



# 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 Conference Call  
Approved Minutes  
September 20, 2012

**Attendance:** Tina Swanson (President), Dave Ward (Past-president), Pam Sponholtz (President-elect), Hilda Sexauer (Vice-president), Mary Buckman (Secretary/Treasurer), Travis Neebling (Newsletter/Web), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Audra Brase (AK), Jeff Yanke (OR), Jim Hobbs (Cal-Neva)

President Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. It was noted we did not have a quorum. Minutes of the July and August meetings were deferred.

**National Meeting in Alaska in 2016:** No one stepped up from the North Central Division to host the 2016 National Meeting so the Alaska Chapter volunteered to host the 2016 meeting. Gus approached the AK chapter because the Chapter had a bid put together for the World Fisheries Conference. There is concern regarding meetings on the west coast 2 years in a row. The Governing Board voted to approve the bid pending support from the Division and the AK Chapter. Oregon Chapter President Jeff Yanke talked to Alaska Chapter President Trent Sutton and sent a letter outlining concerns, primarily that it may result in two mediocre meetings with redundant, mediocre programs and low revenue rather than one good meeting. As far as the Division, the 2014 meeting in Mazatlan will require considerable effort as well. The Society is moving toward professional meeting planners, but that is in the future. There is growing recognition that relying on the Chapters to do 80% of the heavy lifting is not practical. The Parent Society apparently has a back-up plan to use professional meeting planners for 2016. AK ExCom is mixed and concerned how it will reflect on the Chapter. There has not been a lot of organizational planning so far in AK. We cannot vote today because we do not have a quorum. Another option would be to put in a bid for 2017 or 2019. We should resolve this ASAP.

**Budget Report:** Treasurer Buckman reported briefly on the financial status. Spending totals for the year are approximately on budget, although individual line items varied considerably from that budgeted. Large outstanding expenses are the approved funding for the Native Fishes Project (\$2000) and the Student Colloquium (\$1000).

**Draft Budget for 2013:** We had a short introduction to the draft FY 2013/2014 budget. This will be a discussion item for the Davis meeting.

**Invitation from Earthjustice to sign on Amicus Brief:** This is a case that is going to Supreme Court. All agreed we would not sign on until we can read the content. It is signed by three other fisheries scientists. Tina proposed she will get a copy, distribute it in early October, and consider support at the October meeting in Davis. We need to be sure there is empirical science behind the document. Tina will send it to ExCom and chapter presidents will forward it to appropriate folks in their Chapters.

**Mexico Meeting 2014:** Pam met with Felipe in Minneapolis. They made quite a bit of progress and are evaluating two hotels, both named El Cid. The costs are similar and there are pros and cons to each

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conference center. Pam will travel to Mazatlan during the first week in December. Registration will be about \$150 including all food and all alcohol. Felipe is requesting a \$5000 loan as seed money for deposits. We had a short discussion of transferring money to Mexico and noted it is likely the funds go straight to the hotel.

**Travel to the Mexico Meeting:** After considerable effort on the part of Past-president Ward, the Governing Board approved matching the Division \$25K for travel to the meeting. Dave will assist in developing criteria for dispensing that money. His vision is that money pledged will stay within each Chapter. There was an impression that each chapter will get its money matched and the chapter will manage that distribution as well but it was stated that was not the intent. A possible scenario is that a committee with broad geographic scope will develop criteria for distribution of the \$25K. This should be an agenda item for the Davis meeting (committee formation).

**Student Colloquium:** Ryan Olinger, Vice Chair of the AZ Student Chapter, initiated a discussion of the Student Colloquium scheduled for November 1-3. The hotels are reserved. They are well organized. The itinerary is full. There are several speakers. There are 10 confirmed people who signed up. They have raffle items, a banquet, speakers, are making T shirts, fundraising (requiring members of club to raise \$100), selling ad space in program for local vendors, perhaps a trade show, developed several grant proposals, and have distributed invitations throughout the western schools. They need to raise another \$2000, so the \$1000 from the Division will be very helpful. The budget total is \$7118. Most all facilities are booked and reserved. They are putting together Registration Packets. We had a discussion about insurance, noting that it is important to have it. Mary will work with the Chapter to see about including the meeting under the Division policy as has been done in the past. Outdoor stores and other businesses have been short in support. We discussed the need to keep the room block small enough to be sure there are not charges for unfilled rooms. The organizers have agreed on a room block, but the Marriott has been helpful and will be flexible in modifying these numbers. Hearing no objections, Mary will send a check to the Student Chapter.

**Newsletter:** Travis Neebling, Newsletter Editor, described the timeline for the next newsletter: Oct 1 for the first announcement, a follow-up announcement 2 weeks later with a final deadline of Oct 22 and publishing on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. The fall issue will have a table with all the upcoming meeting dates for each of the chapter meetings. He asked for questions regarding the website. For posting items, send them to Travis and he will get them up.

**Midyear meeting in Davis:** We had a short discussion of travel and arrival times. Several people will have cars. Tina will send a query so we can coordinate transportation.

**Other Business:** We need to get the final list of chapter meeting times and locations. The AK Chapter Meeting is in Kodiak in mid-October. Secretary/Treasurer Mary Buckman will attend.

Tracy Wendt, the new Student Representative, was introduced. She is an undergraduate attending the U of Montana. She will try to attend the Davis meeting, but needs to review her schedule. It was noted that the Division is committed to fund travel for the Student Representative.

The meeting adjourned at 11AM.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Secretary-Treasurer