



American Fisheries Society

President Todd Pearsons, President-Elect Dan Brauch, Vice-President Laurie Earley, Secretary-Treasurer Travis Rehm,
Past-President Dan Dauwalter, Student Representative Emily Chen

Advancing fisheries and aquatic science and professionals in western North America

Executive Committee March Call: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Start Time: 11:00 am AK time/ 12:00 pm PT / 1:00 pm MT/3:00 pm ET

To join call, dial 1-800-582-3014 and enter passcode: 837490314# Leader passcode 567446688#.

WDAFS Executive Committee (12:00 PM-1:00 PM PT)

Notes

WDAFS Officers and Representatives from: AK, ID, MT, CA/NV, UT, CO/WY, AZ/NM

Roll call

Participants:

- Todd Pearsons, WD President
- Dan Brauch, WD President-Elect
- Laurie Earley, WD Vice-President
- Dan Dauwalter, WD Past President
- Emily Chen, WD Student Representative
- Travis Rehm, WD Secretary-Treasurer
- Dave Lentz CA-NV Chapter
- Jim White, CO-WY Chapter
- Sarah Seegert, UT Chapter
- Brian Hickerson, AZ-NM Chapter
- Jim Dunnigan, MT Chapter
- Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, AK Chapter
- Tim Copeland, ID Chapter

Leadership chat

Todd congratulated all of those who completed their annual meetings. Todd spoke to leaders celebrating their successes and building upon them. Todd also introduced Elizabeth Jackson an OSU graduate student who is listening in on the call as part of her graduate research.

Determination of quorum (majority of elected officers, 1/3 Chapters)

A quorum was present

Motion: Approve February call notes

Moved to approve- Dan D.

Move to second- Dan B.

No one opposed. Notes Approved

AFS briefing (e.g., Dan/Todd; Governing Board, Management Committee)

- Dan B. said he attended GB meeting at Feb 22nd and MC on March 3rd. Dan outlined a few highlights from those discussions.
- Discussions were had about a new AFS section (cooperative research). Additionally, AFS will name 30 climate ambassadors within the next year. Drew Winters gave substantial talks on AFS involvement in policy.
- Society membership is down ~12% and discussions were also had involving the 2nd Vice President election that will be held in March.
- Finally, discussions were had around an effort to rebrand AFS and possibility of adding a tagline.

WDAFS Treasurer's briefing (Travis)

- Travis gave brief update on the current status and trend of WDAFS finances. He said that there were not many expenses over the last month, the few included reimbursements for officer meeting registrations and MailChimp.
- Travis said he finished the 990 EZ tax form, but the long form will need to be done which he is working on. He once again suggested that next year a budget line be included for an accountant for taxes. Dan B. responded and said he is planning on including one in his budget.

WDAFS Committee briefing (1 minute/liasons report out: RPECC, FSC, NFC, ECP, D&I, MC)

- **RPECC**- The committee weighed in on the Society climate policy recommendation and would like to see it broadened out. They also drafted a letter involving breaching the lower Snake River Dams associated with Congressman Simpson Concept.
- **FSC**- Todd said he did not have much to report but the stock markets has been doing well.
- **NFC**- The committee is putting on western native fish symposium at the WDAFS annual meeting and currently working on western native fishes database.
- **ECP**- The committee has plans for a workshop over March 19th - "3 steps to growing your resume".
- **D&I**- Laurie said they covered a lot of ground at last meeting. Discussed putting together some guidelines on how Division and Chapters could increase diversity in leadership. Discussed D&I symposia occurring at the upcoming WDAFS meeting.
- **MC**- Laurie had a lengthy discussion on lifetime membership and looking to bring a recommendation to the governing board for no change to lifetime membership.

Chapter briefings (roughly 1 minute/chapter)

- **AK**- The Chapter is busy with their annual meeting coming up in a couple of weeks and eager to hear how others did working with Cvent.

- **WA-BC-** No update
- **OR-** No update
- **ID-** The Chapter just finished up their annual meeting, which was very successful. Had 66 members sign up for access to WA and MT meetings through Cvent.
- **MT-** The Chapter also had a very successful meeting, with about 140 registrations and about 40 others that signed up through WA and ID Chapters. Cvent went very smoothly and Lisa Eby's teaching experience was very advantageous. Financially the meeting did well with some late corporate donors and good turnout.
- **CA-NV-** Dave says he would qualify the meeting as "moderately successful" the Chapter met the 100-registration threshold but lacked in normal engagement. Used Spatial Chat for social gatherings and folks really enjoyed it and the Chapter is looking into using it for other events during the year.
- **UT-** The Chapter is currently in the thick of meeting preparation. Their call for abstracts is out and are due March 19th and currently only have 20 submissions. Sarah said she will confirm that those selected as best papers from other Chapter meetings will not have to pay meeting registration fees.
- **CO-WY-** Chapter annual meeting exceeded expectations with 189 attendees. Meeting was profitable for Chapter and continuing education classes were successful. Jim said in hindsight he would have considered using something like Cvent.
- **AZ-NM-** The Chapter is currently working on developing a survey to how better meet needs of Chapter members.

Virtual meeting discussion celebration– Lessons learned, questions, other

- Jim said members really missed the social interaction and some members organized an impromptu social gathering.
- Dan asked the Chapters what sponsors did and didn't like. Tim said they had 25 sponsors for their annual meeting which was a record. They offered sponsors a chance to present a talk and felt that they were able to get their logos in front of a lot of people.
- Dave said their virtual annual meeting that most of the work fell on the program chair and recommended you have a team that can handle the increased work that comes with hosting a virtual meeting.

Resource policy (Climate change policy, Agriculture, Simpson concept)

- Todd said that he did not receive any comments on agricultural memo and asked the group if they would be comfortable with a one-week turnaround on draft document for comment. No one voiced concerns.

Awards, Elections (Dan D.)

- The Division currently has 1 candidate for VP and S-T. We are still looking for a student representative. Dan D. said the elections needs to be open 1 month and we will need to open voting on April 1 to have results by WDAFS meeting.

AFS Fundraising Committee Representative (WD)

- Todd said we are also still looking for a candidate for the fundraising committee representative and asking Chapters to forward any interested names to him.

Reminder: Dates and topics for next meeting (April 14, 12:00 PM PT, 2nd Wednesday of the month)

1:02 Adjourn

Appendix A

WDAFS Officers Meeting **AGENDA** (1:00-3:00 PM PT)

WDAFS Officers to stay on conference line

- Elizabeth gave an introduction of herself and explained why she is joining as a silent observer. She is performing an internship associated with fish and wildlife policy. The officers also introduced themselves

March Excom call follow-through

- Todd is pleased to hear the Chapters had positive experiences with the virtual meeting. A discussion was had on their successes and the differences in attendance.

Simpson Plan

- Todd said he would have liked to have a document in front of Excom this call but the process is moving very fast. Todd again asked about the 1 week turn around for comment. Todd worries about rushing the process and making mistakes.
- Dan D. said that we be sure to focus on the science.

Deadlines for awards – do they need to be extended or are we good?

- The group agreed that we are ok not extending award deadlines. There were few submissions for riparian and individual awards.
- Group was in consensus to approve individual awards. Except Dan B., who has yet to look over information. Dan B. will look at information and get back to Dan D.
- Both CO-WY and OR Chapter was discussed on who to move up to Society level award with both qualifying for only the large chapter award. The group discussed and was in agreement to put forward CO-WY to the society level as best large Chapter this year.

Travel Grants

- Laurie sent out student travel grants to Emily and asked for her recommendation. Emily said there were strong applications this year.
- Laurie asked about giving a travel grant to a non-AFS member who is attending the meeting to present research. The group agreed that it is ok to offer this travel grant.
- Travis brought but the issue with awarding enough funds each year to keep our non-profit status and a discussion was had.

WDAFS business meeting at virtual meeting (duration, planning, etc.)

- Todd said it would be best to extend call for abstracts as currently we only have about ~20 abstracts and Dan D. agreed.

Unconscious Bias Training

- Todd has had discussion with the Governing Board to offer to offer contract opportunities to membership at Division and Chapter meetings. Laurie has been in talks with vendors and hopes that have some options on the table for next meeting. A discussion was had on the benefit of having smaller workshops with less people and larger ones with more less benefit.

WDAFS Elections

- Eric Featherman has committed as a candidate as VP and Laura Burkhardt has committed as a candidate as S-T.
- A discussion was had regarding reaching out to the WDAFS listserv to identify candidates for the student representative position. Emily and Dan D. will work to figure out an approach.
- Dan D. spoke about the need to open elections by April 1st and get candidate statements out in the Tributary. Dan D. asked if any issues with pushing back tributary release to include statements. Todd said it's a self-imposed deadline and we could if need be.
- Emily is going to draft a shorter version of the duties of the student representative.
- A discussion was had on running candidates unopposed and it was decided that if other candidates were not recruited by March 19th, they would be run unopposed.

Small project grant approvals (Dan D.)

- Dan said ranking were consistent with top 3 grant proposals. Those 3 add up to \$2500 which is what was allocated amount in Todd's budget. The group agreed to fund those projects. Dan will loop Travis in when he sends emails to winners so he can coordinate reimbursement.
- We have still yet to find a candidate for the fundraising committee representative. Todd says he has gone through all venues for a candidate and has not come up with anyone yet.

Film and photo festive

- A discussion was had surrounding the film festival at the WDAFS meeting and how we will consider live component.



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- Jim White, CO-WY Chapter
- Sarah Seegert, UT Chapter
- Brian Hickerson, AZ-NM Chapter
- Jim Dunnigan, MT Chapter
- Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, AK Chapter
- Paul Spruell, WA-BC Chapter
- Ryan Hardy, ID Chapter
- Peter Stevens, OR Chapter

Leadership chat

Todd spoke about the busyness of the season and recognized that leaders (like those on this call) carry a heavy load!

Determination of quorum (majority of elected officers, 1/3 Chapters)

A quorum was present

Motion: Approve January call notes

Moved to approve- Dan B.

Move to second- Dan D.

No one opposed. Notes Approved

AFS briefing (e.g., Dan/Todd; Governing Board, Management Committee)

- Dan said that the GB meeting this month was canceled and the next is planned February 22. He also said that Dan Cassidy put on a training for governance and financial management of AFS.

WDAFS Treasurer's briefing (Travis)

- Travis gave brief update on the current status and trend of WDAFS finances. He said that there were not many expenses over the last month, the few included reimbursements for student colloquium expenses and MailChimp. The one large payment was the rollover of the 2020 meeting sponsors for the 2021 meeting.
- Travis said he is currently working on the FY2019 taxes and has a meeting with Tracy (past S-T) planned later this week. Todd mentioned that during the last officers meeting a discussion was had on the use of an accountant for tax purposes. The general consensus is that if the 990 EZ form is required this year Travis will handle all tax reporting. However, if the 990 long form is required the officers would like to bring the request to modify the budget for an accountant to the Excom. The ballpark estimate for this would be \$650.

WDAFS Committee briefing (1 minute/liasons report out: RPECC, FSC, NFC, ECP, D&I, MC)

- **RPECC**- Dan D. briefly discussed agricultural memo attached.
- **FSC**- Todd said the investment account is doing well and those interested can look over the Q4 investment account notes attached.
- **NFC**- Dan D. said there has been no word from the NFC
- **ECP**- Dan B. said that ECP is working to hold a meeting and two-hour webinar at the WDAFS meeting
- **D&I**- Laurie said they had a committee meeting in middle of January working to develop annual work plan. Working on a symposium for the upcoming WD meeting.
- **MC**- Has still yet to meet. Laurie asked Chapters to update spreadsheet for Chapter contacts. Lapse member email is going out this month and a discussion is pending on the status of the lifetime membership.

Chapter briefings (roughly 1 minute/chapter)

- **AK**- The Chapter is still hammering out virtual meeting logistics and working with Cvent. They are currently accepting abstracts for meeting.
- **WA-BC**- Meeting registration and call for abstracts is live on the WA-BC site. The Chapter is encouraging participation and subsidizing student registration ~\$5.
- **OR**- The Chapter is hard at work on the annual meeting. They only expect about half the talks as a normal meeting. Financially the meeting is looking good.

- **ID-** Ryan said the Chapter is currently all meeting planning. They have a record number of talks (74) scheduled for this year and are also past the breakeven point with registrations. Ryan said they have learned that sponsors are interested in increasing sponsorship value when offered ability to give 5-10-minute tech talk.
- **MT-** Jim says things are going well, registration is occurring, and talks are coming in. They have seen a lackluster amount of sponsorship this year. Todd asked about how many individuals are taking advantage of the deal for an extra \$40 you can attend WA-BC and ID chapter meetings. Jim did not have those numbers yet. Ryan added that they have had over 20 extended registration through the ID Chapter meeting.
- **CA-NV-** The Chapter is busy meeting planning as well. Their program chair is indisposed so individuals have been filling the gaps. Registration came online over the weekend and last abstract count was 23. Dave thanked ID chapter for letting them use their Cvent template.
- **UT-** The Chapter is busy planning the WDAFS meeting and has opened the call for abstracts.
- **CO-WY –** The Chapter is 11 days from their meeting. They have about 100 registrations, right at their target amount and have 29 talks and 8 posters scheduled.
- **AZ-NM-** Brian said their virtual annual meeting went well. They had a joint meeting with TWS and fish talks were mostly done by students during this year's smaller virtual meeting. They also held piscicide applicator continuing education workshop.

Climate change policy review (comment deadline)

- The AFS climate change draft policy was distributed by listserv. If interested, please comment on this by February 15th.
- Todd would appreciate a review of the attached agricultural memo. After discussion, Todd asked for a 3 week turn around deadline on memo review.

WDAFS Annual Meeting symposia by chapters (Dan B.)

- Dan B. spoke again about having a symposium available for best talks from each Chapter meeting. Paul asked if presenters need to be attending WDAFS, Todd did not have an answer at this point but will discuss among officers and report back.

150th celebration video review (see link below)

- Dan thanked everyone that contributed to the video for the AFS meeting in Baltimore. He said he would still welcome additional video and comments and asked individuals to have them in by the February 17th.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DAiHZDyNi5UW99xG7DHdjx8owTjhyJUr/view?usp=sharing>

Awards application deadline; other

- Looking to extend group and individual award deadlines. Decision will be made during officers call immediately after Excom call. Deadline will likely be March 1st.

- Elizabeth Jackson wrote a letter asking to shadow the Excom call for her graduate work and Todd asked if anyone had any reservations. None were recorded.

Dates and topics for next meeting (March 10, 12:00 PM PT, 2nd Wednesday of the month)

1:00 Adjourn

Appendix 1

WDAFS Officers Meeting AGENDA (1:00-2:00 PM PT)

WDAFS Officers to stay on conference line

February Excom call follow-through

- The group is impressed with the amount of information we have been able to get through during the Excom call and gave credit to Todd for keeping us on track.
- Todd asked if Emily wanted to give a specific student update during the Excomm meeting and she said if she needed one she would make sure to get it added to the agenda.

Deadlines for awards – do they need to be extended or are we good?

- Todd said after email discussion it appeared that consensus would be to extend all awards except for Chapter awards.
- Dan D. has not heard from Dave L after CA-NV asked for extension prior to closing.
- Dan D. said he thinks CO-WY does not qualify for small Chapter awards at the Society level because they are too big under the AFS criteria. A discussion was had if we should consider an award extension. Dan D. also suggested that if CO-WY wins WDAFS small chapter and doesn't qualify for Society award asking one of the other small chapters to submit an award to the Society.
- Dan D. will do an open call for small chapter for the Society award. Emily said she will reach out to active sub-units to apply for the sub-unit award as well.
- Todd asked Dan D. to put some text together for award extension for the listserve.
- Dan D. asked about an inquiry if Division awards should include a project from west Texas. The group agreed that these are division awards and we should not allow projects from outside of the division

WDAFS election dates and process, D&I considerations (Dan D., Laurie, Emily)

- Laurie said there were no solid conclusions at last D&I meeting regarding increasing D&I in officers. Emily suggested getting folks involved at a lower level then bring them in as officers.
- Todd asked if anyone is opposed to Elizabeth Jackson sitting in on Excom calls as specified during Excom call. There were no objections.

- Dan D. spoke about encouraging D&I participation in committees.

Officer Elections

- A discussion was had on nominations for Vice President officers.
- A member is interested in S-T position and is currently unopposed.
- Emily will gather names for student rep candidates.
- Dan D. said that we need elections bios ready by April 1.

Membership Committee - Life memberships (Laurie)

- Laurie said that other divisions like the idea of using a lifetime membership as a recruiting tool for officers and discussion will continue.

WDAFS Meeting

- Laurie said the abstract page is live through Cvent and registration should be soon to follow.
- Todd asked if Emily had any thoughts for student activities during the WDAFS meeting. Emily will get together a document of student activities ideas to present to the planning team.
- Dan B. said he plans to send an email this week for film and photo submissions for the WDAFS meeting festival. A discussion was had on what to accept.
- Dan B. suggested having meeting participants vote on film and photo in festival to rank them. Dan is going to look into the logistics of voting.
- The group spoke about the 150th celebration video. Travis congratulated Dan on a great job. Todd asked if any connection to native Americans could be worked in. A discussion was had on their inclusion. Travis will reach out to STI for video and photos

Listserve issue

- Tracy looked into getting better distribution. Todd followed up with Travis N. with “clicks” metrics and those have not drastically improved.
- Dan D. suggested asking Chapters to spread help spread the word for meeting items.
- Dan D. has received membership list from Todd and will investigate a test email outside of Mailchimp.



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WDAFS Executive Committee **AGENDA** (12:00 PM-1:00 PM PT)

WDAFS Officers and Representatives from: AK, WA/BC, OR, ID, MT, CA/NV, UT, CO/WY, AZ/NM

- 12:00 PDT Leadership chat
- 12:05 Roll call (Determination of quorum, introduce Elizabeth Jackson)
- 12:07 Approval of February meeting notes
- 12:10 AFS briefing (e.g., Dan/Todd; Governing Board, Management Committee)
- 12:15 WDAFS Treasurer's briefing (Travis)
- 12:20 WDAFS Committee briefing (1 minute/liasons report out: RPECC, FSC, NFC, ECP, D&I, MC)
- 12:25 Chapter briefings (roughly 1 minute/chapter)
- 12:35 Virtual meeting discussion celebration– Lessons learned, questions, other
- 12:40 Resource policy (Climate change policy, Agriculture, Simpson concept)
- 12:45 WDAFS Annual Meeting business meeting/May Excom call cancelled (Todd), symposia by chapters (Dan B.), plenaries
- 12:50 Awards, Elections (Dan D.)
- 12:55 AFS Fundraising Committee Representative (WD)
- 12:58 Reminders – Awards application deadline; other
- 12:59 Dates and topics for next meeting (April 14, 12:00 PM PT, 2nd Wednesday of the month)
- 1:00 Adjourn

WDAFS Officers Meeting **AGENDA** (1:00-3:00 PM PT)

WDAFS Officers to stay on conference line

- March Excom call follow-through
- Deadlines for awards – do they need to be extended or are we good?

- WDAFS election dates and process (Dan D)
- Listserve content
- Listserve issue
- WD AGM planning discussion
- WDAFS business meeting at virtual meeting (duration, planning, etc.)
- AFS Fundraising Committee Representative (WD)
- Small project grant approvals (Dan D.)
- Other
- Next meeting will be after next Excom meeting

