



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, March 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), Jim Bowker (Vice President), Tina Swanson (Past President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Bill Stewart (AZ-NM), Paul Gerrity (CO-WY), Todd Bucholz (OR), Dave Lentz (listserv committee chair).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was not established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis/Pam)
 - a. Review and approve February 2014 minutes
 - i. Jim B. provided revisions to the minutes.
 - ii. As there was no quorum, approval of the meeting minutes was postponed until the meeting in Mazatlan.
 - b. Finances Update
 - i. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. There were no major changes since last month.
 - ii. Jim asked about the Society endowment fund. Travis was not sure. Pam said that it is not ready for investment from AFS units yet.
 - iii. Jim asked if Pam should send out a letter to the Chapters regarding the MOU for investing in the endowment fund. Travis responded that he would coordinate with the Chapters to get it signed.
 1. Todd mentioned that Oregon will be discussing investing at their meeting next month. Paul offered to sign the document electronically.
4. Workshop Proposal on Cutthroat trout letter: Vote (Pam)
 - a. Pam briefly reiterated the content of the letter as discussed on the last conference call. She has received some responses, all of which have been positive. As there

was no quorum, there was no vote; however, there were no objections with moving forward with sending the letter. Pam will get it signed and sent off.

5. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization letter: Vote (Pam)
 - a. Pam asked if everyone had a chance to look at the letter. Todd responded that it looked good.
 - b. Pam asked who to send the letter to. Jim suggested sending it to all senators and representatives from the western states (Jim has provided Pam with a list of senators). Paul and Tina agreed. Tina suggested adding “Magnuson-Stevens” to the subject or attention line. Pam asked if a mass email or individual emails would be better. Tina suggested a letter to each individual; however, it was agreed to group by state.

6. Update on the 2014 WDAFS/Mexico WDAFS meeting (Felipe, Hilda, Pam)
 - a. Pam gave an update on the meeting. There are 422 registrants including guests. They are over the goal set for attendees from the United States, but lagging on Mexico Chapter members and not sure why. The room block at El Cid is closed; there are rooms available, but not through our group block. There is too much risk of not filling rooms to add more at this time. Attendees can use the El Cid website to book rooms or look at other hotels. We have booked over 200 rooms at El Cid.
 - b. Felipe is working with the Department of Tourism and the City of Mazatlan to sponsor the final (off-site) social which will be held in downtown Mazatlan.
 - c. Three continuing education courses will be offered. The standard sampling methods class will be taught as one class in both English and Spanish; Norman will be teaching this class.
 - d. The Western Division Excom meeting will be on Monday at an off-site hotel and transportation will be arranged. Excom will be reviewing six small project grants.
 - e. Tina asked why so few Mexico Chapter members have registered. Pam responded that she and Felipe are working on it. Pam also pointed out that trade show vendors and sponsors are above the goal set, which is helping offset the lower registration numbers. Tina applauded all the hard work going into planning this meeting.

7. Update on 2015 WDAFS/AFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Hilda)
 - a. Jim gave an update on the meeting. The logo art is 98% done. The program co-chairs are looking at the Quebec meeting for insight. The call for symposia will be sent to Fisheries in May. Hilda and Jim will be attending a site visit on May 22. According to the Gant chart, they are ahead of the curve for meeting planning.
 - b. Tina asked about the call for symposia coming out before the Quebec meeting. Jim clarified that it is an early deadline to get it into Fisheries; the call will not come out until after the Quebec meeting.
 - c. Pam asked about the 2017 Western Division meeting and perhaps getting a proposal from Alaska. Tina thinks Alaska might be looking to hold the Society meeting in 2018, so they might not want to hold the Division meeting the year prior. Cal-Neva is on to host the Division meeting in 2016. Montana may be interested in hosting the Division meeting in 2017. Tracy commented that there are limited sites large enough to hold such a meeting and the Chapter is concerned

with committing a future president to the task. Pam commented that the meeting was held in Bozeman several years ago at the university and they did a good job.

8. Update from Student Representative (Tracy)
 - a. Tracy has mostly been working on stuff for the Colloquium and meeting. There are 20 students from the United States attending the meeting and 20-30 students from Mexico signed up to volunteer (she doesn't know how many will actually be attending).
 - b. There were four applications for the outstanding student subunit award, which is more than usual. She attributes this to all the emails she has been sending and receiving, and thanks the chapter presidents for their work to get students more involved.
 - c. Tracy will be proposing an 'Excellence in Education' award at the Excom meeting in Mazatlan. The Society and Montana Chapter already have similar awards.

9. Chapter roundtable
 - a. AZ-NM – Bill:
 - i. Bill introduced himself; he is the new Chapter president. He works as an aquatic research program manager in Arizona; he has three biologists on his crew and is focused on long-term electrofishing trips in the Grand Canyon. The Chapter is going to try to be more involved on the conference calls, and Bill is excited to be more involved.
 - ii. The Chapter just held their annual meeting which was co-hosted with The Wildlife Society in Pinetop, AZ. They had 300 registrants and did well financially. They sent out a survey about the meeting and found that people are interested in helping out. They got a lot of feedback on communication; they are looking at social media and setting up a listserv. They also plan to have more continuing education courses.
 - iii. Pam commented that it is good to figure out what members want.
 - b. CO-WY – Paul:
 - i. The Chapter just had their meeting and had 171 participants, which is the highest attendance in a number of years. This is attributed to more involvement with the fish culture personnel; they formed a new committee and already have 30 members. There was a continuing education course on fish genetics.
 - ii. At the business meeting there was discussion regarding how to spend ~\$28,000 in profit the Chapter has from recent meetings. A survey was sent out before the meeting. It was decided to allocate funds to send one student and one professional to either the Division or Society meeting each year. There will also be free registration for future continuing education courses. Lastly, two small grants were funded; one for a fish tank at Colorado State University and one for a macroinvertebrate guide book.
 - iii. Pam asked if there are any reporting requirements for the grants to which Paul responded no.
 - iv. Jim pointed out that he and Tina have been working on the AFS strategic plan. He would like to capture some of these details (e.g., number of attendees at meetings, number of continuing education courses, amount of

money spent on travel, etc.). He commends the chapters for all their hard work and thinks we need to get the word out about it. Tina said that this is a major update and restructuring of the document; they are trying to make it more streamlined. There is a draft out for review and they are hoping to use it for reports at the Quebec meeting.

- v. Jim asked Pam to summarize these results for the Division and Tina asked if it could be ready by Mazatlan. Jim said that we are setting the trend for the other divisions and Pam said that she is happy we are setting the trend.
- c. Oregon – Todd:
 - i. Oregon just held their meeting; they had over 400 participants and 50 students. They held three workshops and netted about \$20,000 in profit. It is the Chapter's 50th anniversary so they had swag with the new logo.
 - ii. They will be holding their spring retreat in three weeks at which time the officers will rotate. The new president will be Troy Brandt who comes from the private industry. They will also discuss investing in the Division's endowment.
 - iii. They are looking for a new lobbyist and legislative committee chair. They have been very effective working with state government.
- d. Utah – Travis:
 - i. Travis attended the Utah Chapter meeting the week prior and commended the Chapter for hosting an excellent meeting. Even on a shoe-string budget they held two continuing education workshops and provided three meals a day and two nights of hotel as part of the registration price.

10. New or other business

- a. Pam thanked Dave for his work to set up the new listserv. Dave said that about a dozen chapters are now using the service. If you have questions you should contact Sarah Gilbert Fox.
- b. The Cal-Neva Chapter meeting is next week. Jim will ask about 2016. Tina will be at that meeting as well.
- c. Jim commented that the Montana Chapter meeting was great. They discussed a letter to the Army Corp and Bureau of Reclamation about a dam on the Yellowstone River. Jim also mentioned that there was an avalanche in Missoula in which Fred Allendorph's wife died and he lost his home. The Montana Chapter is working to create the Fred Allendorph fund. Tracy said that she would bring up the 2017 meeting at their Excom meeting later this month and Jim will work to engage the 'movers and shakers' in the Chapter.

The next conference call will be on May 15 after the meeting in Mazatlan. The call adjourned at 11:28 pm MST.