



VIRGINIA CHAPTER *of the* AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

3:40 PM, Wednesday, Jan 29, 2024

Blacksburg, VA

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by:

Robbie Willis

Call to Order 3:45 PM

Steve Reeser

- 35-40 in attendance with the Executive Committee members

Determination of a Quorum

Robbie Willis

Minutes of Last Year's Business Meeting

Robbie Willis

- Approved John Odenkirk, second Scott Smith
- 8 EXCOM meetings during the year
- Listserv has been updated and all communications will be sent by secretary

Treasurer's Report

John Kauffman

- Account 001- Main Account: \$2,062.60
- Account 002- Sponsored Meetings: \$1,700.02
- Account Money Market Checking: 49,845.20
- Fidelity Investments (as of 12/24): \$58,535.93
- Total: \$108,381.13 which is a gain of \$7,896.90
- Over 100 registrants at the meeting

Committee Chair Reports

Arrangements: John Odenkirk

Recognized committee's work for this meeting

Recognized VT for breaks, Tom Gunter for the dinner

Communications (current Secretary): Robbie Willis

Listsर्व emails now come from secretary

Webmaster is Tim Owen

Website will be updated in 2025

Membership list is being updated

Continuing Education: Clint Morgeson

Successful Excel workshop by Jack Van Deventer

Work with committee for ideas for next years meeting

Environmental Affairs and Advocacy: Open

John Copeland not aware he was the chair and would like to step down
Sent letters in favor of RAWA to Senator Warner
Check with Paul Bugas as possible chair

Executive committee: Steve Reeser

Thanks EXCOM for work on the meeting
Met often to prepare for chapter meeting

Fund Raising: Open

Robbie Thanks the sponsors
Hardywood Brewing for the beverages
Tom Gunter for the meal
Solitude
Apex Predators for the guided Snakehead trip
Jack Van Deventer for the Excel Course
Mike would like to step down from chair

Membership (current Treasurer): John Kauffman

80 members paid dues as of 1/29/2025
National AFS prefers you be a member of both and pay state chapter dues through them
List of members sent from parent society monthly
Mike Bednarski suggests talking to new AFS president about issues

Nominating: Steve Reeser

Recognized committee's work for this meeting
Thomas Reid Nelson accepted nomination for President Elect

Outreach: Margi Whitmore

Margi not present

Program (current President-Elect): Joel Snodgrass

Recognized committee's work for this meeting
Would like to meet in next month or so and make the process easier

Awards (current Past-President): Kirk Smith

No applications for undergraduate scholarship
Is the process to apply to difficult- needs discussing

Awards Presentations

Kirk Smith

Robert D. Ross Graduate Scholarship Award given to **Rachel Kelmartin**

Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Science Award **Jason Hallacher**

Natural Resource Conservationist/Citizen Conservation Award **John "Curly" Casale**

Jeff Williams presents **Don Orth** with Eugene W. Surber Professional Fisheries Science Award from a past meeting

Best student paper & poster awards to be presented at end of meeting

Recognized outgoing Chairs, recruit new committee chairs, committee member registration

Steve Reeser

Recognized Jack Van Deventer for his Excel class

Install new officers:

Past President: Steve Reeser

President: Joel Snodgrass

President-Elect: Thomas Reid Nelson

Recognize outgoing officers Dawn Kirk, Kirk Smith, Hunter Hatcher and Margi Whitmore

New Business

2026 Annual Meeting

Steve Reeser

-Discussion

- Cohost with WVA or NC, other states? Fredericksburg is due in the rotation
- DWR travel budget out of state is limited
- Tidewater meeting hosted by VA in 2027
- SDAFS in Louisiana
- **Junior Fisheries Biologist Program**
Add wording Scholarship to aid with the liability issues
Increase the amount? Project based?
Lengthy discussion on issues and how to address them
Eric Hallerman, Jason Hallacher and Robert Humston agreed to work on the program
Look to have resolved by July 1

Sub-Units

GMU and Liberty looking to create sub units

VT Chapter Status

Stand alone chapter predating VA chapter
Parenty society doesn't recognize VT chapter
Get it straight with parent society

Robert thanks EXCOM for the work put into the meetings

Adjourn: 5:00 PM