

2023 AFS Water Quality Section Business Meeting

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

4:30–5:30 PM

Attendees:

Online

Chuck Coutant – WQS member

John Meldrin – WQS member

Chris Yoder – WQS member

Jeff Herod – WQS member

John Copeland – WQS member

Binglei Gong – WQS member

Bob Hughes – WQS member

Chris Carlson – WQS member

In-person

Jeff Kopaska – WQS member

Margaret Murphy – WQS member, incoming AFS 2nd Vice President

April Croxton, AFS President

Gregg Lomnicky – WQS member, Section Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Alford – WQS member, Section President-Elect

Paul Kusnierz – WQS member, Section Past-President

Jelsie Kerr – 2023 student poster winner

A quorum was present.

1) Officer introduction:

Jonathan Leiman is the new Section President

Brian Alford is the new Section President-Elect

Yetta Jager (previous Section Past President) is the new Communications Officer

Paul Kusnierz is the new Past-President

2) Officer Section handbook:

The document has been drafted. It will be available for all Section Officers. It describes annual activities and important dates. Bylaws do not discuss detailed logistics for officer duties.

3) Addition to the Agenda: April Croxton – Plan for AFS

a. Reengaging with membership, visited chapters to learn value AFS provides

b. Internal communication with member units. We need to share info among different units to ensure we don't reinvent the wheel

c. Creating proxies for Management Committee (Business meeting vote)

d. Rotating travel schedule for officers to visit Chapters, leadership is invested in sharing info and engaging

e. Latin American Fisheries Congress in Cancun in May 2023. Identified a gap in the region and are making an effort to engage and trade information with the region.

- f. 3rd Hutton Summit at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, 43 high school students (largest class ever) with a focus on exposing students to the fisheries profession. Planted aquatic veg, participated in fishing derby helping kids learn to fish
 - g. Journals retreat this year
 - h. Executive Director search protocol will be laid out. Doug Austin is retiring.
- 4) Financial Update (July 31 end of calendar year):
- a. Water Quality Section has 467 active members: 2 from developing countries, 7 life members, 91 regular, 16 retirees, 125 young professionals, 226 students, 11 foreign countries represented including Canada, France, Italy, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Republic of China, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
 - b. Overall our funds increased \$3,500 this year. The Edward Jones fund increased \$1,873.41 over the past fiscal year. We received \$1,904 in Section membership dues from AFS.
 - c. Expenses: \$100 for 2022 poster award.
 - d. Net worth as of July 31, 2023: \$33,181.12
- 5) This year's Section student poster award was given to Jelsie Kerr, Purdue University. Her poster was titled "Modeling land-use practices to reduce nutrient loading in lakes with endangered Cisco". She modeled BMP's and land use change to describe how habitat loss due to nutrient loading has affected Cisco. An announcement about Jelsie and her poster will be in the fall newsletter and posted to the website.
- 6) AFS and WQS Rebranding
Membership engagement within the Section
- a. Jeff K. suggested that we ask the student members how we can get more engagement.
 - b. Margaret M. suggested that we reach out to Yetta J. about communicating more frequently via Socials (Yetta may know more of results of 2017-ish survey)
 - c. Jelsie was unaware of the Section prior to winning the poster award.
 - d. Advisors bring students to AFS meetings for their first introduction. Get to the advisors and chapters to get them info about the section and that we exist.
 - e. John C. stated that we could engage with water quality volunteers or reach out to professionals who work with volunteers.
 - f. Binglei G. stated that fisheries folks don't seem to have a lot of interest in water quality. How do we engage with them better? We need to break that barrier.
- 7) Section symposium in San Antonio 2025:
- a. The Association of Water Quality Administrators didn't join in the symposium in 2023 like planned. Only one abstract was submitted for the Grand Rapids meeting, so we withdrew the symposium. We will work on making the symposium less technical in 2025 to hopefully get more interest in submitting talk. Jonathan Leiman is in charge of organizing.

- 8) 2023 FARM bill position statement:
 - a. Bob Hughes volunteered to take point on Farm bill position statement/letter/advocacy of some sort. Please contact Bob to volunteer your services.
 - b. We will mention this opportunity in the fall newsletter.

- 9) Member input:
 - a. Bob Hughes asked if we should write a fish-WQ article for Fisheries mag? Paul K. stated that two papers from the section have come out in Fisheries - one on temperature (August 2023) the other on getting fish and WQ folks to talk to each other (2020). Paul added that he plans to work on a third paper for fisheries that will describe the role Section 303d of the Clean Water Act can play in the field of fisheries. Paul gave a presentation at this meeting on the topic.

 - b. Margaret stated that fish folks need to understand the fish's home by understanding their water quality/flow, water issues, and irrigation. Would it be possible to do a paper on the topic of flow from the Section? Reach out to Paul if interested in contributing. Margaret and Gregg L. are interested in helping. It was mentioned that the article should be kept less technical as that is what Fisheries is for.

 - c. John Meldrin made a motion to establish honorary membership to the section to all past presidents that are members of AFS. This was seconded by Margaret Murphy. There was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously. We will need to add this to the Officers Manual.

The meeting ended at 5:32 PM.