



MINUTES

Bioengineering Section Annual Meeting Nashville, TN September 1, 2009

Attendees:

Doug Dixon, President	Jon Black
Ted Castro-Santos, President-elect	Abby Franklin
John Johnson, New President-elect	Steve Amaral
Marcin Whitman, Past-President	Chuck Coutant
Alex Haro, Newsletter Editor	Daryl Hayes
Aaron Lerner	Lynn Reese

1. Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Update

The meeting began at 12:15 pm. Doug Dixon, current BES President, welcomed attendees and reviewed the draft agenda. No additions to the agenda were offered.

2. Announcements: Doug Dixon

- a. Doug announced that John Johnson was elected as the new President-elect for the 2009-2011 term. No election was held for Secretary/Treasurer as the existing Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Love, offered to serve a second term. A second term without election is permitted in the Section's Bylaws on the condition that (1) no other candidate is offered or volunteered and (2) there is unanimous approval of the EXCOM. No other candidate was offered or volunteered and unanimous EXCOM approval was received at the EXCOM August meeting.
- b. EXCOM: 2009-2011. Doug Introduced the new 2009-2011 EXCOM Team:
Ted Castro Santos – President
John Johnson – President-elect
Michael Love – Secretary/Treasurer (not present)
Alex Haro – Newsletter Editor
- c. New Section Website: Doug announced that a new web site for the Section had been developed and that it is populated with current information. Doug

encouraged Section members to visit the new site and submit comments to the EXCOM. The new site is linked to the parent's society's site or can be visited directly at: <http://www.fisheries.org/bes/>

- d. New Section Travel Award: Doug announced that the Section has implemented a student travel award effective for 2010. The award will allow up to \$800 to support travel to either the AFS Annual Meeting or Division/Chapter meetings. Information on eligibility, requirements and the application can be downloaded from the Section's web site. The key requirement is that the student must make either an oral or poster presentation on a bioengineering topic.

The following notes were inadvertently overlooked during the meeting. It was Doug's intention to summarize the results of the AFS Governing Board Meeting held the previous Saturday, August 28. The full minutes of that meeting can be downloaded from the AFS web site. The following are the key meeting highlights:

- All section bylaws, including the Bioengineering Section's, that were up for review and acceptance by the parent society were approved/accepted.
- A new Fish Habitat Section has been launched and approved
- AFS successfully launched the open access *Marine and Coastal Fisheries Journal*.
- AFS is working on a new Fisheries Forum for open discussion of key fisheries issues. Watch for its implementation announcement in *Fisheries*.
- AFS, after many years of operating with a budget surplus, is now operating at a deficit. There are many reasons for the change the most notable including declines in membership (notably young professionals), journal advertising, donations, book sales and increases in staff and other operating costs (notably staff health benefits and journal printing). Many options are being considered to eliminate the deficit operation, including:
 - Use of "rainy day funds"
 - Eliminating journal printing and limiting all future journal publications to electronic versions only
 - Reducing staffing-related expenses
 - Increase Annual Meeting registration fees
- There is considerable concern about attendance at the annual meeting and its implications to meeting finances. In anticipation of lower than average attendance a number of services have been reduced and/or eliminated by the local organizing committee. Registration fees for annual meetings are comparatively low – this will likely change in the future to minimize financial risks.
- The next World Fisheries Congress will be held in the British Isles in May 2012.

3. 2008-2009 Accomplishments: Doug Dixon

- e. EXCOM minutes & Governing Board reports: Doug noted that the EXCOM generally meets on a monthly basis and that meeting minutes for the past 12 months are posted on the Section's new web site.

- f. Telemetry Standards Committee: Ted Castro-Santos, Committee Chairman, briefly reviewed the Committee's objective and history. He noted that the Committee has developed a proposal to test telemetry standards and that it was looking for funders to support the work. At present, no sponsorship or contributing funds have been offered. Additional initiatives to raise awareness and funds are being considered.
- g. Emerging Technology Committee: Doug Dixon briefly reviewed the Committee's objective and history and noted that the Committee will be holding its annual meeting following the Section meeting. Doug noted that the committee's initial objective was to review and comment on emerging technology ideas; however, after some initial interest, no innovators had proposed technology concepts for review in over 18 months. As a result, the Committee is now attempting to re-define itself, most notably, starting activities to promote technology innovation. This includes development of a Continuing Education Program (subsequently discussed), sponsoring symposia and authoring papers on the history of fish passage and protection and what needs to be done to advance the state-of-the-art. Doug noted the committee is always looking of new volunteers to participate in committee activities.
- h. Revised Bylaws: Doug noted that the Section's Bylaws were revised per recommendations of AFS's constitutional consultant. The changes were largely editorial such that the language was consistent with the bylaws of our parent society. The section unanimously approved the bylaws in electronic balloting conducted this past summer. Our bylaws have since been approved and accepted by the AFS Governing Board.
- i. BES 2009 Nashville Symposium – Innovating Fish Passage & Protection: Doug noted that the just completed symposium is an outreach activity of the Emerging Technology Committee. Ted Castro-Santos was the organizer and he is considering publishing the presentations.
- j. Continuing Education Course: Upstream Passage: Doug noted that the new Continuing Education Program is another activity of the Emerging Technology Committee. This year's course was attended by almost 30 participants. Instructors volunteered their time and resources to support the course. This year's course focused on upstream fish passage. It may be repeated in 2010. New course to be considered for the future include downstream fish passage and screening at water intakes. The Section will form a new Continuing Education Committee to organize future courses. Those who are interested in participating on the Committee should contact Doug or a member of the EXCOM.

- k. Newsletters: Alex Haro noted he was ready to prepare another newsletter. If members have information they would like to share with the Section, it should be sent to Alex at alex_haro@usgs.gov. Doug discussed that it was his intention to increase the frequency of the newsletters (quarterly, monthly) but that he could not accomplish his intentions. He noted that the updated ListServe could be used to distribute timely information. He noted that our old model of annual newsletters may no longer be of value to the membership given the instantaneous information world we now live in supported by electronic distribution.

4. Installation of New Officers: President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past-President

5. New Business: Ted Castro-Santos

Ted's first order of new business was to thank Marcin Whitman for his six years of service to the Section's EXCOM. Ted then presented Doug Dixon with an AFS Certificate of Appreciation plaque noting his service to the section as President during 2007-2009.

Ted noted that the Section has drifted toward a focus on fish passage and screening and away from both aquaculture and fishing gear engineering. He discussed how he would like to reach out to these bioengineering professionals and increase their engagement with Section activities. One possibility is proposing a symposium for Pittsburg (2010) on a topic such as fishing gear engineering.

There was a brief discussion on volunteer activities and opportunities and symposium planning. Doug noted that anyone can propose a symposium for the annual meeting and that the local organizing committee requires a formal proposal. Doug asked that the Section's EXCOM be included on bioengineering-related symposium proposals to avoid conflicting schedules as has sometimes happened in the past.

Relative to volunteer activities, Abby Franklin volunteered to participate and/or lead the Student Presentation Award. This activity, as discussed on our web site, has been inactive for several years.

Overall, Ted noted that his plan will emerge as the EXCOM moves forward and he looks forward to working with the Section & EXCOM.

2. Treasurer's Report

Doug noted that the Section treasury has approximately \$20,000 and that the only upcoming expenses include costs for the Continuing Education program and the Student Travel Award in 2010.

3. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10 pm