

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
2024 Midyear Meeting
July 8, 2024 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Video Conference

Action Items and **To-Do** List:

- 1) Set a new deadline for the Jenkins Scholarship.
- 2) Contact Peter Turcile (pturcile@fisheries.org) to get the scholarship announcement put in the AFS Fisheries Magazine and Kelly Kotche (kkotche@fisheries.org) to determine how best to get the word out through the professional and student list.
- 3) Send the scholarship announcement to other AFS divisions and the AFS Fish Management section.
- 4) Post the scholarship announcement to the Awards and Scholarships section of the AFS Student & Early Career Professionals Subsection page (<https://students.fisheries.org/awards-and-scholarships/>).
- 5) Send out four notices or reminders before the scholarship deadline.
- 6) Work with the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame to secure another donation to the scholarship.
- 7) Plan the 2025 Summer in-person meeting in Missouri.

Attendees:

Sean Kinney, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (*Chair; Rep*)
Jeremy Risley, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (*Secretary-Treasurer; Rep*)
Jeremy Shiflet, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (*Scholarship Chair; Webmaster; Rep*)
Amy Chastain, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (Rep)
Casey Joubert, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Rep)
Shane Bush, Missouri Department of Conservation (Rep)
Steven Brown, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (Rep)
John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (Rep)
Aaron Gray, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Rep)
Dustin Smith, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (Rep)
Sarah Menendez, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Rep)
Zack Ford, Missouri Department of Conservation
Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S.
Mark Fowlkes, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Lawrence Dorsey, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Dr. Mark Rogers, Tennessee Tech University
Dr. Dan Shoup, Oklahoma State University
Tom Miles, Tennessee Tech University

Introduction – Sean Kinney

Reservoir Committee (RC) chair Sean Kinney called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM, welcomed the attendees, and began working through the agenda (see page 10).

Financial Report – Jeremy Risley

Jeremy R. briefly updated the group on the current RC finances (see page 11). **The beginning balance in January 2024 was \$27,507.80.** Account withdrawals included providing a \$500 Jenkins scholarship to Joshua Stafford at the 2024 spring meeting and \$1,000 to the Wisconsin DNR for publishing expenses for the upcoming AFS crappie management book. Also, \$1,500 was transferred between our mutual and checking accounts, as indicated in the account's deposit and withdrawal records. In addition, there was a \$1,008.51 increase due to changes in mutual fund value and a deduction of \$110.67 for fees. **At the end of June 2024, the RC's account balance was \$26,905.64. \$10,000 was earmarked for microplastic research from a TVA grant. As a result, the remaining balance was \$16,905.64.** No questions were raised about the financial report.

Jenkins Scholarship Award – Jeremy Shiflet

Little movement has occurred since the spring meeting; however, Jeremy S. made some updates to the nationwide announcement for the scholarship. The plan is to continue nationwide expansion in 2025, offering the winner a \$1,000 scholarship and travel funding to attend the annual SDAFS meeting. Jeremy S. suggested that we should consider advancing the due date for the scholarship so that the Committee would have enough time to review the applications, select the winner, and notify the recipient. This would give the recipient ample time to plan to attend the SDAFS meeting. Sean mentioned we should consider having the scholarship applications due by October 15. Jeremy S. noted that the most challenging part of the process is getting the announcement out and into the hands of potential applicants. Dan S. suggested advertising the scholarship in the AFS Fisheries Magazine since it goes nationwide. He told Sean that he would get some contact information for the magazine. Lawrence mentioned the AFS contact was Peter Turcile (pturcile@fisheries.org). Jeremy S. mentioned the SDAFS Listserv and the list of professors. Dan S. suggested that the best time to send the announcement to professors is just before school starts and then to send a reminder after school starts. Jeremy S. also mentioned contacting the other AFS divisions, and Lawrence suggested sending it to the AFS Fish Management Section. Gene will also share the announcement through the media channels of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. Gene mentioned that they received 49 applicants for their scholarship, which focuses strictly on bass research. He suggested sending the scholarship announcement every month or two across various media outlets to stay on the students' radar. Casey mentioned posting the announcement on the Awards and Scholarships section of the AFS Student & Early Career Professionals Subsection page (<https://students.fisheries.org/awards-and-scholarships/>). Mark R. mentioned that Kelly Kotche (kkotche@fisheries.org) keeps a list of professional and student members. He mentioned contacting the AFS Division presidents, with Kelly attached, to notify them that we are trying to get the word out about the scholarship. Mark R. said he would ask Kelly how to get the word out about the scholarship. Jeremy S. said he would like to send out four notices or reminders before the deadline. Mark R. asked if anyone had reached out to the SDAFS Warm Water Streams Committee about how they distribute the announcements for their scholarship.

Sean mentioned speaking to the Committee chair about it, stating that they are not doing anything different from us.

Jeremy S. redirected the conversation to the topic of scholarship funding. He mentioned there are two items: annual funding and endowment. Gene is planning to reach out to the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame to make another donation to the scholarship. Gene mentioned that the Friends of Reservoirs and Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership have encountered legal issues using a raffle to generate funding. He noted that the problem seems related to expanding the raffle across state lines. Mark R. mentioned that raffles are illegal in Tennessee and are considered gambling, which is why the SDAFS had to conduct silent auctions. Gene mentioned there is no one-size-fits-all solution to handle this issue. Jeremy S. mentioned that going nationwide opens us to getting other vendors or sponsors for the scholarship. **No action was taken on this issue.**

Website/Social Media – Jeremy Shiflet

Website chair Jeremy S. reported to the RC that not much has changed. He posted the 2024 spring meeting minutes and updated information about the 2024 Jenkins scholarship winner. He also added the research proposals from scholarship winners dating back to 2017 to the website. Lastly, he posted information about the 2025 SDAFS meeting in Asheville, NC. Jeremy S. mentioned you should let him know if you have any ideas on improving the website's utilization. Sean also noted that anyone who wants something uploaded to the website should contact Jeremy S or Sean. **No actions were taken on this issue.**

Update on Micro Plastic Research/Plans/Grant – Sean Kinney

Just before the SDAFS meeting this year, the Steering Committee held an informative webinar attended by approximately 120 people. Another webinar took place in May, with around 50 attendees. Sixteen states signed up to participate in the project. The Committee applied for a multistate grant before the June 7 deadline. They asked for \$554,000 over three years. Sean mentioned that multistate grants tend not to like funding multiple years, but that was the only way to complete the project reasonably. There will be two Universities involved in the research proposal. LSU would handle fish and water processing, while Arkansas Tech would handle the soil samples. Each state will receive a sampling kit. Approximately 700 samples will be collected and processed. The plan is to collect five fish per species to reduce the number needed for processing. Sean believes that the deadline to hear whether the project will be funded is December 1, with funding potentially coming in January 2025. If funded, the kits will be sent out in early spring 2025, with sampling occurring in June, July, and August 2025. **No actions were taken on this issue.**

Forward Facing Sonar and Limit Changes in Mississippi – Sean Kinney

Sean asked Steven Brown to update the Committee on Mississippi's forward-facing sonar research and the resulting changes to limits. Keith Meals, a Regional Fisheries Biologist in the northern part of the state, has been leading the research effort on their flood control reservoirs. He has been working closely with Dr. Miranda of MSU. They conducted creel surveys before and after the rise in the popularity of forward-facing sonar. They found anglers with

forward-facing sonar harvested more fish. They discovered that anglers who trolled while using forward-facing sonar were more effective than anglers using forward-facing sonar while fishing with a pole. They did not observe any preference for size for those using forward-facing sonar. However, they did notice a size difference among pole anglers, but they attributed it to seasonality differences instead of forward-facing sonar. Based on the results, the creel limit for those lakes was reduced from 15 fish per day to 10 fish. Also, the daily aggregate was decreased from 40 fish for three anglers to 25 fish. Steven that the impacts of Asian Carp were an influential factor in reducing the daily creel. The results of this research will be published. **No actions were taken on this issue.**

Standard Sampling Protocols – Sean Kinney

Sean has mentioned that Louisiana is updating its standard sampling protocols. The goal is to make them more concise by combining multiple sampling techniques into one document. In the past, these techniques have been outlined in separate documents. If you have similar protocols and have not responded to Sean's initial email, please do so. Sean will be happy to share Louisiana's document once it is completed. **No actions were taken on this issue.**

State and Member Reports –

Contact the State Representatives for more detailed information on the topics provided.

North Carolina – Casey Joubert (casey.joubert@ncwildlife.org)

- Completed spring bass sampling
- Completed F1 Bass stockings
 - Lake Norman, Gaston, and Jordan
 - Fish came from American Sportfish
- Will be participating in the abovementioned micro plastic project, if funded
- Continue to do habitat work
 - Planting vegetation
 - Getting a new greenhouse
- Working on the final stages of the statewide moronid management plan, which should be finished by the end of the year.
- Working on a statewide black bass management plan.
- Looking at increasing their fish consumption sampling.
- They are wrapping up a publication on the Lake Norman Hybrid Striped Bass telemetry study.
- They will be hosting SDAFS in February 2025 in Asheville, NC.

Kentucky – Jeremy Shiflet (jeremy.shiflet@ky.gov)

- Several management teams are working on statewide management plans.
 - Focusing on those species that require hatchery production

- Hosted their first-ever black bass management summit
 - 15 people from the bass fishing world in Kentucky
 - Presented on what, how, and why of black bass management in the state
 - They plan to have another one next year.
 - They are receiving pressure to stock Florida Bass or F1 Bass
 - There are no plans to stock these in Kentucky waters
- Completed a statewide black bass genetics study
 - Found no Alabama Bass genetics in the state
- Considering working with Red Hills Hatchery on trophy Largemouth Bass
- They are asking about forward-facing sonar on creel surveys

Mississippi - Stephen Brown (stephen.brown@wfp.ms.gov)

- He provided more information on the forward-facing sonar research, which was added to the forward-facing sonar and limit changes in the Mississippi discussion above.

Virginia – John Odenkirk (john.odenkirk@dwr.virginia.gov)

- They are still dealing with harmful algae blooms on Lake Anne, a 10,000-acre lake.
 - Angling is fantastic, likely due to habitat, such as aquatic vegetation.
 - Shoreline development may contribute to increased productivity as well.
 - Lake Anne Civic Association and the Lake Anne Advisory Committee are trying to manage the watershed for the benefit of all.
 - These groups received \$1 million from the general assembly to deal with the harmful algae.
 - They contracted two companies to tackle this issue:
 - One contractor is using EutroSor WC at the upper end of the reservoir and one of the major tributaries.
 - The other contractor is using Wollastonite. If anyone knows about this product, please get in touch with John.
 - There are concerns about the impact of these treatments on the reservoir's shad population.

West Virginia – Dustin Smith (dustin.m.smith@wv.gov)

- Working on reservoir habitat work
 - Working to develop a master's project with West Virginia University to take a more detailed look into what habitat types they put into their reservoirs and how it benefits. They hope to get this started next year.
 - The emphasis of this research is to identify when using different habitat types, what type of fish and life stages are attracted to the structures rather than trying to increase the number of fish or size structure.
 - They also deal with extreme water level changes in their reservoirs

- They want to develop a habitat management plan.
- They are working on statewide genetics studies on Walleye, Largemouth Bass, and Muskie.
 - They are under pressure to stock F1 Bass.
 - Sampled all their major reservoirs, small impoundments, and navigable rivers to get baseline data.
 - There were no finalized results, but they found primarily Largemouth Bass with a low level of Florida Bass genetics in a few waters.
 - Found no Alabama Bass genetics
 - They are also looking to get baseline genetics on Walleye and Muskie.
- Developing a statewide black bass management plan.
 - Currently, the state does not have a plan
- Finishing a statewide sampling effort for crappie and Yellow Perch
 - Looking at exploitation and population demographics.
 - Information for forward-facing sonar discussion

Tennessee Tech – Mark Rogers (mwrogers@tntech.edu)

- Worked with Dr. Nathan Whelan at Auburn University to develop the same SNP panel for Florida Bass, Alabama Bass, and other black bass.
 - They are working with TWRA right now.
 - Verified results with Auburn
 - They may start processing black bass samples for others in the future.
- The USFWS has funded efforts to look at invasive aquatic plants in the SE United States.
 - They are going to do some eDNA and on-the-ground verifications.
 - Maybe six different strains of Hydrilla.
 - They will be sampling fish and macroinvertebrates to look at community composition, vary between native and non-native plant species.
 - If any invasive aquatic plants pop up in your area, please get in touch with Mark.
 - They are also trying to build a genetic library of these plants
- Black Bass Symposium at National AFS in San Antonio, TX, August 2025

South Carolina – Amy Chastain (breedlovea@dnr.sc.gov)

- Last year of black bass genetics study. They hope to have results by the end of the year
- They have several habitat projects coming up.
- Completed two telemetry studies
 - Black Crappie telemetry study on Lake Keowee to evaluate crappie usage in some of the habitats they installed.
 - Post-stocking survival study on Brown Trout in Lake Jocassee
- They are facing budget constraints, which might lead to decreased hatchery production.

Arkansas – Jeremy Risley (jeremy.risley@aqfc.ar.gov)

- Last year, for the statewide Smallmouth Bass genetic study
- Wrapped up spring bass sampling season
- Working with the USACE for the second year to develop protocols for establishing vegetation in moderately floating reservoirs (Beaver, DeGray, and Greers Ferry Lakes)
 - Looking to incorporate Mossback conservation cubes as an anchor under Arkansas floating cubes to increase the potential of attachment by Coontail.
- Early stages of developing a trophy bass “donation” program like Texas’s ShareLunker Program and angler recognition program like Florida’s TrophyCatch.
- Developed a tournament committee to help with some upcoming tournament-related projects and the development of more weigh-in facilities.
- Developing a tournament portal, similar to Michigan, for anglers and non-anglers to access to determine when and where tournaments are occurring
 - It will also house all our historical tournament data, like Alabama.
- Stocked Red Hills Hatchery’s Titan MAXX fingerlings into Lake Monticello, a newly renovated 1,500-acre reservoir.
 - The first public reservoir to be stocked with these Florida fingerlings
- Continuing the Largemouth Bass telemetry study in Lake Millwood to see habitat utilization. This study will be similar to the one completed by TPWD on Lake Fork and Toledo Bend.

Florida – Sarah Menendez (sara.menendez@myfwc.com)

- TrophyCatch is in Season 12
 - They have a new tag promotion where biologists tagged largemouth bass > 8 lbs. in five waterbodies throughout the state.
 - They have gotten two recaptures. Those anglers were awarded prizes through our sponsors and are eligible for a grand prize at the end of the Season (September).
- Orange Lake continues to fish well into the summer months.
 - They banned summer largemouth bass tournaments (no tournaments from June to August) to protect those larger fish and strong year classes.
- They continue exploring new trophy bass survival and growth through research projects and initiatives aimed at diet, female-only ponds, and forage stocking strategies.
- They are working with statewide and federal hatcheries on large-scale black crappie stockings, mortality estimates, and genetic contribution to the population.
- Like other states, this spring, they conducted electrofishing on over 20 waterbodies throughout FL using our methods from their Long-Term Monitoring program.
 - They also sampled for bass on numerous waterbodies based on region-specific management needs.

- They have transitioned into summer sampling season, which involves intensive habitat and plant mapping to help drive habitat projects and restoration work in the upcoming years.

Louisiana – Sean Kinney (skinney@wlf.la.gov)

- Completed standard bass spring sampling
- Some changes with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries could affect operations.
- Genetic work is happening within the state.
 - They stopped using the instate lab and are now using an out-of-state lab.
- They are continuing to work on their bass genetic selective breeding program.
- The position of the black bass program coordinator remains unfilled, and there is uncertainty regarding when it will be filled.

Missouri – Shane Bush (shane.bush@mdc.mo.gov)

- Completed efforts for their National Fish Habitat Partnership/Bass Pro Shop grant project on Bull Shoals and Table Rock Lakes.
 - 751 sites refreshed on Table Rock Lake
 - 50 sites on Bull Shoals Lake
 - Evaluation with forward-facing sonar and underwater camera.
- Bass Pro Shops will contribute about \$500,000 yearly to the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership to fund habitat projects in the central and southeastern United States.
- Finished the fourth year of the low-frequency electrofishing for Flathead Catfish
 - Conducting age and growth studies
- Working on Spotted Bass length limit regulation change on Table Rock Lake.
- No Alabama Bass genetics in Table Rock or Truman Lakes during testing.

Georgia – Aaron Gray (aarongray1@dnr.ga.gov)

- Working on standardization of their electrofishing fleet
- Continue to grow aquatic plants through their greenhouse
 - Six aquatic species
- They had a large planting day at Clarks Hill Reservoir in May
 - They planted 1,800 Water Willow plants and 12 Cypress Trees.
 - Other planting days are scheduled for this month.
- They plan to pursue a Spotted and Alabama Bass genetics study on Clarks Hill Reservoir.
- An angler caught a new Spotted Bass record in the state, but they firmly believe it was likely an Alabama Bass. They were not able to get fin clips from the fish.
- Working to partner with the University of Georgia on a crappie population dynamics and habitat use study in three or five reservoirs in Georgia.
- They are hosting the AFS Hutton Scholar Summit.

Open Discussion

2025 RC Summer Meeting – Sean Kinney

Potential for a summer meeting and workshop at Truman Reservoir in early summer of 2025. The plan is to use low-frequency electrofishing and juglines to sample catfish with MDC. The meeting would likely occur earlier than normal, such as in late May or early June.

2024 SEAFWA Meeting – Aaron Gray

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will host the 2024 SEAFWA annual meeting from October 12 to 16, 2024, at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Alabama Bass Working Group – Lawrence Dorsey

The Alabama Bass Working Group will be meeting on August 20, 2024. For more information, contact Lawrence at lawrence.dorsey@ncwildlife.org.

Water Quality Issues – Lawrence Dorsey

North Carolina has been approached to use ultrasonic technology to tackle harmful algae issues. However, little information exists on how effective these technologies are or how they impact fisheries.

The RC meeting was concluded at 11:40 AM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jeremy Risley (*Secretary-Treasurer*).



2024 SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee

Mid Year Meeting

July 8, 2024 from 10:00 – 12:00 **Central time**

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 941 5377 2976 Passcode: 051639

1. Introduction – Sean Kinney
2. Financial report – Jeremy Risley
3. Jenkins Scholarship award – Jeremy Shiflet
 - a. New rules on nationwide opening, due date, and funding
4. Website –Jeremy Shiflet
5. Update on micro plastic research/plans/grant
6. Forward Facing Sonar and limit changes in Mississippi
7. Standard sampling protocols
8. State Updates
9. Open Discussion
10. Adjourn

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Edward Jones Mutual Fund Account Balance ending June 2024							
Prepared on 07/02/2024 by Jeremy Risley - Sec/Treasurer							
Date	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Fees	Change in Value	Ending Balance	Comment
Jan-24	\$27,507.80			-\$19.09	\$64.31	\$27,553.02	
Feb-24	\$27,553.02	\$500.00	-\$1,000.00	-\$19.24	\$435.25	\$27,469.03	\$500 transferred between accounts (01/29_30), \$500 scholarship (Joshua Stafford, 02/01)
Mar-24	\$27,469.03	\$1,000.00	-\$2,000.00	-\$17.98	\$293.57	\$26,744.62	\$1,000 transferred between accounts (03/07), \$1,000 to Wisconsin DNR for Crappie Book (02/19)
Apr-24	\$26,744.62			-\$18.62	-\$472.36	\$26,253.64	
May-24	\$26,253.64			-\$17.47	\$301.92	\$26,538.09	
Jun-24	\$26,538.09			-\$18.27	\$385.82	\$26,905.64	
Jul-24							
Jan - July 2024	\$27,507.80	\$1,500.00	-\$3,000.00	-\$110.67	\$1,008.51	\$26,905.64	2024 Assets deposited to acct / 2024 Assets withdrawn from acct
						(\$602.16)	2.2% decrease
						\$16,905.64	Account balance without TVA Grant