



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

President Pam Sponholtz, President-elect Hilda Sexauer, Vice-president Jim Bowker, Secretary-Treasurer Travis Neebling, Past-president Tina Swanson

Minutes for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, February 20, 2014**

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

US Toll-Free: 1-866-910-4857

International Toll-Free: 1-719-387-5500

Passcode: 586030

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. Attendance: Pam Sponholtz (President), Hilda Sexauer (President Elect), Jim Bowker (Vice President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Phil Loring (AK), James Dominguez (AZ-NM), Paul Gerrity (CO-WY), Tom Curet (ID), Brian Missildine (WA-BC), Bob Gresswell (Student Scholarship committee chair).
2. Determination of quorum
  - a. A quorum was established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis/Pam)
  - a. Review and approve January 2014 minutes
    - i. Hilda and Jim B. provided revisions to the minutes.
    - ii. James moved to approve the minutes as revised, Jim B. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
  - b. Finances Update
    - i. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. There were no major changes since last month.
4. Draft MOU for Chapter involvement with Endowment Fund (Travis)
  - a. Travis briefly went over the draft MOU he developed for AFS sections wishing to invest in the Division's endowment fund. He has received no suggested revisions to the most recent draft, but did get comments from Todd, Brian, and Jim B. that indicated they supported it.
  - b. Pam asked if the Chapters who are already invested in the endowment should sign it. Travis said that they would be grandfathered in, but it wouldn't hurt to ask. The MOU is not designed to be a binding contract, just information to make sure that all parties are on the same page before money changes hands. Jim B. said that Chapters should sign it.

- c. Jim B. made a motion to approve the MOU and include it in the Procedures Manual, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed with no objections.
  - d. Travis will reach out to the Chapters that are already invested and ask them to sign it.
5. Workshop Proposal on Cutthroat trout: discussion (Pam)
- a. Pam gave an update on this proposal. It started back in the fall when Patrick first asked for support. It was suggested that the project be incorporated with the 2015 meeting in Portland and she asked for a formal proposal. Travis and Jim B. commented on the proposal that they were not comfortable with the Division covering costs and waiving registration fees for up to 18 people. Patrick is asking for Division approval/support of the project idea, complimentary facilities and AV support, and waiving registration fees for attendees. Pam asked how we should proceed without making promises.
  - b. Hilda commented that if it is part of the 2015 meeting it would be a symposium so facilities and AV would be covered. Pam responded that it would be somewhat independent, by invite only, and cover the entire duration of the meeting. Hilda asked Jim B. if Dave Ward was aware of this proposal. Jim B. will check with Nancy, Donna, Dave, and Neil, and forward them the proposal.
  - c. Pam mentioned that we should include the environmental affairs committee in the discussions. She recommended appointing Patrick as an ad-hoc chair so that he can fundraise through the Division.
  - d. Bob Gresswell commented that he was not involved in writing the proposal, but though this could be a financial opportunity for the Division through the sale of proceedings. He also pointed out that this is an issue affecting all the western states and has ESA implications. His recommendation is that the Division should not foot the whole bill, but provide some support.
  - e. Pam recommended supporting the proposal conceptually, but noted that this would be part of Hilda's budget. Hilda agreed that this is very important.
  - f. Pam commented that she doesn't want to blind-side the Portland meeting committee. Jim B. noted that he has sent them an email giving them a heads up. He thinks Dave will support the proposal and noted that Donna's meeting format highlights major symposia (but this comes back to the issue of being a closed group). Hilda recommended holding off responding until we hear from Dave as to whether Portland is interested or not.
  - g. Pam agreed to respond to Patrick that we will revisit the proposal on the next conference call. Hilda commented to be sure to explain that we are interested; we are not trying to put him off. Jim B. recommended that Patrick try to find financial support for the speakers; that there will be no waiving of registration fees.
  - h. Pam will draft a letter with that language before the next meeting.
6. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (Pam)
- a. Pam noted that we missed this topic on the last call because she was not included on the original email. The act governs management of the oceans and was developed in the 1990s because of overfishing. There are two tenants: 1. Does not allow more to be taken in a year than can be replaced, and 2. Works to restore overfished stocks. This is an important issue; overtime the act has worked to

rebuild fish stocks. The original email was a sign-on letter of support to Congress.

- b. Paul clarified that the email came from the Oregon Chapter. He brought up the topic because CO-WY wants to support the Act, but didn't know if it should go through the Division level.
  - c. Jim B. commented that it is a good thing and he thinks we should support it. CO-WY agrees.
  - d. Tom asked if it was a stand-alone letter and wondered who we send it to. Pam responded that she needs to check with the Oregon Chapter, but didn't know if it should go to Washington DC or the Oregon government. Brian commented that we should send the letter to the congressional members of all the Pacific states.
  - e. Phil commented that it is good for the Alaskan fisheries. He agreed it needs reform, but noted that this is a hotly contested issue in Alaska.
  - f. Pam commented that letters like this are more effective when written from scratch and not as a sign-on letter. She asked what language would be good to include. Phil responded that fisheries communities should be preserved. There is currently too much emphasis on maximum sustainable yield and not enough on access or support for local fishing communities.
  - g. Pam asked for a vote to respond or not. Hilda recommended waiting to hear more from the Oregon Chapter and asked about the time frame. Pam responded with the suggestion that she and the Pacific state Chapter presidents draft a letter for review by the rest of the Excom. Phil agreed and stated that we need to figure out our position on the topic. Hilda asked if anyone opposed supporting the Act, to which no one responded in opposition.
  - h. Jim B. brought up the issue of reaching out to elected officials and recommended CC'ing everyone interested to disseminate the information more broadly.
  - i. Phil made a motion to draft a letter of support for reauthorization, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed with no objections.
  - j. Pam will make the first draft and then send it to all Chapter presidents with the hope of revising it by the next call for Excom approval.
7. Update on the 2014 WDAFS/Mexico WDAFS meeting (Felipe, Hilda, Pam)
- a. Hilda gave an update on the meeting. The program is developing quite well. There are more presentations than expected; ~350 oral presentations and ~100 posters. There will be seven concurrent sessions after the plenary and then eight concurrent sessions on the remaining days. All of the symposia are filling up, some are over-booked. Currently there have been 35 cancelations; alternates will fill the canceled slots.
  - b. The Western Division and Parent Society have allocated over \$60,000 in support for meeting attendance. The Division is supporting 17 professionals and 19 students. The Parent Society is supporting 22 people fully and five more partially. On top of this, Chapters are supporting many more attendees. All of this is excellent.
  - c. Early registration closes February 28. We currently have over 200 registrants and Alison is doing a great job with the registrations.
  - d. There are ~15 vendors signed on for the trade show. Extra booths are being made available to local vendors. Between trade show vendors and sponsors we have \$10,000 in hand and another \$8,000 pledged.

- e. Volunteer numbers are low (~40); we need more. There are over 150 student papers and posters to judge. Please let your members know to contact Hilda or Tracy if they are interested in volunteering. A mass email looking for volunteers will be sent out. Tracy has set up a Google spreadsheet to enter volunteer information. In addition to judging, we need people for AV support, airport greeters, etc.
  - f. There will be a social each evening at the meeting. Monday will be the welcome social. Tuesday the poster/trade show social and student mentoring social. Wednesday will be the grand social. Thursday will be the wrap-up/off-site social in downtown Mazatlan.
  - g. Mark Smith has issued a challenge to the Chapters to donate a trip. The trip that brings the most money will have 50% of the earnings donated back to the Chapter. Idaho and CO-WY have donated thus far.
  - h. There will be three continuing education courses for which people can still register. The sampling techniques course in English currently has low enrollment, so it may be combined with the Spanish course.
  - i. Pam commented that we have three excellent plenary speakers lined up, covering a broad range of topics/backgrounds. The plenary will be translated.
8. Update on 2015 WDAFS/AFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Hilda)
- a. Hilda gave an update on the 2015 meeting in Portland. The artwork will be finalized by early March. An RFP was sent out for artwork focusing on Oregon. They also want a mascot drawn up, but don't want it to be too cartoony. They have three plenary speakers lined up. Nothing has been finalized regarding socials.
  - b. There was discussion regarding including the student colloquium as part of the meeting. Dave and Hilda recommending having it separate and Tracy commented that it is usually a stand-alone event. The response for hosting upcoming colloquiums has been overwhelming. Utah State University will be hosting in 2015, Oregon State University in 2016, and University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2017. Having the colloquium in Portland might further confuse the issue as it is a joint meeting with the Parent Society. Hilda commented that it would be a massive headache and Tracy agreed.
9. Bristol Bay letter of support (Tina)
- a. Pam wanted to give Tina time to talk about the letter, but Tina could not make the call. Phil commented that the letter was sent to the Alaska Chapter membership and the response was positive.
10. Update from Student Representative (Tracy)
- a. Tracy has been tied up with the 2014 meeting activities. There will be lots of student presentations and posters which is especially exciting given the expense of attending the international meeting. Currently there are 47 students registered mostly from the US. There are 114 student presentations and 62 posters submitted. The meeting will include fun activities and workshops for students; Chapter presidents should be prepared for a request for assistance with these.
  - b. The next three years of student colloquiums are planned. It is exciting to see more student interest in involvement with the Division and Society.

- c. There were three student articles in the most recent edition of The Tributary and it seems like communication is improving.
- d. Tracy thanked everyone who helped reach out to students.
- e. Pam commented that there is a lot to be appreciated and thanked Tracy for all her hard work. She asked what the Student Representative term is. Tracy replied that it coincides with the Excom officers. There will be a poster in Mazatlan advertising this position and she hopes to recruit some good candidates.
- f. Pam commented that Tracy has added a lot of value to this position, she has been very involved, and really made it matter.

## 11. Chapter roundtable

- a. WA-BC – Brian:
  - i. Brian thanked Travis for his work on the MOU and thanked Tracy for her work with students. The Chapter has been focused on their AGM in Vancouver. There will be 9 or 10 symposia, but registration has been slow. Pam, Bob Hughes, and Doug Austen have all been invited. They are working on a resolution regarding the capitalization of fish names; after a vote by the membership it will be forwarded to the Division.
- b. Alaska – Phil:
  - i. The Chapter has been focused on their AGM in Juneau. The vice president may call in next month due to scheduling conflicts. Phil is disappointed that he will not be able to attend the meeting in Mazatlan due to travel issues (would require two overnight stays on each end of the trip); Mark will be going instead. Their student subunit will also be sending people, but he is not sure how many.
  - ii. Pam commented that she really appreciates having a proxy when you can't make that call.
- c. CO-WY – Paul:
  - i. Paul had to leave the call before he was able to give an update.
- d. Idaho – Tom:
  - i. The Chapter held their meeting last week. They had 230 attendees. Joe Dupont will be attending the meeting in Mazatlan.
- e. AZ-NM – James:
  - i. Their Chapter meeting was earlier this month in Pinetop; it was a joint meeting with the AZ and NM chapters of The Wildlife Society. There were 300 participants. They had continuing education courses on piscicide use, venomous reptiles, and law enforcement/investigation. Bill Stewart is their new president. They are trying to get new committee chairs to bring in new ideas/new blood. They will likely invest \$1,500 in the Western Division endowment. Pam attended the meeting and commented that she had fun

## 12. Reminders

- a. The award nomination deadline is March 7. Awards will be presented at the business lunch in Mazatlan. Please nominate.
- b. The small projects grant deadline is March 15. Up to \$5,000 will be awarded this year.

## 13. Update on Student Scholarship applications (Bob Gresswell)

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

- a. Bob gave an update. There were 12 applicants this year; four PhD and 8 masters students. It was a diverse group. The committee will meet this afternoon to select winners. Bob will send the results to Pam tomorrow. Pam and Travis will coordinate with AFS to get the plaques. Bob will present the awards in Mazatlan and also give a committee report. Hopefully the winners or a proxy will be there to accept.

14. New or other business

- a. Jim B. gave a reminder for the Emerging Leader program; the deadline is April 1.

The next conference call will be on March 20. The call adjourned at 11:51 pm MST.