



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

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

Western Division AFS Executive Committee Conference Call  
Approved Minutes  
June 21, 2012

Roll call: Dave Ward (President), Mary Buckman (Secretary-Treasurer), Pam Sponholtz (Vice President), Jeff Yanke (OR), Jason Kline (AZ-NM), Dmitri Videgar (Idaho), John Morgan (WA-BC), Diana Miller (CO-WY), Mike Saiki (Cal-Neva), Drew Cushing (Utah), Mariah Mayfield (Student Representative)

A quorum was established.

Minutes: The May minutes were approved, recognizing that they can be updated if changes are found.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Buckman presented the financial report. The Division share of the proceeds from the Jackson meeting will be something over \$12,000, with payments still coming into the Chapter from 123 Signup. We do not have the member rebate yet. Mary will present a year-to-date budget next month. The primary remaining expense in this fiscal year will be travel to the Minneapolis meeting.

Discussion of the Grants Endowment Fund disbursement scenarios is postponed.

Plan for Reviewing Bristol Bay Report: The EPA has issued a report regarding the mining operations proposed for this area. Comments are due to EPA by July 23. The Division has formed a committee to review this report and submit comments, including a representative from the Alaska Chapter. It is a sensitive issue up there. The committee will send their report to President Ward by July 8 and he will forward it to the rest of us. We need to vote on our next call on July 19. The group was asked to send comments on the review back to Dave by July 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be sent out to all ExCom members on the July 18<sup>th</sup> so we are prepared for discussion on the conference call.

2013 Idaho Meeting: Dmitri reported meeting planning is going well. Tasks are being assigned, mostly within the chapter. Joe DuPont is talking with each chapter to solicit symposia, support and other participation. The planners will limit organized offsite functions. Joe has an artist picked out and will soon finalize the artwork, along with the official title. The dates are April 16-18 with the 15<sup>th</sup> reserved for workshops. Jeff Yanke noted the Oregon chapter talked about presenting a symposium for the meeting. WA-BC moved their meeting to central Washington to avoid conflict.

2014 Mexico Meeting: Pam updated the group, noting that the Mexico Chapter 2013 meeting will be small so members can prioritize meeting attendance. They are partnering with a group on using mangroves as fish habitat. They are starting to think about the meeting theme. The hotel is the El Cid and planned dates between March and May. Pam will fly down some time next in the 6 months to finalize dates and check out the hotel. The Mexico chapter offered to pay airfare, but we thought it was more appropriate that the Division pay. We discussed likely meeting dates, pointing out that we want to avoid conflict with chapter meetings but want it early enough to be appealing travel to a warm climate. Felipe joined the call at the end of the discussion and confirmed some details.

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

Western Native Fishes Funding: Eric Wagner is requesting some internal funding to assist with completing the project. Further discussion was postponed because Eric was not on the call.

Elections: Hilda Sexhauer is running unopposed for President. Tracy Wendt from the U of Montana has offered to run as the Student Representative. Please vote.

Chapter Updates: Dave is preparing a report for the Parent Society that is due July 2 and asked Chapters that have not responded to send a bulleted list of accomplishments and activities. Dave reminded chapters to ask their ExCom to set allocate money for travel to Mexico. He has heard from AK (\$1000) and Montana.

Dmitri Vidergar reported the Idaho Chapter is busy planning for 2013 meeting. They have been getting numerous requests for funding ranging from symposia to trips by local schools and projects for the mentoring committee as well as increasing student scholarship amounts. Their fall ExCom meeting is October or November. Mike Saiki of the Cal-Neva Chapter reported Pat Crain is President-elect and Denise DeCarion takes over as Secretary. Jason Kline of the AZ-NM Chapter reported the bylaw changes were approved by the Constitutional Consultant. Jeff Yanke reported the OR Chapter signed the MOU to help the USFWS host Fish Culture Conference; contracted with a Web designer to update their web page; posted information about screw trap safety on their web site; is planning a 2-day workshop on forecasting anadromous fish runs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November; and working on an archiving project in conjunction with their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year perhaps to be housed at the OSU Library. The new Student Representative will take office this week. The Student Chapter is working on their identity, having been part of a fish and wildlife club in the past. The chapter is getting some fallout for supporting actions in the Klamath Basin and some of the opposition is contacting Gus Rassam directly. Diana Sweet reported Paul has been working hard to finalize the books for the Division meeting and that they are planning for next year. She noted the Student Sub-unit had their non-profit status revoked because they did not file Federal tax returns and queried the group how this is handled elsewhere. Comments were varied, but it was noted as a "heads-up" to be sure this is attended to within each chapter. Filing is simple for when dealing with small amounts of money and revoking non-profit status is the penalty for failure to file for three years. John Morgan from the WA-BC Chapter reported for Mark Celedonia noting they just finished a successful meeting in conjunction with the Society for Ecological Restoration. They are setting up an Endowment Fund to fund student scholarships. They are working on student subunits in British Columbia and Eastern Washington in addition to the unit at the U of W. Drew Cushing reported the Utah Chapter had a scholarship that went unused last year and are likely to spend that money for travel to the Mexico meeting in 2015. They are considering a joint meeting with the Wildlife Society on the role and benefit/cost of fires. The subunits at Utah State and BYU went through a downswing, but are reviving. The Chapter is considering alternate meeting timing to conflict less with field seasons. They are writing a business plan. Mariah Mayfield reported the Student Colloquium is scheduled for November 1-3 (Thu-Sat) in Tucson on campus. The later date might help schools on the quarter system. They were requested to send a draft program to President Ward for ExCom review.

Midyear meeting: Based on discussions it will be Fri-Sun Oct 6-7 or Oct 13-14. Members on the call noted a slight preference for the later date. It will likely be Davis to avoid the high cost of San Francisco.

List serve approval: In addition to Dave Lentz, the President can also approve list serve distributions to ensure timely action if Dave it unavailable.

Western Division Resolutions: The Bristol Bay and Snake River resolutions were passed by Parent Society Resolution Committee and will be on the agenda for Mpls-St Paul meeting. The most likely reason for denial is that the issues are regional.

New business: We discussed the Klamath Basin and the role of AFS in those. The Oregon Chapter and others have received negative comments on positions taken. After some discussion, it was noted that we should expect blowback from many issues, but that should not deter us from presenting positions based on the best science available.

The **next conference call** is scheduled for Thu July 19 at 8:30AM AK time, 9:30AM PDT, 10:30AM MDT, 9:30AM MST. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 AM PDT.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Secretary-Treasurer