



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
May 17, 2012

Roll call: Dave Ward (President), Mary Buckman (Secretary-Treasurer), Tina Swanson (President-elect), Lori Martin (Past President), Pam Sponholtz (Vice President), Jeff Yanke (OR), Julie Carter (AZ-NM), Dmitri Vidergar (Idaho), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Colo-Wyo), Travis Neebling (Newsletter, Webmaster), Dave Lentz (List Serve, Time and Place)

A quorum was established.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved with minor edits. We briefly discussed the level of financial detail to be included in the minutes and the group felt the detail in the April minutes seemed about right.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Buckman noted the financial status of the Division had changed little since the last meeting with some ExCom travel expenses coming in, but not yet complete. She asked that ExCom please submit expense claims as soon as possible. Only three students that were offered travel funds for Jackson requested reimbursement, an unusual situation. We have not received the dues yet.

Discussion moved to how to manage the funds set aside for student travel and for travel to the Mexico meeting. Buckman reported that she met with the Henry Boone and Troy Brandt of the Investment Committee about putting the money in the Endowment Fund in an attempt to find a location that might grow a bit. CDs and other secure locations for money earn less than .5% interest. An option considered is to put these funds in the Endowment Fund, investing in the stock market, and either letting it fluctuate with the fund or give it a "no lose" guarantee. It was noted that this is only the WD portion of the fund. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to put remaining student travel funds and funds for professional travel to Mexico into the Endowment Fund, holding them harmless with the rest of the Endowment Fund would absorbing any losses. This applies only to the Western Division portion of the Endowment Fund. Dave Lentz noted he felt it is worth the risk especially for the Mexico part. Others concurred, and included both parts of the travel fund. Jeff Yanke queried about the vulnerability of the Chapter funds and it was noted that all the risk is on the Western Division portion of the fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Candidate search: Lori Martin noted that we have one candidate for Vice President, Hilda Sexhauer of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. We will hold the elections in June. The newsletter will come out toward the end of June (June 25). Lori will make the arrangements with Survey Monkey. We will open the election at the beginning of July and leave it open for a couple weeks. She will send Dave Lentz a list serve announcement. Dave Lentz will look for a co-moderator to be sure it can be sent if he is gone.

Chapter Donations for Travel to Mexico, 2014: President Dave Ward is asking chapters to set aside money for professional travel to the Division meeting planned for Mazatlan in 2014. Dave will ask the Parent Society to match what the Divisions, Chapters and Sections up to about \$20,000. Tina queried whether we might want a higher amount to ask the Parent Society to match. Mary noted the Florida Chapter donated \$250. We discussed what the costs might be -- \$100/night (includes food) plus travel (\$600-\$700 for airfare). We will try to come up with more firm estimates of cost per person as more details are confirmed, but it likely be a minimum of \$1200.

Boise Meeting 2013: Joe Dupont is taking care of most of the planning and is assigning committees to most of the tasks. Dmitri reported that Joe will contact each of the chapter presidents in the next couple months to ask for input on how to inject some regional interest and ownership into the meeting. We will talk about meeting planning at each of these monthly conference calls and be sure there is an announcement in the next newsletter (June 18 deadline for information to Travis Neebling). The theme is not official, but will relate somehow to the 50 Year Anniversary of the Idaho Chapter. The meeting is April 15-18, with workshops on the 15th and the Plenary session on the 16th. The newsletter article will likely include a "save the date" note and a request for symposia ideas. They are already getting ideas for workshops and symposia. If anyone has ideas, get hold of Dmitri Vidergar and Joe will be following up.

Mexico 2014: Felipe was not on the call so we had no additional information about this meeting. Pam Sponholtz will be President and she will contact Felipe.

Newsletter: Travis will send out a call for submissions on June 1 with deadline for June 18 for a June 25th or so publication. Travis will work with the Colo-Wyo chapter for a write up on the Jackson Western Division meeting. He encouraged Chapters to submit an article regarding their annual meetings and can be the same as was sent to Fisheries.

Chapter Roundtable: Jeff Yanke introduced himself as the new Oregon Chapter President. Todd Bucholtz is the new President Elect. Jeff reported the Chapter had an ExCom retreat last week; they are initiating new ExCom members and meeting attendance was good for their annual meeting in Eugene. They have scheduled their fall retreat for Oct 21-23. Dmitri Vidergar reported the Idaho Chapter annual meeting went well and they are excited about hosting Western Division next year. The student subunit elected new officers. Ryan Fitzpatrick reported the Colo-Wyoming Chapter is still tying up loose ends with 123 Signup. Dan Brown will be the new Secretary-Treasurer. Their 2013 meeting is the last week in February in Ft Collins. Julie Carter reported the AZ-NM Chapter is choosing a new logo and that has become a larger process than anticipated. The 2013 meeting will be hosted by the Wildlife Society, part of their normal rotation, so they are not as active in meeting planning as in alternate years.

Fall Retreat: President-elect Tina Swanson is working on planning the fall retreat for Western Division ExCom. She noted that although San Francisco is lovely, rooms are quite expensive. Pam said GSA per diem rates for SF are \$185 per night. State rates are \$140. An alternate location would be in Davis. Dave Lentz lives in Davis and Tina thought colleagues at the UC-Davis might help secure a university location to meet. The Yolo Basin Wildlife Area was also mentioned as a location, but need to get on their schedule. Tina is looking at week of October 7-14, since the Oregon Chapter is busy October 21-23, her second choice. She noted the 2012 Bay-Delta Science Conference starting October 16. Tina will explore options and report back. The group thanked Tina for her work.

The **next conference call** is scheduled for Thu June 21, 8:30AM AK time, 9:30AM PDT, 10:30AM MDT, 9:30AM MST. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40 AM PDT.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Secretary-Treasurer

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