



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 June 20, 2013

Attendance: Tina Swanson (President), Pam Sponholtz (President-elect), Hilda Sexauer (Vice-president), Mary Buckman (Secretary/Treasurer), Dave Ward (Past President), John Morgan (WA-BC), Todd Bucholtz (OR), Aaron Bunch (AZ-NM), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Colo-Wyo), Dmitri Vidergar (ID), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative)

A quorum was established.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 2013 Executive Committee meeting in Boise were approved. The May 2013 Executive Committee conference minutes were approved after the dollar amount for the small grants is updated. Minutes of the Boise 2013 Business Meeting were recommended to be forwarded to the membership for approval at the next member business meeting.

Financial Report: Treasurer Buckman presented the current financial status. The Wells Fargo checking account is up to about \$27,000-plus because we got the member rebate from the Parent Society. Most large expenses are done, but we will have some travel expenses for the Parent Society meeting. The membership rebate was a little over \$19,000. The roughly \$40,000 in CDs are hanging in there, earning a .45% interest. The Endowment Fund is moving along on a generally upward trend. She noted, because the market is volatile with +/- 100 points not uncommon, the first of the month snapshot can be misleading.

For student travel grants for Boise, we allocated \$4300 and spent \$2830.52. Three students did not attend, Steven Kolubar requested considerably less than his grant and Bryce Roholt did not request reimbursement.

Boise Meeting 2013: The Idaho Chapter Treasurer Bill Horton has assembled the income and expenses from the meeting. There may still be a few tweaks but current estimates have profits at \$72,500 which gives the Idaho Chapter about \$43,000 and about \$28,375 for the Division. This is substantially more than budgeted. President-elect Pam Sponholtz's budget and the 2013-14 ExCom will identify how to use this money. Dmitri Vidergar reported the corporate sponsors were more than usually seen. He felt planning the Division meeting provided many benefits and important collaborations for the future. It was a lot of work, but much was learned. Final attendance was close to 700.

Mazatlan Meeting 2014: President-elect Sponholtz reported Travis Neebling is helping with the website and the design of the abstract submissions. It will be nested within the Western Division page and looks fabulous. He has also designed the submission form for the symposia. It mirrors the process used for Idaho. It should go live at the end of June. Felipe is working on the local arrangements. He is proposing to have the ExCom meeting on April 7 at a location off the resort. He is also considering the final social

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off-site to see more of town. Mazatlan has a nice town square. The Mexico Chapter does not have a formal student subunit so they will work with Tracy to move forward with the colloquium. Tracy suggested that she participate with the committee on a conference call. Pam is still working on initiating an organizing conference call. Felipe is working on the budget.

We discussed the travel pledges from the chapters. This money has remained in the Chapter budgets. Dave requested that Tina send the spreadsheet out with the amounts each chapter has pledged. It is estimated it will cost at least \$1500 to send someone to the meeting. Tina Swanson will contact the Parent Society requesting the match money. Some sections have also said they would set aside money. Pam, Jeff Yanke (OR) and Dave are on a committee to develop criteria for the Division funds. The Parent Society will have control of the distribution of the \$25,000 from the Parent Society, but President Swanson noted they usually do not manage money on that level. Tina and the committee will get together to develop a proposal for the Parent Society on how to distribute the money. It was suggested she touch base with President-elect Bob Hughes in advance. The first step, however, is to develop criteria for distribution of the Division funds.

Portland Meeting 2015: Dave Ward reported the planning committee will initiate their first conference call in July. He will send out the spreadsheet identifying the positions and planning team members. Most positions are filled. Dave requested the Division for \$5000 for seed money loan for the meeting. It was moved and seconded that we loan \$5000 toward the Oregon 2015 Parent Society meeting. It passed unanimously, with Dave and Mary abstaining. The overall meeting budget will likely be over \$1,000,000. He will likely ask the Parent Society for a loan as well.

2016 Meeting: The Montana Chapter is in the rotation. There are few places with the capacity to host a large meeting. Tracy Wendt has been doing some investigating and she and Tina will contact the Montana ExCom for a decision. Cal-Neva is another option.

2017 meeting and beyond: There was discussion of the Alaska Chapter hosting a Parent Society meeting in conjunction with a Division meeting in 2017, but the Parent Society is getting back on track with the geographic rotation, perhaps due to using meeting planners. Their 2016 meeting is in St Louis and 2017 likely in Florida. The next time the Division is in the rotation for a Parent Society meeting should be 2019.

Election Update: The elections are up on Survey Monkey. A notice has been sent to the members and the election can be accessed from the web site. Candidates for office are Jim Bowker from Montana for Vice President and Travis Neebling from Wyoming for Secretary-Treasurer. Tracy Wendt from Montana is running for Student Representative. An email was sent to the members and Tracy contacted student members. Voting is open until the end of the month.

Bristol Bay Letter: President Swanson presented information about the comment letter with a little background. She sent a draft out for review and had few comments. The Oregon Chapter discussed it. The deadline for comments to the EPA is June 30. Her target is to get it out the door by next Wednesday. Tina will talk directly to Mark Wipfli from the Alaska Chapter. It was moved and seconded to approve the letter as written and submit it to the EPA. The motion passed unanimously. If significant changes are recommended in the next week, she will contact ExCom.

Chapter Roundtable: Todd Bucholtz reported the Oregon Chapter has new officers. Their 2014 meeting will be the 50th anniversary in Eugene in February and they are clearing the decks to plan for 2015. The

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Chapter reiterated their call for dam removals and sent it to the Secretary of the Interior. John Morgan reported the WA-BC meeting will be in Vancouver at the end of March. Everyone is in the field now. They are seeking new officers – turn over is at annual meeting. They balanced books for AGM and came out a little behind. Sequestration hit them hard. President-elect Erin Brunch reported she is sitting in for Yvette Paroz. They are currently planning for the joint annual meeting with two wildlife society groups at Flagstaff. There was legislation making the process more difficult to apply rotenone. The impetus came from private individuals using rotenone. Dmitri Vidergar reported the Idaho Chapter has had one conference call since their annual meeting, are still wrapping up the meeting budget summary, getting new officers going, and developing a better cataloging system for annual business. The first post-meeting newsletter will be sent out the first couple weeks in July. Ryan Fitzpatrick of Colo-Wyo noted they are doing OK financially and gave out two small grants. They already sent out requests for travel to Mazatlan and will be judging the applicants on July 15. Their 2014 meeting is in Laramie, 2015 is in Ft Collins.

Tina reported they are getting inquiries from Hawaii regarding forming a chapter. The direction seems to be it might be a Pacific Chapter and include locations in addition to Hawaii. A minimum 25 members are required to form a chapter. Dave Ward reported that Hawaii was a full-fledged chapter that was officially disbanded in some clean-up (along with some other Chapters) and it became a sub-unit of Cal-Neva.

Student Representative Report: Tracy Wendt reported she is working on the Student Colloquium, although it is unlikely there will be one this year. Utah, Oregon, and others expressed interest in hosting the Colloquium so she feels momentum is growing. Tracy continues to develop the student contact list. She is attending the Parent Society meeting and has submitted an abstract for oral presentation.

New and other business: Pam Sponholtz will run the next conference call as Tina will be gone so please send agenda items and materials to her.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM. The next conference call is July 18, 2013 at 8:30 ADT, 9:30 PDT, 10:30 MDT.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Western Division Secretary/Treasurer