



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

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

**Executive Committee April Call: Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

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

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

### Notes

#### Participants:

- Dan Dauwalter, WD President
- Jackie Watson, WD Past-President
- Todd Pearsons, WD President-Elect
- Dan Brauch, WD Vice President
- Travis Rehm, WD Secretary-Treasurer
- Jason Burckhardt, CO-WY Chapter
- Jim White, CO-WY Chapter
- Rob Titus, CA-NV Chapter
- George Weekley, UT Chapter
- Rebecca Flitcroft, OR Chapter
- Peter Stevens, OR Chapter
- Steve Dalbey, MT Chapter
- Ryan Hardy, ID Chapter
- Joel Markis, AK Chapter
- Brittany Jenewein, WA-BC Chapter

#### **Roll call**

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

A quorum was present

#### **Motion: Approve March call notes (Attachment B)**

Moved to approve- Todd

Move to second- Jackie

No one opposed. Notes Approved.

### **Treasurers briefing (Travis) (Attachment C)**

- Travis gave a brief Treasures briefing, where he mentioned with cancelations of many meetings due to COVID-19, travel expenses will be substantially reduced this year. Additionally with markets being down due to the COVID-19 pandemic WD investment fund has suffered recently.

### **Financial Sustainability Committee (Troy B.)**

- Troy was scheduled to give an investment account update, however Troy was not present. The topic was tabled for the time being

### **2020 WDAFS Vancouver (Dan D.)**

- Dan gave a cancellation debriefing for the WD 2020 Vancouver meeting. The meeting had been officially canceled since the last WD call (March). Key piece in being able to cancel the meeting was the BC government canceled all gathering of 100 plus people which relieved AFS from all financial responsibilities.
- Due to all the meeting cancellations the Society is moving forward with a 2020 AFS Virtual Spring Meeting ([website](#)). This is a distinct and separate event from the AFS Annual Meeting currently planned for August 30-September 3, 2020 in Columbus, Ohio. The start date on the Spring Meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of April are also secured for those interested that were planning on presenting at WABC.
- Keep on the lookout for meeting correspondence this is a fluid meeting but there is an initial “at a glance” schedule. Dan D. sent out a sponsorship document, sponsorships are going to support the Hutton program.
- Rob asked if there is space for CA-NV to join during the virtual meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Dan. D. said the Society is adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> day and is suggesting May 5<sup>th</sup> for those added virtual talks. Rob says at this point he expects 5-8 presentations.
- Jason asked on the scheduling of future WDAFS meetings and if we will keep to current schedule after this year’s cancelation. Dan D. said we are going to stay with the current schedule.

### **Motion WDAFS sponsor AFS Virtual meeting at Silver level \$750**

Moved to approve- Jackie

Move to second- Rob

Discussion:

- The sunken costs of the WABC meeting were discussed. Dan. D. said that it is currently unclear what the total cost of the cancelled WABC meeting will be, but he thinks we will be at a small loss. WD will have to pick up that loss, however without travel costs that loss should be made up. Brittany also added that it does

not look like there will be much lost expenses associated with the cancelled WDAFS meeting that WD will need to pick up.

- Jason asked who would be allowed to speak during the virtual meeting. Dan D. replied that they are not having an open call for presenters. The venue is for talks that have been cancelled due to meeting cancelation. That being said the virtual meeting should be open to all AFS members,
- Dan B asked if donation profits or entire contribution will go directly to Hutton program. Dan Replied say all proceeds will go to the Hutton program. He also asked about the funding levels: Bronze \$250, Silver \$750, and Gold \$1500.

No one opposed. Notes Approved.

### **2020 WD Business Meeting (Dan D.)**

- Dan D. said moving to a virtual meeting is the best route. With possibility of COVID-19 complications he says it should be the safest. Currently we are planning on using the Society's GoToMeeting platform.
- Proposed date of June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Brittany asked if the Chapters could make use of the GoToMeeting platform. Dan D. said he believe it would not be a problem but to shoot Doug Austen and Lauren Maza email to inquire.
- Todd asked how long the meeting would last. Dan D. said an hour and 15 minutes which will be ceremonial with opportunity for chapters to bring up issues.
- Determining a quorum was also brought up and Dan D. said it is not necessary only if someone were to bring a motion. Jackie says that has not happened in at least the last 5 years. Jackie said you could track quorum through the GoToMeeting platform and Dan added you could also vote thru the platform but would help to know beforehand.

### **Comment on Draft EIS for CRSO**

- WDAFS decided to pass on comment during the March call
- Dan D. said that since then it has become clear that there is not likely going to be a public comment period available. So, Dan. D. drafted a letter attached in an email. The letter speaks to the need for an extension due to COVID-19 concerns and focuses on the interpretation of the science, particularly the smolt to adult return ratio (SARs).
- Todd spoke about identifying key questions for the EIS that would require data (fisheries problems). He suggested crafting a series of questions identifying fisheries data needs, i.e., How much of the decrease in SARs can be contributed to Columbia River operation?
- Todd and Dan would work with other officers to get final version of letter in front of Excom during Friday mid-day.
- Jackie noted that the last meeting minutes reflected the intention not to comment and voiced the opinion for the need of a motion to reconsider commenting.

## **Reconsideration for WDAFS to consider submitting comment on Draft EIS for CRSO with not ability to comment on BIOS**

Moved to approve- Jackie

Move to second- Joel

Discussion:

- Joel said he feels this is one of the roles WDAFS, to point issues like this out. Having personal experiences with EIS, he has paired with conservation groups in the past to make meaningful comments.

No one opposed. Motion passes.

### **Chapter Updates**

UT (George)

- UT Chapter had an Excom meeting via webinar trying to work with the Division on unique UT meeting model and how they rely on sponsorships. Sarah was going to reach out to Todd and propose some ideas.

### **General updates**

- WD Small Project Grants (due April 15; [more info](#)). Jackie encouraged people to apply even if they can't get the work done this year.

### **Membership (Dan B.)**

- The membership committee is speaking about affiliate memberships- if Chapter members should require their members to be societal members. Chapters like Idaho that have had issues use registration penalties to encourage Society membership. Dan B. asked if anyone had comments for him to bring forward to the membership committee.

**2:03 PM Adjourn**



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### AGENDA

- 1:00 PM Roll call (5 min) (Determination of quorum)
- 1:05 PM **Proposed Motion:** Approve March call notes (Attachment B)
- 1:10 PM Treasurers briefing (Travis) (Attachment C)
  - Key updates
- 1:15 PM Financial Sustainability Committee (Troy B.)
  - Investment account update
- 1:25 PM 2020 WDAFS Vancouver (Dan D.)
  - Cancellation debriefing
  - 2020 AFS Virtual Spring Meeting ([website](#))
    - Western Division, April 28th and 30th
- 1:30 PM 2020 WD Business Meeting (Dan D.)
  - Virtual Meeting – June 10<sup>th</sup>?
  - 150<sup>th</sup> Columbus in-person?
- 1:40PM General updates
  - Society - Unit Tax Administration webinar (Registration: [link](#))
  - WD Awards, Election
  - WD Small Project Grants (due April 15; [more info](#))
- 1:45 PM Chapter Updates
- 1:55 PM New or other business
- Adjourn



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    - Todd Pearsons, WD President-Elect
    - Dan Brauch, WD Vice President
    - Emily Chen, WD Student Rep
    - Jason Burckhardt, CO-WY Chapter
    - Rob Titus, CA-NV Chapter
    - Alton Livingstone, AZNM Chapter
    - Steve Dalby, MT Chapter
- 1:05 PM **Motion:** Approve February call notes (Attachment B)
  - Todd moved, Rob Titus second, no discussion, motion passes
- 1:10 PM Treasurers briefing (Travis) (Attachment C)
  - Travis was not able to attend the call. Dauwalter asked if there were any questions on the most recent budget spreadsheet, there were none. Dan also mentioned there will be a lot of transactions with travel reimbursements occurring presently.
- 1:15 PM 2020 WDAFS Vancouver (Dan D.)
  - COVID-19 (see webpage: <https://wa-bc.fisheries.org/2020-meeting/covid-19/>)

Dauwalter covered an update on meeting planning and COVID-19. The Vancouver planning team will be having a call Friday 3/13 to discuss this further, for now the meeting is still a go. Currently 42 abstracts, of 257, have been pulled, two vendors have backed out, a few people have requested refunds on registrations but there are also still people currently registering. Shawn Johnston, Brittany, and Dan have been working with the venue and hotel to negotiate the contract in preparation of a smaller meeting than planned. Sponsorship is

currently at a break even, perhaps a slight loss, so the Chapters should be seeing a request from WD to sponsor our meeting.

Rob Titus: Has there been any discussion on the option of providing video or remote viewing of the meeting? This will be discussed on the Friday call with the planning team.

Excom meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4/16, 1:20-5:30pm, room TBD

Steve Dalby joined late, Dauwalter covered the update again for Steve's benefit.

- Early registration extension – now March 20
- Abstracts – 257 submitted
- Registration – slightly over 100 as of 3/6 – update?
- Sponsorship – Chapter forthcoming request
- Other
- 1:30 PM Chapter Updates
  - CA-NV (Rob): Upcoming annual meeting, “Reno Hangover Meeting”, Sunday March 15 through Tuesday. Smaller meeting, currently about 100 registrants. A few people have backed out because of COVID-19 concerns. There was an option to postpone the meeting until later this year, but dates that might work were not available from the venue so they are proceeding as planned. Approximately 40 oral presentations. The two most active subunit universities are having finals next week so participation from those units is nil.
  - AZ-NM (Alton): Annual meeting was the last week of Jan, with AZ & NM TWS, AZNM AFS hosted in Prescott. Just over 300 attendees. Workshops included an annual piscicide training. Approved a new student subunit, Northern Arizona University. Last week the chapter hosted a electrofishing training with Jim Reynolds, the chapter made a profit off this training.
  - MT (Steve): Kalispell meeting was successful with attendance around 240, a 30-40 person increase over last year in Billings. They had 70 oral presentations which meant they had to run concurrent sessions – MT members do not like concurrent sessions. Ten posters, lot of student participation, great raffle, and corporate sponsorships were also up this year compared to last year.
  - COWY (Jason): Annual meeting Feb 25-27, Laramie, WY. Travel was impacted by weather, interstates were closed in and out of Laramie, and therefore attendance at CE courses was impacted. One course, Ecological Sampling and Study Design, was recorded and streamed and should be available. Overall attendance was down from the record high of last year (260) with 168 this year. This was likely due to the inability to get out-of-state travel approval for CO members. Meeting was still profitable. Eventbrite charged tax and the Chapter is trying to recover around \$2,000. 51 oral presentations and 19 posters, climate change plenary topic.
  - UT (Jackie): Annual meeting Feb 25-27, St. George UT, Jackie was unable to provide attendance or numbers for presentations/posters. Recently Utah Chapter has taken a unique approach by planning the plenary session around a meeting

sponsor. This year the Virgin River Program was a meeting sponsor, the focus of the meeting plenary, and hosted a half day symposium. There were two CE courses 1) How to write and publish a manuscript in a scientific journal taught by Phaedra Budy, USU co-op and 2) Telling our story – working with media and developing our own media content taught by Brett Prettyman, TU. Both seemed to be pretty popular, biologists especially liked the tips from Prettyman regarding taking and use of pictures highlighting fisheries work. There was also one field trip – Virgin River tour.

- ADDITIONAL Agenda Item: GB Update (Dan)
  - Guidance on how various units should and could be implementing the Society’s Strategic Plan. Also, how do Units integrate with the current President’s plan of work to provide continuity between the Society and the various Units. Dan reviewed Brian Murphy’s proposed plan of work and he will share with the group.
  - There was a lot of discussion on AFS rebranding and potential renaming
  - GB voted to dissolve the Mexico Chapter. There were a couple of “no” votes – these people would have liked to see a more concrete plan for the future of Mexico Chapter members
- 1:40 PM AFS, Science, Advocacy (Dan D., Todd) (Attachments D, E)
  - Statement of world aquatic societies on climate change (Attachment F)
    - Current edits are largely due to WD comments on the statement and AFS stance on advocacy, policy, etc. Thanks to Todd for representing the WD on this topic. GB did not vote on the current statement and edits, however the GB did approve Scott’s plan of work so he is moving forward with sending this statement to the list of 200+ societies.
  - Lower Snake River dams

Cleve Steward (RPCC Chair) joined the call to provide some background on the resolution. Cleve was unable to download the 2011 resolution on this topic so could not provide much information on the past resolution.

Gov Brown letter – ExCom approved and letter was sent March 7th. Attn G, Memo Gov Brown Letter, outlines the ExCom vote, timeline, and final draft of the letter.

Dauwalter briefly reviewed the DEIS and some of the alternatives. Through conversations with the officers and RPCC Chair it was decided that WD will not comment on the DEIS but we may consider commenting on the BiOp. Cleve requested a straw-poll to determine if the ExCom is interested in commenting on the BiOp. Dauwalter mentioned that commenting on the BiOp will be within our wheelhouse.

Cleve: AFS policy statement on dam removal – the Society is looking for knowledgeable people who would be willing to participate in the process. Cleve would like to invite ExCom members or Chapter Presidents to nominate members who would have the expertise to participate.

- Gov Brown Letter (Attachment G)
- [DEIS](#) and Oregon Chapter membership request to WD

1. Near future motion(s)?
2. Comment period for DEIS closes 13 April

- 1:55 PM New or other business
  - Next issue of the Tributary will be coming out mid-March

If anyone has any late submissions or announcements please get them to Dan Dauwalter ASAP
- Adjourn