



# 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  
February 16, 2012  
Approved Minutes

Roll call: Dave Ward (President), Lori Martin (Past-president, acting Secretary-Treasurer), Pam Sponholtz (Vice-president), Colleen Fagan (OR), Mike Saiki (Cal-Neva), Jason Kline (AZ-NM), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Colo-Wyo), Craig Barfoot (Montana) Mark Celedonia (WA-BC), Craig Walker (Utah), Travis Neebling (Newsletter, Webmaster), Bill Bradshaw (Chair of Grants Funding and Investment Committee)

A quorum was established. The Procedural Manual was added to the agenda.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved with minor edits.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer Mary Buckman was not on the call, so the Division accounts were not reviewed in detail. The majority of the financial discussion focused on how the Division should handle our finances. President Ward reviewed our financial situation. We made a \$15,000 profit from the Seattle meeting (we received \$38,139.08). So, the Division's net profit from FY 2011 was \$24,482.77. The Division ExCom passed a motion previously in FY 2012 under the presumption of a \$15,000 profit from FY 2011. This motion included spending \$2,000 off the top of the profit for the Division website makeover, with 60% of the remaining profit going back into the student travel fund, and then 40% of the remaining profit going toward professional travel to the Division meeting in 2014 in Mazatlan, Mexico. President Ward mentioned that Secretary-Treasurer Buckman cashed in one of the four Division CDs. The original intent of the CDs was to have four CDs, each with a balance of approximately \$10,000. Balances of more than \$10,000 would then be skimmed off and used to repopulate the most recent cashed in CD. President Ward suggested that we take \$5,000 out of the FY 2011 profit and consider adding this into a CD as a rainy day fund. We will discuss the Division budget and finances more at the ExCom meeting in Jackson, WY.

Bill Bradshaw (Chair of the Grants Funding and Investment Committee) gave a review of the investment procedures that were adopted at the Division Annual Business Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT in 2004. The intent of these procedures were to increase the Endowment Fund. The procedures are to operate in situations when the Division profits \$10,000 (presumed two-year operating budget) or more from the Annual Meeting of the Division. Dollars in excess of the \$10,000 profit would go into the Endowment Fund, with a goal of growing the Fund to \$100,000. The Endowment Fund is now close to a balance of \$200,000. The Division ExCom adopted a procedure (formula) at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT to disperse funds out of the Endowment Fund. These dispersed funds were to be used to fund small project grants. The 2004 and 2010 procedures are in still in place, and any Division ExCom can change them as they desire. The last cash infusion into the Endowment Fund was after the Division's Annual Meeting in Portland in 2008. So, this is the first year that the Division has had dollars available to infuse the Endowment Fund.

President Ward recommended the Division's ExCom consider the procedures in place, and come up with a plan to review at the 2012 Annual Division Meeting in Jackson, WY. President Ward will summarize this information, including all of the procedures, and provide to the ExCom before Jackson.

Website Update: Webmaster Travis Neebling indicated that the Division's new website is up and active. He is planning to work now on populating the site with Committee information, archives, etc. Bill Bradshaw inquired about the donate/contributions button on the new website to infuse personal donations into the Endowment Fund, General Division fund, and/or Division Annual Meeting fund. Travis and Past President Martin discussed the possibilities for these new options. Bradshaw indicated that he would work together with Travis and Past President Martin to develop the appropriate language for the options, etc. so that we can add to the new website. So far, Travis has received mostly positive feedback on the new website.

Chapter Roundtable: Mark Celedonia reported that the WA-BC Chapter is also trying to figure out their financial situation after the very successful meeting in Seattle. The Chapter is considering allocating dollars toward student support, and a possible endowment fund. WA-BC is working on their website redesign, and preparing for their 2012 Annual Meeting. Mike Saiki reported that the Cal-Neva Chapter is busy preparing for their 2012 Annual Meeting the end of March in San Diego, CA. Mike indicated that the Chapter is concerned about potentially low meeting attendance for government employees who are mostly based out of northern California (Sacramento). Colleen Fagan reported that the Oregon Chapter has been working on a position paper discussing dam removal on the Klamath River that will be sent to Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. The Chapter recently testified in support of SB1512 which focuses on the environmental impacts of heavy metals from mercury in light materials. The Chapter is also making financial decisions related to a possible endowment, and CD and money market accounts. The Chapter is working on a redesign of their Chapter website, and preparing for their 2012 Annual Meeting in Eugene, OR the end of February. Jason Kline reported the AZ-NM Chapter is also planning for their 2012 Annual Meeting the first week of February. The Chapter is planning to adopt new Bylaw changes. Jason inquired about the 2012 Division Student Colloquium as students from their AZ-NM Chapter will be hosting the colloquium. President Ward suggested that Jason get in touch with the Division's Student Representative, Mariah Mayfield, who was not on the call. Craig Barfoot with the Montana Chapter mentioned the Chapter just recently held their 2012 Annual Meeting, and that the meeting was very successful. Past President Leanne Roulson spoke on behalf of the Division. Ryan Fitzpatrick of the Colo-Wyo Chapter gave an update on the 2012 Annual Division/Colo-Wyo Chapter Meeting in Jackson, WY the end of March. As of today, 157 folks were registered, with 82 presentations and 6 posters. The Chapter is considering extending the deadline for early meeting registration and final abstract submission to another seven or ten days. A notice will be prepared for the Division List Serve. Craig Walker of the Utah Chapter thanked President Ward for the letter from the Division to Utah's Department of Natural Resources (UDNR). The letter indicated that the opinion-editorial prepared by Division Past President Eric Wagner regarding hard rock mining was not endorsed by the Division or AFS. As a result of the letter, UDNR is now allowing UDNR employees to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Utah Chapter, and is covering employee registration and travel expenses. The Chapter has raised \$22,000 in sponsorship dollars for the Chapter's Annual Meeting. The Chapter has revamped their website, and is moving away from their quarterly newsletter. The Chapter is also planning to move away from their list serve, and trying to focus more on just keeping the Chapter website up-to-date. They are also experimenting with electronic abstract submission, and are offering a reduced registration to NGOs and others who would like to attend the Chapter's 2012 Annual Meeting.

Awards and Grants: President Ward indicated he has received one student travel expense application, and two small project grant applications. Craig Walker mentioned that several small grant applications will be coming in from Utah. Dave Ward sent out announcements yesterday on the listserv for Student Scholarships and Student Travel Grants. Dave asked Chapter Presidents to also spread the word. We also will send out another list serve notice for Division awards. Due dates for all Division awards, including Outstanding Student Subunit and Outstanding Chapter, are due Feb 20th.

Next ExCom Meeting: The next gathering of the Division ExCom will be on March 25th from 8am until noon in Jackson, WY as part of the 2012 Annual Division/Colo-Wyo Chapter Meeting. President Ward will send out materials regarding the Procedural Manual, Website, Vice President and Student Representative Elections, Grant Applications, Finances, and AZ-NM Chapter Bylaws to review prior to the meeting in Jackson, WY.

Submitted by Lori Martin, Past President on behalf of Mary Buckman, Secretary-Treasurer