Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting—Education Section
2013 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society
Little Rock; Sep 8, 5-7 pm, Marriott Hotel – Fulton Room

Call to Order: Mike Quist called the meeting to order. Quist introduced himself and provided agendas and copies of the treasurer's report to attendees.

Introduction of Guests: Quist recognized current officers of the Education Section, including Past-President, Steve Chipps; President-Elect, Craig Paukert, and Secretary-Treasurer, Katie Bertrand. Quist recognized the Division Representatives who serve on the Section's Executive Committee (ExCom) along with the officers. Division Representatives were Jeff Jolley (Western), Tracy Galarowicz (North Central), Allison Roy (Northeastern), and Julie Harris (Southern). Quist then recognized Past-Presidents of the Education Section in attendance Joe Margraf, Brian Murphy, and Donna Parrish. Quist also recognized that Donna Parrish (1st Vice President) and Joe Margraaf (incoming 2nd Vice President) are current AFS officers.

Determination of Quorum: A quorum (10% of membership) was present and confirmed by Bertrand.

Approval of Agenda: Quist introduced agenda. No motion.

Approval of Minutes from 2012 Business Meeting: The minutes were available to the membership on the Education Section webpage and in the Education Section Newsletter. No motion.

President's Comments: Quist encouraged attendees to consider serving as leaders of the Education Section, stating that there is "no better place to put your efforts for the 8 year leadership commitment." He explained that in order to realize the importance and value of AFS membership, members have to get involved. Quist welcomed future volunteers and leaders, stating that this is a very open, welcoming group, with lots of opportunities to get involved. He concluded by promising that if volunteers approached current officers or division representatives, they will find an opportunity to apply their talent in the section.

Treasurer's report: Bertrand presented the Treasurer's report. Total assets of the Section as of September 8, 2013 were $141,294.60. The balance forward from August 18, 2012 was $202,505.72, income from the previous year was $20,169.54, and expenditures were $81,797.85. Bertrand explained that the decrease in net assets in the preceding year resulted from paying the final invoice for the 3rd edition of *Fisheries Techniques*, without yet realizing financial gains from its sale.

Comments by AFS officer: Donna Parrish (1st Vice President) began by stating that the after attending the Governing Board meeting, she is confident that the society is in really good shape. This year we have a new Executive Director, Doug Austen, who is from our own ranks. The Society leadership hopes that this will put AFS on a new trajectory: back into a more highlighted position as a professional society than we have been in the past years. Over the next few years, Society leadership will be investigating and addressing what members want from the AFS, because Governing Board members are concerned about membership declines (down from 9,000 to 7,000 members). Parrish added that one of the best avenues for gathering information about the membership is through the Education Section. Other concerns include future sources of revenue (i.e., what revenue source will replace books?) The Governing Board discussed fish identification applications as one example of a tool that AFS could produce to get information out and help professionals perform their jobs more effectively. Parrish encouraged present members of the Education Section to collaborate and submit ideas of ways to create new value for members.

Committee Reports:
Newsletter: Cari-Ann Hayer informed the group that the newsletter is published twice per year. Thanked Education Section membership, especially the student subunits, for submissions to the newsletter. Invited feedback and suggestions for improvement? President Quist thanked Hayer and Pierce for their service.

Web page: Steve Ranney could not attend the meeting, but President Quist informed the Section that Ranney added links from the Education Section webpage to Derek Ogle's R code. Any comments on the webpage should be directed to Quist or Ranney.

Excellence in Fisheries Education Award: President Quist reminded the Section that this is a Society level award, officially presented at the AFS business meeting. Jason Vokoun reported that the committee had a busy year, reviewing seven nominees. He encouraged the Student Subsection to keep the listserv going. Applications remain in consideration for three years. Vokoun recognized committee members, and asked for volunteers for a replacement for Greg Whitledge, whose term has ended. Vokoun announced that the recipient of the award in 2012 was Dr. Frederick Sharf. Vokoun summarized Dr. Sharf's accomplishments, who was not in attendance.

Skinner Committee: Dan Daugherty was unable to attend the meeting so Bertrand provided the committee report. The Committee for 2012 included Dan Daugherty (Chair), Bertrand, Mary Bremigan, Andrea Johnson, Scott Heppell, Pete Sakaris, and Amy Spencer. All committee members have agreed to continue to serve on the committee. In the coming year, the committee plans to review and make recommendations for improvements to the applicant management and scoring system. The committee received a total of 29 applications (2 B.S., 17 M.S., and 10 Ph.D.) for this year's award. Thanks to the Parent Society, we were able to provide ten student applicants with Skinner Awards in support of their attendance at the meeting. The Education Section also provided additional support, allowing us to acknowledge the efforts of five additional student applicants as honorable mentions. The winners of this year's award were: Patrick Cooney – PhD student, North Carolina State University; Kristopher Stahr – MS student, Oklahoma State University; Lisa Winters – MS student, Utah State University; Sally Petre – MS student, University of Arizona; Andrew Carlson – MS student, South Dakota State University; Carlin Fenn – MS student, Southern Illinois University; David (Randy) Stewart – PhD student, Oklahoma State University; Lynn Waterhouse – PhD student, University of California – San Diego; Heather Stewart – MS student, Mississippi State University; and Tracy Wendt – BS student, University of Montana. Honorable mentions were: Abigail Lynch – PhD student, Michigan State University; Joy Young – PhD student, Florida Atlantic University; Tanner Stevens – MS student, South Dakota State University; Katharine DeVilbiss – MS student, State University of New York; and Caroline Andrews – MS student, Mississippi State University.

President-Elect Craig Paukert commented that the awards used to be funded with the interest income from the endowment. When interest rates declined in the late 2000's, AFS advised the Education Section Skinner Committee to continue awarding 10 students (at $800 per student). Paukert recommended that the Skinner Committee investigate the sustainability of the endowment with AFS. In the future, the Section and the Committee may have to consider providing fewer awards.

Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2012: Melissa Wuellner and Shannon Fisher were the Co-Chairs for the 2012 Annual Meeting; however, Quist announced the award winners. Quist reminded attendees that the Education Section administers the BSP symposium, but the award is jointly sponsored by Sea Grant and AFS. Jason Neuswanger was the 2012 BS Paper winner, and there were 2 Honorable Mentions: Ashley Stasko and Tamara Pandolfo. The 2012 BS Poster winner was Jeffrey Smith, and the honorable mention went to Lisa Walleser.

Best Student Paper-Poster Award 2013: Melissa Wuellner, Dan Magoulick, and President-Elect Craig Paukert are serving as Co-Chairs of the committee for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Paukert presented the committee report and indicated that the application process is smoother now, thanks to an informational article in *Fisheries* by Melissa Wuellner and Shannon Fisher. The committee has done a great deal of important work for the students and the Society. One recent change was to ask the Education Section President-Elect to serve as a Co-Chair to provide interannual continuity. Craig Paukert was the committee *ex officio*. This year, the paper symposium is Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, and the poster symposium is Monday evening. There were 27 Best Student Paper submissions and 16 finalists were selected, representing 15 schools. Eight submissions were rejected for incompleteness, typically missing the advisor certification. In a few cases, the committee received a letter of support from an advisor, but not a student application. The committee also reviewed 3 Best Student Poster submissions (1 rejected for incompleteness) and 2 finalists were selected. The committee recruited 2 sets of judges: one set to review abstracts, and the other set to review papers and posters during the meeting. Judging packets are at the registration desk for meeting judges, who have not yet picked them up.

Membership: Jesse Fischer served as Chair in 2013. The committee is currently seeking a volunteer to assume the role of chair. Duties of the membership committee include the Young Professional Travel Award that was established to promote attendance at the annual meeting. Eligible applicants are those who are within 3 years post-graduation. Award is for $1000 to one individual. Preference is given to those presenting, attending a continuing education workshop, contributing service to AFS, and demonstrating financial need. This year the committee assessed 9 applicants, and Fischer presented the award to Michelle (Mick) Walsh (in attendance), who is a Sea Grant Fellow, presenting a paper at the meeting, involved with outreach, and productive in terms of publications.

Fischer reported that the Committee discussed transferring the concept of reduced membership dues to meeting registration. Meeting registration increases from $140 (students) to $500 (professionals).

Donna Parrish added that the Governing Board has been brainstorming new ways to attract new Governing Board members. One effort is to re-invigorate the Emerging Leaders Mentor Program, which is designed to bring upper level graduate students and young professionals to the annual meeting to shadow a current Governing Board member at the Thursday Governing Board meeting. If potential mentees are interested, they need to contact a willing mentor. The program will provide $500 to cover expenses related to attending the meeting early. Quist commented that attending the Governing Board meeting is very invigorating and that he enjoys interacting with a great group of people.

Nominating: Past-President Steve Chipps reported that this was an election year and thanked the nominees, who were willing to stand as candidates for the officer positions. Secretary-Treasurer candidates were Tracy Galarowicz and Trent Sutton. Southern Division Representative candidates were Matt Catalano and Brian Irwin. Western Division Representative candidate was Pheadra Budy. One hundred and forty people voted using Survey Monkey, and all races were very close. Katie Bertrand is President-Elect. Trent Sutton is Secretary-Treasurer. Brian Irwin is Southern Division Representative. Phaedra Budy is Western Division Representative. Next year, the Section will vote for the North Central Division and Northeastern Division Representatives, so please consider nominations for those upcoming positions.

Ad hoc committee & Special projects:

Foundations of Fisheries Science: Mike Allen provided an update of the book project and recognized Greg Sass as the other editor. He informed the group that the book was patterned after *Foundations in Ecology* and includes five sections: managing fish stocks, aquatic communities, aquatic habitat, people and economics, and fisheries enhancement. Each section includes eight seminal works in each area, and over half were selected as top vote-getters using Survey Monkey. About 15% of the works were originally published in AFS journals, but the remainder represents a wide diversity of journal titles. The only unfinished work on the project is the writing of the conclusions and Allen predicted that the book should be available for purchase in the coming year. The Education Section will receive a small portion of the proceeds. Allen recommended the book as a great resource for graduate students.

New Initiatives: President Mike Quist reported that this ad hoc committee was first established by Tom Kwak to determine the best uses for the substantial financial resources of the Education Section money to support our mission. During the preceding year, Mike Colvin, Dan Dauwalter, and Justin VanDeHey developed and submitted 2 ideas to the Executive Committee. The first idea was to develop digital education media (e.g., small vignettes of *Fisheries Techniques*). The second idea was to annually provide one distance continuing education workshop (i.e., virtual workshop attendance). The committee identified multiple sections of AFS that could contribute to this effort and have shared interests. The committee has reached the point where the Section needs to provide guidance on implementation of the ideas.

Undergraduate Travel Award: Cari-Ann Hayer reported that during last year's business meeting, the membership voted to provide $2000/yr for 2 years (2013-2014) while the committee developed a reviewing, awarding, and assessment framework. The committee struggled during the preceding year to reconcile everyone's ideas. The goal of the award is to involve more undergraduates in the parent society. The committee's recommendation is to select those students that show greatest promise of continued service and participation. The request for applications was posted late in July, but in the future, the committee will post the request for applications simultaneous with all other awards (e.g., Skinner Award). They reviewed 13 applicants and granted 4 awards of $500 each to: Alichia Wilson, Casey Pennock, David Bogner, and Travis Schepker. Student recipients are asked to write a 1 page summary of their experience at the meeting.

Additional Reports:

Student Subsection: Daniel Dembkowski reported on Student Subsection leadership of the Undergraduate Travel Award, and this year's Student Colloquium. The colloquium will feature a panel discussion of the questions: how can students increase their marketability as employees, and what role has AFS played in their professional development? Panelists include Dana Infante, Jessica Mistak, Doug Beard, Candace Bressler. Dembkowski also described the partnership that the Student Subsection is Developing with the Equal Opportunity Section (Lonnie Gonzales, President). Finally, Dembkowski announced that the Subsection organized a Ladies Night for this year's annual meeting, highlighting accomplishments of female fisheries professionals.

Additional discussion arose surrounding selling books in portable document format. As soon as the Education Section learned that *Fisheries Techniques*, 3rd edition, was available in this format, members of the Executive Committee contacted Aaron Lerner to prevent further sales of this unprotected copy. The Executive Committee of the Education Section will work with Aaron Lerner over the coming year to explore the option of selling copy-protected electronic books.

Awards and Recognition:

Quist informed the group that a certificate of appreciation would be sent to Julie Harris for her service as SD representative during 2011-2012, replacing Jim Peterson. Quist noted that a similar certificate would be sent to Jeff Jolley for his service as WD representative during 2011-2012. Quist provided a certificate of appreciation to Katie Bertrand for her service as Secretary-Treasurer during 2011-2012. Finally, Quist once again thanked Steve Chipps for his service as Past-President during 2011-2012.

Steve Chipps recognized winners of the raffle for election participants: Tom Kwak, Andrew Carlson, and Michael Smith.

Incoming President Craig Paukert presented a certificate of appreciation to Mike Quist for his service as Section President during 2011-2012.

New Business and Announcements:

Comments from President Craig Paukert: Paukert announced that one of his first tasks will be to review awards offered by the Education Section. The review will address the following questions: are we getting good applicants, are we serving the purpose of the award, and are the awards sustainable? Paukert indicated that he will be contacting and working with the award committee members to assess each award. Second, he announced that he intends to work with the New Initiatives Committee to develop an implementation framework. The committee has gained some traction, but the section does not have a procedure in place for evaluation and implementation. New initiatives must be reviewed to determine their fit with the mission and direction of the society. Paukert concluded by reminding attendees that our Section has ample opportunity to collaborate with other sections (e.g., FITS, FMS, FAS, and FHS) to pursue new initiatives.

Jason Vokoun motioned that the Section membership vote to amend bylaws to increase the threshold for funding decisions that can be made by a vote of the Executive Committee from $1000 to $2500. The motion was not seconded, and discussion ensued about whether or not an amendment was necessary. President Paukert committed to inquire with the AFS Constitutional Consultant, Jessica Mistak.

The Section was reminded of the Exchange Program between AFS and the Fisheries Society of the British Isles. Rachel Ball is the exchange student this year from England.

Adjournment
Joe Margraaf motioned to adjourn at 6:25PM
Steve Chipps seconded.
Motion carried.