



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

President Tina Swanson, President-elect Pam Sponholtz, Vice-president Hilda Sexauer, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Buckman, Past-president Dave Ward

Western Division American Fisheries Society Executive Committee Meeting Boise, Idaho April 15, 2013

Attendance: Tina Swanson (President), Pam Sponholtz (President Elect), Hilda Sexauer (Vice President), Mary Buckman (Secretary/Treasurer), Dave Ward (Past President), Dmitri Vidergar (Idaho), Jeff Yanke (OR), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Felipe Amezcua (Mexico), Dave Philips (Mangrove Symposium), Eric Knudson (Mangrove Symposium), Travis Neebling (Newsletter, Web), John Morgan (WA/BC), Julie Carter (AZ/NM), Calvin Black (Utah)

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

Minutes: The minutes of the March conference call were approved as sent.

Financial Report: Treasurer Buckman presented the current financial status. Year-to-date spending is reasonably on track. However, ExCom travel expenses, student travels and scholarships for this meeting produce a significant portion of our expenses. Our two main sources of income, this meeting and the membership rebate from the Parent Society, have not been received. Funding for the small grants and student travel are already set aside. The Grant Endowment Fund continues to do well – the stock market is on a good upward run. Henry Booke predicts a downturn in the summer.

Student scholarships: The Division Scholarship Committee requested the scholarship amounts be raised. It has been \$3000 for a number of years, \$1500 each for an MS and PhD student. Traditionally it has been funded out of our operating expenses. The group discussed scholarships and supported the adding money to scholarship fund. We could determine the amount based on income from the meeting. This would be decided each year when the President makes a budget and it is approved. We discussed providing funds for meeting attendance for the recipients. It was proposed that we support them applying for a student travel grant and would consider making that a priority, but that argument was countered with spreading the wealth around. The scholarship might want to look at the criteria for the awards for the undergraduate scholarship. The discussion concluded with general agreement that student scholarships be a minimum of \$3000 (2 \$1500) with the ability to raise the amount based on performance of the Endowment Fund and income from the annual meeting. We also supported adding an undergraduate scholarship. In addition to the obvious financial benefit of a scholarship, they bring prestige. Tina will communicate this discussion to Bob Greswell of the Scholarship Committee.

British Columbia • Yukon • Mexico • Alaska • Arizona • California • Colorado • Hawaii • Idaho • Montana • Nevada
New Mexico • Oregon • Utah • Washington • Wyoming • Western Pacific islands and trust territories

Financial support from Western Division for Chapter meetings: We discussed whether the Division supported Chapter meetings. For Division meetings, we request donations from the Chapters but money does not flow in the other direction. With ten chapters, it is difficult to make this affordable in the budget and would not be sustainable. The Division has a policy to keep 2 years of operating expenses available. The Division supports Chapters by ensuring they do not lose money on a Division meeting. When a chapter co-sponsors a Division meeting, the Division makes up any losses and often a Division meeting brings increased attendance and broader topics. The Division also provides non-monetary support in the sharing of ideas and experience. Dave Ward noted the Division is the official organizational conduit between the Parent Society and the chapters. The Division can provide financial assistance on a case-by-case basis, although no one recalled that happening except in the context of annual meetings.

Mazatlan Meeting 2014: Felipe Amezcua talked about the Mexico meeting, planned for April 7-11, 2014. Committees are being formed and \$2,000 was deposited with the ElCid Hotel. Three thousand dollars remain in the Division seed money. They are planning at least one fishing trip. The Department of Tourism is not as supportive because we do not plan to use their facility. The Tourism Department is still trying to convince the Chapter to use the Convention Center but it is too far from most anywhere. Pam was hoping the Tourism Department could help sponsor a banquet or something downtown. The hotel is honoring the \$143 all-inclusive rate 3 days before and after the meeting. The average temperature is temperature is 75.

The official language of the meeting will be English. They will use a translator for the Plenary Session. John Morgan described a meeting he attended in Brazil; the Power Point slides and the program were in English. Abstracts will be in English and Spanish, but that would require translation. It was suggested we ask students and other members to help with translations. Don McKinley might be a contact for an international meeting. We will likely use two accounts, at a US and a Mexico bank.

Mazatlan Travel Grants: Dave Ward is the lead on this project and needs to re-establish how much each chapter pledged. We have an estimated \$25,000 pledged or in hand for trip support and the Parent Society will match up to \$25,000. It was requested that the President query the Chapters regarding their official pledge amounts. The Southern Division has said they are sending people, as are several Sections. Those attending the Governing Board meeting need to help ensure the match money is in the budget. We should have at least \$50,000 to help professional travel and we need to start developing criteria. Pam Sponholtz and Jeff Yanke will participate with Dave Ward and the Parent Society to develop the criteria and decide who gets funded with the Parent Society match funds. Dave is hoping for some parity out of the \$25K with regards to the donations that got it there. Money for Bethesda staff travel should not come out of this fund – this is for professional members. People will have to submit much like the student travel grants. Please email Dave Ward criteria that are reasonable things to include. Tina would prefer that we expect some contribution from individuals and not fund the entire cost of any member's trip. We should require, at a minimum, that awardees present a paper or

poster. We might favor people staying the entire meeting. Travis reminded us that because of his work we promised him paid trip to Mazatlan.

Mangrove Symposium: Eric Knutson introduced Dave Phillips, of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation and chair of the Mangrove Symposium. The idea is to host the symposium that will draw additional people to the meeting that might not traditionally attend. They anticipate 200, maybe 300 people. The first such symposium was about 5 years ago. Eric is the chief fundraiser and volunteered to be part of the meeting fundraising committee to help coordinate the two fundraising efforts. This symposium will be larger than a traditional ½ day or 1 day session and might run throughout the entire meeting. All the registrations, abstracts, etc will go through the Division and will be integrated into the schedule and program. They will publish the proceedings through AFS. They will manage their own expenses, fundraising and will cover costs such as speakers and travel and may need an earlier deadline for abstracts. Ideas being considered are web options for those not able to attend, a PowerPoint presentation afterwards and podcasts. One of the Mangrove Symposium keynote speakers might be a plenary speaker.

2015 Oregon Chapter, Division and Parent Society Meeting: Dave Ward and Neil Ward are meeting co-chairs. All venues are arranged for a mid-August meeting. The two hotels are the Hilton and the DoubleTree and attendees will use free light rail between the hotels and the Convention Center. Chairs are selected for nearly all committees. Target attendance is 3000 people. Whoever is elected next in line for Oregon Chapter President will be the program co-chair. Hilda Seauer will be Western Division President. We will start having regular conference call this summer. The Division should expect a request for some seed money.

Future Meetings: The 2016 WD meeting rotates to either the Montana or Alaska Chapter. Arizona does not have enough Chapter support to host a Division meeting. Tina will approach the Montana chapter, as will Tracy Wendt. Cal-Neva might be in line to host. Alaska is interested in hosting a National meeting in 2017 or 2018. Their bid is mostly prepared. Tina will reply back to Mark Wipfli that we are looking forward their hosting 2017 (preferred) or 2018.

Grant Proposals for Projects: The Western Division received five grant proposals. We have \$6645 to give. Tina reviewed the criteria for awarding grants: to promote the AFS and Western Division mission and objectives, to elevate our visibility and to have potential for generating money. We went through each grant, discussing pros and cons of the project. We noted several projects listed overhead and we excluded that from their request. We also agreed that those awarded a grant have a strong recommendation to present a poster or talk at a Division meeting or their Chapter meeting. We decided to support three projects:

Quist, an art project that is outside the type of things we usually see, for \$1000. It will increase our visibility.

Jolley for a study on lipids for \$1873.25.

Kimberly Dibble for a study on lipids for \$3000.

It was suggested that in future RFPs we ask for a short profile of the principal investigator to know them better and judge whether they have the capacity to do the project.

[British Columbia](#) • [Yukon](#) • [Mexico](#) • [Alaska](#) • [Arizona](#) • [California](#) • [Colorado](#) • [Hawaii](#) • [Idaho](#) • [Montana](#) • [Nevada](#)
[New Mexico](#) • [Oregon](#) • [Utah](#) • [Washington](#) • [Wyoming](#) • [Western Pacific islands and trust territories](#)

Updates: The Parent Society asked us to send a list of each state's schools with fishery programs. Please send them to Tina and she will forward the results. Progress of the Snake River Resolution, approved by the Division, was described. It went to the Parent Society but was changed a bit. The Parent Society rejected it and the question for us is whether we want to revive it. Dave Ward suggested, and the rest of the group agreed, to let it remain as it stand as a Western Division resolution and not pursue it further with the Parent Society.

Chapter Roundtable: The Oregon Chapter had its meeting in Bend, attended by 420 people including 50 students. Next year is Oregon Chapter's 50th year. They drafted a white paper on suction dredge mining, are tracking bills and testifying at the Oregon Legislature. They were asked to resubmit their Klamath Dam letter to the new Secretary of Interior. They paid \$100 for certifying an individual as a Professional Fish Biologist. We had a discussion of how members can participate as member of state and federal agencies when they need to speak to their Legislature. Does the Division have a role, perhaps by writing guidelines? It is a fuzzy line on what is "just the facts".

Hilda Sexauer reported the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter has wrapped up meeting details but not much else since their annual meeting last month. Calvin XX reported the Utah Chapter had their meeting at Lake Powell. They planned for 175 with 155 attending. They raised \$40,000. One of the plenary speakers talked about quagga muscle at Lake Powell. They held a tournament in conjunction with a fishing club and it was successful. They might put the tournament on TV next year. They finalized a business plan and should be in the black this year. They might increase Chapter membership dues to about \$20. The Chapter was supportive.

Julie Meka-Carter is sitting in for Yvette Paroz, President of the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter. They cohost with the Wildlife Society in Albuquerque. They are challenged about where to meet to allow for travel restrictions. The next meeting is the Fish Chap will be in Pinetop. This is to appeal to tribal members and hope that will work again. John Morgan reported the Washington-British Columbia Chapter had AGM in March in Chelan. It was small but successful. They got 90 people, partly due to sequestration. They will break even, but depends on negotiations with the hotel. Next year will be back on the west side in the I-5 corridor. They were thinking of reservation, maybe a First Nations casino. Elections are coming up. Mark Celedonia was just told he could not be an officer due to Federal rules and it working through that. They are proposing a scholarship endowment in memory of Jeff Cederholm for approval of the membership. They will invest their Seattle windfall. Mark Celedonia will work to set that up. They are thinking of \$40,000 for their initial funding. Dmitri Videgar reported the Idaho Chapter has been working on this meeting. New officers will be elected by the banquet. Co-hosting has helped awareness of Division by the Chapter. He thanked everyone. Joe DuPont will be participating on the calls. Felipe Amezcua reported the Mexico Chapter is working on the 2014 meeting. They had a retreat about a month ago and are supposed to change officers.

Student Representative Report: Tracy Wendt reported that there are many students at this meeting from a variety of states. She is interested in remaining in this position for a second year. She has built momentum and has plans, is building contacts and has ideas for the

British Columbia • Yukon • Mexico • Alaska • Arizona • California • Colorado • Hawaii • Idaho • Montana • Nevada
New Mexico • Oregon • Utah • Washington • Wyoming • Western Pacific islands and trust territories

newsletter. She wants to make a Facebook page because they work better for students than a list serve. She asked the Chapter Presidents to contact her about student affairs. The Student Representative is a relatively new role with less than optimal continuity. It was suggested she reach out to student groups asking for volunteers and if others are interested, hold an election. Any election should be timed with the Division election to best use Survey Monkey.

Communication and Outreach: Travis Neebling mentioned that the Parent Society is trying to coordinate Facebook pages and that has its pluses and minuses. Tracy and Travis will coordinate then make Facebook pages as appropriate. The next issue of the Piscatorial Press will come out in early May and will focus on this meeting. Deadlines will early May with a two-week warning prior.

New and other business: We discussed reimbursements for certification. Pam will decide whether it is in the next budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. The next conference call is scheduled for May 16, 2013 at 8:30 ADT, 9:30 PDT, 10:30 MDT.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Western Division Secretary/Treasurer