by September. This issue will include instructions for authors.

Steve proposes to publish information on fish collections in the southeast. Perhaps including a synopsis on each collection, written by an individual at the institution where the collection is located, in each future issue of the PROCEEDINGS.

Issue No. 21 contained information on editorial policy. Each manuscript received is sent to at least one reviewer, often more than one. Steve solicits recommendations of reviewers from authors. Currently authors know their reviewers and vice versa. There is a PROCEEDINGS Policy Committee, appointed by the chair. Steve suggested the committee and he meet to decide on these and other policy matters.

We have been averaging two issues per year recently.

There was a question from the floor asking what were the page costs for an issue? Steve responded that we do not charge page costs for having a manuscript published in the PROCEEDINGS. A question was asked regarding the cost of printing issues. Steve stated that the last issue (No. 21) consisted of 12 pages and there were 150 copies printed. Treasurer Wieland reported that Issue No. 21 cost \$298.97 to print. Steve reminded us that we are currently not paying mailing costs. These have been subsidized by a "friend."

Chairman Snelson complemented the editor on his work and the quality of PROCEEDINGS.

Steve informed us that he has received favorable comments, especially from libraries, on our practice of numbering each issue rather than following a volume/number format.

Werner then questioned whether the society should begin charging institutions for subscriptions. Currently we send gratis copies to institutions. However, a few institutions voluntarily pay regular membership fees to receive their subscriptions. There was no motion on this matter. Chairman Snelson interpreted this to mean the membership would prefer to keep the status quo regarding subscriptions for institutions.

The Chair then asked for other Committee reports. There were none.

The Chair related to the membership that according to our Bylaws there are a number of standing committees. Most of these apparently have not met in some time. Some of these committees are:

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Awards Committee
- Programs Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Arrangements Committee
- Constitution Committee
- PROCEEDINGS Committee
- Nominating Committee

The Chair (Buck) stated that while this seemed like a cumbersome number of standing committees we have reached a point where he feels we should have an active PROCEEDINGS Committee. This committee should discuss editorial policy and future

plans for the PROCEEDINGS. He solicited names of members interested in serving on this committee as he would make appointments directly following the Business Meeting.

Election of Officers:

The chair stated that we had failed to hold elections for the office of Secretary/Treasurer at last year's meeting. This office consists of a two year term. Bob Jenkins suggested we wait until next year (1991). This action would result in the elections of the Chairman Elect and the Secretary/Treasurer in the same year and return us to our previous schedule. A motion to this effect was made and passed.

Old Business:

1. Coal-bed Methane Release in Cahaba River Basin: Chairman Snelson wrote to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to convey the SFC's concern over the effects of effluent from this process on the aquatic fauna of the Cahaba River. The letter was written with the help of Bob Stiles and Jim Williams. It expressed our opposition to approval of permits which would allow release of effluent from this process into the Cahaba watershed. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management responded to our letter, however, a permit was subsequently issued.

2. Report on Scientific Collecting Permits in the Southeast: Bob Jenkins surveyed 17 states based on the drainages which lie within the geographic area of interest to the society. He asked each state for information on obtaining a scientific collecting permit. He also specifically inquired about regulations on the use of gill nets, chemicals, and electroshocker. Some states responded by sending an application for a permit and no further information. In this case Bob did not pursue the matter further, therefore some information may be lacking in the following summary:

Response – Sixteen (16) states responded by stating that they have some type of application procedure. Louisiana sent a permit (this has apparently changed according to members present). Louisiana, Virginia, and South Carolina are currently changing their procedure. Most extreme was Texas which required two letters of recommendation and the application be notarized.

Cost of Permits – Ten states had no cost. Seven states have a permit fee (majority range between \$1.00 to \$25.00). There appears to be a trend to charge higher fees for consultants. They also want to know the purpose for collecting. Two states (Arkansas and Pennsylvania) required a fishing license in addition to the permit. Pennsylvania had a \$10.00 charge for a permit plus a \$20.00 fee for a license for non-residents for each person collecting.

Permit Coverage – Holder of permit and party – 12 states. Holder of permit only – it was not clear from the information provided by many states.

Purpose of Collecting – Basically the state requires information on the permit application about what, when, and where collecting will be conducted. Fourteen states asked where collecting

is to be done. How specific this information should be varied greatly. Eight states asked when collecting would be done. However, almost all states require that anyone possessing a permit to notify a Game Warden or Biologist prior to collecting. Thirteen states wanted information as to which species would be taken. How specific this information should be also varied greatly. Eleven of these states wanted to know which species and how many of each will be taken.

Gear – All states permitted collection by seine. Four states permit use of chemicals when supervised by a (state) biologist. Several did not permit the use of chemicals. Texas was very clear that no chemicals, gill nets, or electroshocker could be used. Apparently you can request a special permit for these if necessary.

Reports – The great majority of the states want an annual or end of project report. North Carolina wants quarterly reports. South Carolina indicated they would like the information on floppy disk if possible. Several states want copies of any thesis or publications resulting from data obtained through use of the permit.

3. Historian: The chair suggested that all information regarding the society should be placed in the hands of the Historian, Donald Cloutman. The Secretary should send copies of minutes to Don. There was a suggestion from the floor that the Secretary/Treasurer hold on to copies of all information in his position until the matter with the IRS is cleared up.

4. Membership: The Chair requested as to the possibility of publishing a membership list. After some discussion, it was agreed that Werner would send a complete list to Bob Jenkins. Bob has the means to scan the list so it can easily be converted to a form for which we have access to appropriate software.

New Business:

None

Regional Reports:

Oral Regional Reports were given by the following members and will be forwarded to the Editor for inclusion in the PROCEEDINGS.

Bob Jenkins	–	Northeast
Noel Burkhead	–	Southeast
David Etnier	–	North-Central
Rick Mayden	–	South-Central
Bob Cashner	–	Southwest
Henry Robison	–	Northwest (no report)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Werner Wieland

Secretary/Treasurer