



Society for Freshwater Science

Society for Freshwater Science 2023 Membership Business Meeting

June 5, 2023

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. AEST

Location: *Mezzanine M3; Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Center*

Emcee: John Kominoski, Vice President

In-situ Presenters: John Kominoski, Steve Thomas, Eugènia Martí, Peter Levi, Todd Royer, Sherri Johnson, Ashley Moerke, Erin Hotchkiss, Wil Wollheim, Andy Leidolf

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

- **Welcome and Call to Order**—*John Kominoski, Vice President*

John called the meeting to order on 5 June 2023

- **In Memoriam/Moment of Silence**—*Eugènia Martí, Secretary*

Eugènia asked for a moment of silence to remember our passed members

- **Secretary's Report and Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Membership Business Meeting**— *Eugènia Martí, Secretary*

Eugènia Martí, as the new elected SFS secretary, thanked Sally Entrekina, outgoing SFS secretary, for her great task and involvement to the SFS through this position over a remarkable period (6 years).

Eugènia briefly summarized the key highlights included in the annual secretary report:

a) Tasks developed during this past year:

- Journal Taskforce. Chair: Emma Rosi
- Communications Taskforce. Chair: Sherri Johnson
- Committees Engagement
- Chapters Engagement
- JEDI Integration & Support

b) Appointments:

- Todd Royer, Interim Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of *Freshwater Science*
- Amy Marcarelli, SFS Representative to CASS
- Jen Papadakis, new SFS Communications and Media Specialist

John Kominoski made a motion to approve the business meeting minutes from 2022. There was no discussion. All attendees were in favor (ca. about 110 meeting attendees) and the motion carried.

Eugènia requested (and read) a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Dr. John C. Morse (nomination by the Taxonomic Certification Committee). Ashley



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Moerke made the motion to approve it. All attendees were in favor. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

- **Outgoing President's Remarks**—*Steve Thomas, President (2022-2023)*

The president expressed recognition to and gratitude for:

- Membership registration assistance for Brisbane annual meeting and Travel Support of recipients.
- Jen Tank and the Development Committee.
- John Kominoski (Vice President) and Andy Leidolf (Executive Director).

He briefly explained key remarks of his presidential term:

- Envision the future for *Freshwater Science* journal: put together a Journal task force and encouraged SFS members at the business lunch to participate in the Interactive Brainstorming Sessions that will be done in late June / early July to learn more about our non-profit Society journal.
- Promote the JEDI initiatives within the different SFS committees. Following this perspective, he highlighted the support of students from Instars program and of members from the SFS African Chapter to be able to attend the Brisbane meeting.
- Support the participation of SFS in CASS (Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies in USA) initiative.

- **Society Financial Report**—*Betsy Colburn/Anna Hamilton, Co-Chairs, Finance Committee*

Betsy presented detailed information on the financial state of SFS for 2022, including a comparison with previous years and a projection for the next year.

This is a summary of her remarks (see the [meeting slides](#) for further details):

- Overall net worth has increased in 2022 compared to 2019.
- She presented the budget for the 2022 costs and revenues among the different budget categories. She indicated that the 2022 income is from a JASM surplus.
- She described the allocation of money for the sources of funding and the different annual expenses for 2022 as well as the projection for 2023.
- She indicated that there is a decreasing trend in membership numbers in recent years. Although she specified that low numbers in 2023 could particularly be due to the location of 2023 annual meeting (first SFS meeting outside USA, in Australia).
- She showed a diagram explaining the SFS funding model.
- She explained what funds are making up the SFS Endowment Fund (11 categories) and the Journal endowment fund (1 category) and also explained UCP (journal) expenses. The taxonomic Certification income and expenses were also summarized.

Finally, Betsy expressed gratitude to all members of the Finance Committee for their support and contributions during these years of service.

- **Treasurer's Report**—*Peter Levi, Treasurer*



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He described the budgets from his financial report (shown in the [meeting slides](#)).

He explained where funds go and opportunities for additional giving.

He presented the Society Investment Account and indicated that the D&I from these accounts supports were:

- SFS annual budget
- SFS endowment award winners
- Publication endowment fund awardees

He indicated that there are efforts placed on trying to find alternative ways to paper checks to retrieve payments (e.g., PayPal). However, so far he said that paper checks continue to be the “least obtrusive” way to share funds with our membership.

Finally, he thanked:

- Betsy Colburn for vital years of service to SFS and financial guidance.
- SFS members involved in the Endowment Committee, Student Resources Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee, Justice, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Comm, who helped him.
- The SFS Fellows.
- The reviewers of Endowment Proposals and Travel Awards.

- **Journal Editor’s Report**—*Todd Royer, Interim Editor-in-Chief, Freshwater Science*

Todd Recognized the work done by Chuck Hawkins as previous EiC of FWS journal (2018-2022).

He presented the FWS journal team to acknowledge their contribution to move the journal forward.

He explained that the FWS volume 41 (2022) published 44 regular papers (8 from a special issue from the Symposium of urban streams), 3 bridges on urban stream restoration, and 2 perspectives papers.

In relation to the submission process to the journal, he indicated that:

- There is a decline in the number of papers submitted and published compared to previous years (submissions from 140 in 2020 to 102 in 2022, publications from 67 to 49). While the acceptance rate is relatively constant at 45% over time, the decreasing trend in submissions is of remarkable concern.
- Time from submission to publications has shortened! From 415 days in 2020 to 302 days in 2023.
- Impact factor (IF = 2.35) is within the average IF of scientific journals for this year. However, it is lower than other journals within similar research domain. While IF does not reflect the quality of the research, it is used as a key index to evaluate research career in competitive job applications. Therefore, the current IF of FWS is of concern, especially to early career scientists.
- Manuscript submissions came from research in 27 countries.



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He suggested that, in the current situation of manuscript submissions, it should be considered to eliminate the print version of the journal.

He presented some activities aimed at increasing submissions, and encouraged the audience to think about publishing their best research in the FWS journal and cite the papers.

- **Transition of Power / Passing of the Mug**—*Steve Thomas, President (2022-2023), Sherri Johnson, President (2023-2024)*
- **Incoming President's Remarks and Introduction of Vice President**—*Sherri Johnson, President (2023-2024)*

Sherri thanked the past President and Vice President.

She also thanked Erin Hotchkiss for agreeing to serve as Vice President.

She briefly explained key remarks aimed to address during her presidential term, which were:

- Increase the ways to better communicate among members and with general audience. In this sense, the website should be updated.
 - Review, revitalize and re-structure the SFS Committees.
 - Provide support to the tasks done by the Journal task force and prioritize and help implementation of task force's recommendations.
 - Commitment to continue support of JEDI's perspective within SFS.
- **2024 SFS Annual Meeting**—*Sherri Johnson, President (2023-2024)*

Sherri announced that the 2024 annual SFS meeting will be held in Philadelphia (Pennsylvania, USA) on June 2 - 6, 2024 and that the meeting theme will be: "Connecting to Enhance Freshwater Science".

She indicated major highlights of Philadelphia as a host city for the meeting.

She presented the members of the planning committee and the plenary speakers for the meeting.

She reminded the forthcoming key dates for special sessions, workshops, abstracts and registration for the 2024 meeting.

She encouraged everybody in the audience to attend the meeting.

- **Announcement of 2023 Election Results**—*Ashley Moerke, Chair, Elections and Place Committee*

Ashley thanked David Arscott and Wil Wollheim for volunteering to run for SFS President.

She announced that results from membership votes supported David Arscott as the newly elected president.

- **Motion to Adjourn**—*John Kominoski, Vice President*

The Membership 2023 Business Meeting was adjourned at 12:00