



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

President Jim Bowker, President-elect Cleve Steward, Vice-president Brian Missildine, Secretary-Treasurer Travis Neebling, Past-president Hilda Sexeaur

Agenda for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, Nov 24, 2015**

Start Time: 8:30 am AK time/ 9:30 am PT / 10:30 am MT

1. Introductions and welcome
 - a. Jim Bowker (President), Cleve Steward (President Elect), Brian Missildine (Vice President), Mary-Beth Loewen (AK), Jenny Stahl (AK), Bobby Compton (CO-WY), Troy Brandt (OR), Alix Blake (WA-BC, Young Professional Mentee), Lori Marin and Dave Weedman (Environmental Concerns Committee Co-Chairs), Calvin Black (UT), Dave Moser (MT), Ramona Swenson (Cal/Neva), James Dominguez (AZ-NM), Jay Hesse (ID)
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report
 - a. Approve October minutes
 - b. October minutes not voted on for approval (quorum had not been established at this time in the call)Finances Update
 - i. Endowment is finally heading in a positive direction – had been at a level that was comparable to Feb 2015 but is now above that.
 - ii. Brian asked about Henry Boone investment chair. He has retired and Troy is now the Endowment Chair. Troy has reached out to Dan Cassidy (AFS HQ) to see if he would be willing to serve on this committee.
4. Chapter roundtable
 - a. AZ/NM- Working on February 2016 meeting, co-chairing with Wildlife Society. They are adding a macroinvertebrate identification course outside of the annual meeting. It will be free for members. The president elect will be at the WD retreat in Bozeman, MT. Also, Kelly Meyer Arizona Game and Fish biologist unexpectedly passed away, they are brainstorming ideas to commemorate his years of service and memory.
 - b. ID- Held their annual retreat last week at Hells Canyon fishing. Their 2016 meeting will be March 8-10. Their retreat discussed how to boost committee activities. Jim asked more information about the discussion because it's something all the Chapters and Division struggle with. Jay Hesse volunteered to write up a short blurb on the discussion and any suggestions they came up with to increase member involvement.
 - c. AK-Annual meeting went very well in Homer. The annual meeting will be moved from late Fall to the Spring to better align the other chapters. The environmental concerns committee now has two chairs. One chair will convene with the Western

Division committee. They will be working on the website and timeline (procedure) if people have a concern. At the 2015 annual meeting they had a banquet, past president lunch, learn to curling, film festival, 5k and more. They had the women in science symposia which was extremely successful and will be an annual symposia.

- d. WA/BC- Had our retreat in Victoria BC. The retreat revolved around our annual budget and planning our 2016 Annual General Meeting in Lake Chelan, WA. We are also brainstormed other ways to bring in revenue besides our annual meeting. Lastly we now have an official Eastern Washington University student Subunit!
 - e. CO/WY- 2016 Annual meeting March 1-3, in Laramie WY. 2016 will be the 50th anniversary and they are planning something to look over the 50 years of the chapter.
 - f. UT-2016 annual meeting planning, it will be held at a fishing lodge and resort. They will have a macroinvertebrate identification continue education and a local guide hatching seminar. During the opening banquet there will be a fly fishing tour film and it's anticipated that many local guides will attend. They are also trying to include more of the state biologist and having a session for biologist to review their region and how sampling went the previous season. President Elect will be at the WD Retreat in Bozeman MT.
 - g. Cal/Neva-Looking for funding to update a major California marine fishes key. Jim suggested getting in touch with the AFS Education Committee that funds this type of project. The environmental concerns committee is working on some draft bills and working on responses. They are looking for examples of legislation letters. UC Santa Cruz now has a student subunit. They recently had a fish passage workshop with the USFWS which was extremely successful and generated \$20K of revenue. They also have sent a letter out to California department administrators encouraging them to allow their biologists to attend relevant meetings like the upcoming Reno2016 meeting. Jim asked for a copy of the letter to that it could be included in a future edition of the Tributary.
 - h. MT- Planning for their annual meeting to be held in Helena February 16-19, 2016, call for symposia when out. Plenary session is focused on native fishes normally "forgotten" (i.e., fishes other than bull trout, cutthroat trout). They will have an eDNA continue education session. The letter written about the Yellowstone intake dam affecting Pallid Sturgeon was submitted. There is now an injunction on the intake construction of the dam.
 - i. OR-Working on the annual meeting. They have three workshops planned. Their bylaws were amended to split the treasure and secretary passion. It was approved by the management committee. They will be updating the 1997 annual meeting handbook. They are working on reviewing legislation currently and will provide feedback on how to prepare corresponds for legislation. Jim asked for information/help with gift or tribute in the Tributary for Henry Boone.
5. Update 2016 WDAFS/Cal Neva meeting in Reno (/Joe Merz/Jim/Jane)
 - a. Priority is the symposia deadline of November 30th. A FAQ document will be on the website soon. 5pm (Pacific) committee chair meeting today. Things are progressing very smoothly. Joe Merz (meeting co-organizer) has a bimonthly call scheduled for 5 pm PST today.
 6. Update 2017 WDAFS/MT meeting in Missoula (Dan Mosier/Cleve Steward/Tracy Wendt)

- a. Looking for venues. Looking into ways to advertise at the Reno and KC meeting. Tracy Wendt has gotten a Vendor Booth Application form for the KC meeting, and it was suggested to get in touch with the Reno Trade Show committee to line up a booth for Reno.
7. Update 2018 WDAFS meeting – AK Chapter/WABC/AZNM Chapter
 - a. AK has offered to host the 2018 meeting and the location will most likely Anchorage. Jim asked them to submit a document similar to the one the MT submitted for hosting the 2017 meeting
 - b. WABC has no interest in hosting in 2018
 - c. AZNM not ready at this time to commit.
8. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
 - a. Student travel information and events will be posted on website soon. Pat Crain has started a google form for volunteers. Fishy Foto contest had 14 submissions, top three will be framed and auctioned off at Reno. Judges have provided Jane with their top picks. Working on contract with the Automobile Museum for the student event.
9. Update – Environmental Concerns Committee membership recruitment (Lori Martin)
 - a. Lori and Dave have been brainstorming ideas for the committee. Now will be called the Resource and Environmental Concerns Committee. Please contact each chapter about who the representative will be and their contact information. They are looking to layout, procedure, goals and objectives and prioritize responses. They would also like the WD website to have a section to share environmental concerns with members where letters supporting or opposing actions and the WD AFS responses can be posted.
10. Expenditure of AFS Contingency funds – reimburse application fee for Fisheries Professional Certification
 - a. Will be discussed in retreat agenda, as how to hand line 81 of the proposed Budget (Contingency fund of \$500). Jim would like to be reimbursed for his Fisheries Professional Certification Application fee. No process has been established for how the reimbursement program would work (e.g., first come, first served, all requests need to be submitted by a certain day).
11. President Update
 - a. Newsletter Editor change
 - i. Tracy Wendt new Editor
 - b. 2015-2016 WD AFS Proposed Budget
 - i. Prepare to approve budget at mid-year retreat
 - ii. Update on Endowment – compared to last year
 - c. 2015 Mid Year Ex. Comm. meeting
 - i. Dec 5, Bozeman MT, block of rooms reserved at GranTree Hotel
12. New or other business
 - a. None
13. Next Meeting – Dec 5, 2015 at Bozeman MT. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am PT.

Action Items:

- Jim- Troy will write up a newsletter story regarding Henry Booke's retirement. Troy will purchase a gift card for a local restaurant for Henry.
- Jim- Contact James about passing of Kelly Meyer and information for the newsletter.

- Contact Bobby about newsletter. Share chapter newsletter information to WD and vis versa.
- Contact Alaska about film festival information, a film session was successful in Portland and Alaska.