

SDAFS Small Impoundments Technical Committee

January 29, 2015

Agenda

Percival Room
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, GA

1:00 PM Call to Order

- 1) Introduction by Chair
- 2) Self introduction of Committee members
- 3) Reading and approval of the 2013 Nashville minutes
- 4) Treasurer report

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Small Impoundment Management in North America textbook – Royalties?
- 2) Pond Management workshop or symposium
- 3) Updated webpage
- 4) Other old business?

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Member updates: anything new?
- 2) Research Project
 - a. Identify research needs
 - i. Prioritize small impoundment problems and research needs in the SE
 - ii. Discuss high priority issues and what we know and don't know
 - iii. Determine if data is already there
 - b. Select specific research projects
 - c. Discuss what data/resources are needed to see it through
 - d. Who will be involved?
 - e. Next step?
- 3) For a sub-committee
- 4) Other new business?

ADJOURN No later than 5:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Small Impoundments Committee (SIC) was called to order at 1:00 pm on 1/29/15 in Savannah, GA by Chair Graves Lovell. Graves welcomed and thanked those in attendance.

Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

A sign in sheet was passed around to collect contact information for those in attendance. All members and guests introduced themselves. Graves solicited several members of the private sector to attend the meeting. Committee members in attendance were:

Graves Lovell – Alabama DCNR
Jeremy Shiflet – Kentucky DFWR
Wes Neal – Mississippi State University
Steve Owens – Virginia DGIF
Hal Beard – South Carolina DNR
Keith Weaver – Georgia DNR
Diana Andrews – Arkansas GFC
Marcos DeJesus – Texas PWD (via phone)

Guests/Proxies in attendance were:

Greg Grimes – Aquatic Environmental Services
Jeff Slipke – Midwest Lake Management
Matt Morgan – Aquatic Environmental Services
David Beasley – SOLitude Lake Management
Jeremy Haley - SOLitude Lake Management
Bradley Sartain – AQUA Services Inc.
Jordan Smith – AQUA Services Inc.
Matt Catalano – Auburn University
Kris Nault – Arkansas GFC
Andy Yung – Arkansas GFC
Chris McKee – Alabama DCNR
Aaron Cushing – SOLitude Lake Management
Trent Lewis – Pond Medics Inc.
Matt Marshall – Alabama DCNR
Josh Johnston – Oklahoma DWC
Wade Bales – Quality Lakes Inc.
Corey Oakley – North Carolina WRC
Brandon Baker – Georgia DNR
Dennis Riecke – Mississippi DWFP

Approval of Minutes

The SIC did not meet in Charleston in 2014. The meeting minutes from 2013 in Nashville were read by Jeremy Shiflet. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Wes Neal and was seconded by Steve Owens. The motion passed with no objections.

Treasurers Report

The 2014 financial report was presented to the committee by Jeremy Shiflet. The only committee income is textbook royalties which amount to a couple hundred dollars per year. There were no comments or concerns regarding the report.

Old Business

Small Impoundment Management in North America – royalties

Textbook royalties amount to 3.5% of annual book sales. To date that total is \$852.04. The SIC receives one check annually.

Pond Management workshop or symposium

The idea of a pond management workshop or symposium was discussed briefly. The idea was tabled for future discussion.

Southeastern Pond Management Workgroup

Graves has been building on the idea presented by Wes Neal several years ago of beginning an official work group to conduct mutually beneficial research across the Southeast. He tried to create a “Fish Management Co-op” however has not been able to get anything official in place. In the meantime Graves has partnered with Dr. Matt Catalano to begin the first research project during the summer of 2016. Funding will come from Alabama DCNR and possibly Georgia DNR. Potential projects will be discussed in New Business.

Updated Webpage

Jeremy updated everyone on the webpage. We do not have much info that is updated throughout the year, however, meeting minutes, treasurer’s reports, agendas, and state updates are available from 2010 to present.

New Business

Member updates: anything new?

State updates were presented by committee representatives or proxies from MSU, KY, VA, AL, TX, SC, GA, and AR. Topics were discussed as applicable.

Research Project

Graves had solicited ideas for potential research projects from committee members and private sector companies in November of 2014. He compiled a list of research topics from the feedback he received. The committee discussed many of the issues identified and potential ways to conduct research accordingly. Funding sources and participation was also discussed. Graves asked for volunteers for a sub-committee to oversee the research project and Keith Weaver, Diana Andrews and Greg Grimes volunteered.

Graves said the next step would be to officially decide on a project. He and the sub-committee would work on that and let everyone else know. Based on committee feedback and sub-committee deliberation it was decided the first project will look at the idea of poisoning YOY largemouth bass in the summer to enhance fish populations in small impoundments. Dr. Catalano and Graves conducted “mock” treatments during the summer of 2015 on Auburn University ponds. They were attempting to get the methods down for the actual research project so a student could run with it next year. One pond was treated multiple times during a four week period and the percent kill was measured by pre and post seine hauls. Percentage kill increased with each treatment. A second pond that was quite different

morphologically was treated and produced about a 95% kill with the first treatment. Methods were modified along the way which likely helped in the second experiment.

Assuming funding is secured, it is hoped the project will begin summer 2016. Approximately ten treatment ponds and ten control ponds will be used. Most of these ponds will be 3-20 acres, but Graves is also going to include a couple of Alabama state lakes (over 100 acres) to have variation. Experimental ponds will include some on Auburn University grounds, some Alabama state lakes, some local private ponds, and hopefully some GA DNR public impoundments. All ponds will be close enough for the principal investigator to be able to do both a treatment and control pond in the same day. The main goal of this initial project is to answer the question "Can shoreline poisoning of YOY LMB efficiently impact bass recruitment in small impoundments?" A second goal for this project is to create standardized methods to allow this research to be conducted by other agencies/consultants throughout the Southeast.

If this study shows that shoreline poisoning of YOY can be done efficiently and be beneficial, this project may continue for several years with many treatment ponds across the Southeast. Eventually, the following questions should be answered;

- 1) Can poisoning of YOY LMB supplement or possibly replace bass harvest as a means to control bass-crowding in recreational fish ponds?
- 2) Exactly how do you do it? (Methodology, timing, frequency?)
- 3) Exactly how do you evaluate success? (Seining and electrofishing?)
- 4) How do you measure success? What percentage YOY kill should you strive for?
- 5) Should it be done every year? How to determine this?
- 6) How do other pond factors affect success? (Pond size, depth, aquatic vegetation, dense bloom, sunshine or clouds, etc.)
- 7) How are young populations impacted by treatments vs. old bass crowded populations?
- 8) Etc.

Other New Business

There was no other New Business

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

