



# 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 August 15, 2013**

**Attendance:** Tina Swanson (President), Pam Sponholtz (President Elect), Hilda Sexauer (Vice President), Mary Buckman (Secretary/Treasurer), Dave Ward (Past President), Brian Missildine (WA-BC), Todd Buchholtz (OR), Joe DuPont (ID), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Jim Hobbs (Cal-Neva), Jackie Watson (Utah), Paul Gerrity (Colo-Wyo) joined the call later.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 9:34.

The group thanked Dave Ward and Mary Buckman for their service to the Western Division.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July conference call were approved with the corrections. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Buckman presented the current financial status. Cash balances are down about from last month with a little under \$20,000-plus in the checking account and \$40,000 in CDs. We have not received the payment from the Boise meeting, expected to be about \$27,000, but I will be talking with their new Treasurer tomorrow to finalize the numbers. We will have some travel expenses for the National meeting. The Endowment Fund is on the rise. Dave pointed out that we will be spending the Mexico travel funds soon so when the stock market hits an up day we should consider withdrawing the money.

**National Meeting in Little Rock:** Pam Sponholtz, Tina Swanson, Tracy Wendt, Hilda Sexauer, Jim Hobbs from Cal-Neva, and Michelle Weaver from Oregon will be at the meeting. Tina reminded the group that this is the meeting of the Governing Board. Hilda will be at the Governing Board meeting. She will be on the Management Committee because every other President is on the Committee for a two-year term. Jim Bowker will not be on the Management Committee. Western Division officer turnover is at the meeting. The Board will hear a report regarding the leadership structure of the Parent Society that likely recommends reducing the size of the Governing Board. The new director, Doug Austin, will assume the role of the new Executive Director about the time of this meeting.

**Mazatlan 2014 Update:** Vice-President Sponholtz updated the group on the Mazatlan meeting. The monthly conference calls have started. They have moved forward on the Plenary Session and agreed to share speakers with the mangrove group. They are thinking of Jane Lubchenko as a speaker that can tie in the Mangrove Conference and the meeting. They are trying to create a

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balanced view of the commercial and sport fishing and conservation. Information is being added to the website regularly and access is through the Division website. They are working with the hotel to get the registration component on the website. The deadline for symposia titles is the end of August. The paper abstract submission will have a rolling deadline. The Student Colloquium will be about the same time as the Continuing Education sessions on Friday of the meeting.

Criteria have been developed for applying for professional travel from the Western Division. We have heard of no progress regarding distribution of the Parent Society matching funds (\$25,000). The distribution is supposed to be geographically balanced. Tina will report to the Governing Board meeting that Dave is willing to chair a group to distribute this money and she will ask for volunteers in an effort to get the ball rolling. The Division and Chapters are up to close to \$35,000, assuming the stock market stays good. Regarding student travel, Western Division allotment will be similar to in the past and will likely be some portion of what they need with estimated expenses being \$1500-\$2000 per person. In the past couple years we have not spent all the student travel money, but it is also important to recall that the remaining funds in the Student Travel allotment need to be saved for the Portland meeting in 2015. It was suggested that since we made such a good profit on the Boise meeting, we may want to supplement travel funds. All were reminded that folks giving a paper are more likely to get a travel grants and paper submissions will be accepted starting the first week in September and likely open until February.

**Portland 2015:** Dave reported the Core Team had our first conference call. The next call will be in late September. We are requesting \$10,000 from the Parent Society. We are working on venues for the social events. Donna Parrish is working on a theme, followed by developing a logo. Our guess is that our break-even budget point is 2500 people. Brian Missildine asked for a list of committee openings.

**Meeting in 2016:** Cal-Neva is in for 2016. They are meeting this year in Sacramento as a test run. It was moved, seconded and approved for the Cal-Neva Chapter to host the 2016 Chapter meeting. Montana is considering hosting the 2017 meeting.

**Chapter Roundtable:** Brian Missildine reported that Mark LaRiviere is incoming President. Jackie Watson reported the Utah Chapter is changing officers at an ExCom meeting in late August. They are considering increasing Chapter dues from \$5 to \$25 and have drafted a Business Plan for the Chapter. They are looking to modify the bylaws to update the duties of the officers, looking to add more detail. It was noted that bylaw changes have to go through the Division and the Governing Board so they should be aware of the process. Todd Buchholz reported the Oregon Chapter Excom retreat is in late September. The 2014 meeting marks their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and discussion goes on about the 2015 meeting. Jim Hobbs reported the Cal-Neva Chapter is getting ready for the next meeting. They are planning CE courses regarding the Federal permitting process. They are providing funding and student representatives for the educational Nature Bowl for elementary children. Joe Dupont reported the Idaho chapter is funding Salmon and Steelhead Days in Boise for 3,000 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They funded Salmon Camp

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for 15 kids aged 10-16 to look at dams, habitat, red counts. They are considering how to put the extra money from the Division meeting to good use for scholarships. Paul Garrity reported the Colo-Wyo Chap Excom meeting was at the end of July and they packed into the Wind River Mountains to evaluate high-country cutthroat for a three-day team-building trip. It worked well, built good relationships and will likely become a regular event. For the 2014 meeting travel grants, they put out applications and selected Diana Miller and Jesse Lepack. They will allocate another \$1700 to send a student. They created a new Aquaculture Committee to try to involve more people in the Chapter.

As a reminder, the Idaho meeting is Feb 11-13 in Idaho Falls. Cal-Neva is in Sacramento from March 27-29. Colo-Wyo is in Laramie during the last week in Feb or early March. Oregon is in Eugene from February 25-28. The Montana meeting is March 4-7 at Chico Hot Springs

**Student Report:** Tracy Wendt reported she is lobbying the Montana Chapter to also send a student. She asked that Paul send their criteria to her. She considered sending email to all the Chapter Presidents asking them to send students to the Mexico meeting. It was suggested she use the ExCom distribution for the request. She is looking for ways to boost student presence in Mexico and is working on the Student Colloquium. School will be in session by the next call so she will have more information.

**Other business:** Tina is meeting on a conference call later and will request \$10,000 seed money for Portland, among other things.

The next ExCom call is currently scheduled for September 19 8:30 ADT, 9:30 PDT, 10:30 MDT. Pam will be hosting the meeting and Jim Bowker and Travis Neebling will be on board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Submitted by Mary Buckman, Western Division Secretary/Treasurer