



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

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

Agenda for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, June 19, 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), Tina Swanson (Past President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Tracy Wendt (Student Representative), Bill Stewart (AZ-NM), Paul Gerrity (CO-WY), Mike Gauvin (Oregon), Calvin Black and Jackie Watson (Utah), Brian Missildine (WA-BC), Dave Lentz (listserv committee chair).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis/Pam)
 - a. Review and approve April and May 2014 minutes
 - i. Hilda and Jim B. provided revisions to the April minutes. Brian moved to approve the April minutes as revised, Paul seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - ii. No revisions were provided for the May minutes. Jim moved to approve the May minutes, Brian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update
 - i. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. The balance of the checking account dropped as the student and professional travel award checks were cashed. The Utah Chapter provided \$1,000 to be put in the Endowment Fund; as we were unable to transfer funds to the Endowment at the time, the Division retained the \$1,000 in the checking account and the proportional “ownership” of the Endowment was modified to reflect a \$1,000 increase to Utah and a \$1,000 decrease to the Division.
 - ii. Jim suggested that we compile documents related to the Division’s accounts in the Procedures Manual with the hope of making the Secretary-Treasurer transition easier in the future. Travis will compile these documents and Jim will review them.

- iii. The final numbers are in for the Mazatlan meeting. After all loans and outstanding bills were paid, the Division made a profit of \$11,490.41 and the Mexico Chapter made a profit of \$14,735.61. Jim asked how much the Mexico Chapter had prior to the meeting. Pam responded that it was about \$300 and that they are very happy with the financial boost from the meeting.
 4. Update on 2015 WDAFS/AFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Hilda/Jim)
 - a. Hilda explained that the on-site meeting last month was very successful. The public transportation is easy to use. They visited the Hilton which is a nice facility and laid out better than in Seattle. The call for symposia will come out after the Quebec meeting. The planning committee is hoping that meeting attendance will exceed the Seattle meeting. A draft budget has been released which includes either \$10K or \$20K in fundraising from the Division. Troy Brandt and Hilda will be working on fundraising, but it is not to start until after the Quebec meeting. They are hoping to have electronic poster displays. Jim commented that the planning committee has a lot of really good experience.
 5. Update on 2016 WDAFS/CalNeva AFS meeting (Jim/Pat)
 - a. Jim gave an update on the meeting. The Cal/Neva Chapter has selected Reno as the location for the 2016 meeting. Shawn Johnston has volunteered to help negotiate costs. Dave commented that having the meeting in Nevada may have an impact on attendance from California due to out-of-state travel restrictions. The Chapter is working with the Game and Fish to get people thinking about the meeting early and planning presentations. Jim commented that they are hoping to get dates finalized soon; they are thinking about the 2nd half of March or the 2nd half of April.
 6. Discussion on 2017 meeting location
 - a. Jim and Dave will work to formalize the process for proposals as Montana, Alaska, and Washington-BC are all interested in hosting. Dave commented that there is no deadline/timeline for submissions, but he hopes to have something by the end of the year.
 - b. Mike stated that Oregon will be interested again in 2018 or 2019.
 - c. WA-BC would definitely like to host in either 2017 or 2018.
 7. Update from Student Representative (Tracy)
 - a. Tracy said that there are five candidates for the Student Representative position. She worked with Travis to get the online voting ready to go. Her work as Student Representative is winding down. She hopes to be done with her Master's degree next May. Jim asked if she knew anyone who might be interested in the Newsletter Editor position; she wasn't sure but said that she wasn't able to commit to the position herself right now. Travis commented that it would be good to try to get the students who are not selected for the Student Representative position into other committee roles in the Division.
 8. Discussion of Officer Candidates
 - a. Pam stated that there is only one candidate this year; Cleve Steward. Jim Hobbs bowed out and Jeff Yanke needs a break after serving on the Oregon Excom.

9. Chapter roundtable

- a. CO-WY – Paul:
 - i. The Chapter will have an Excom meeting beginning on July 19; it will be a 3–4 day retreat for the officers including a 2-day float trip on the Gunnison River.
- b. AZ-NM – Bill:
 - i. The Chapter’s spring newsletter is out. It includes an update from the Mexico Chapter meeting and an update from Pam who attended the Chapter meeting. They are cleaning up their website and working on starting a listserv.
- c. Utah – Calvin and Jackie:
 - i. Calvin has been on the Chapter Excom for four years. He is an assistant aquatic manager in Price. The Chapter is meeting next week to plan a 5K run this fall (i.e., a spawning run during the Kokanee run). They are working on their newsletter. They are also meeting to discuss the next three years of annual meetings with one of the topics being how to get AFS members from other states to attend their Chapter meeting.
 - ii. Jackie commented that they are considering changing their officer transition from August to March/April to give the incoming officers more time to prepare before their Chapter meeting. She asked if there is a Division or Society restriction. Pam responded that there is no requirement; it just needs to be in your Chapter bylaws.
- d. WA-BC – Brian:
 - i. The 2015 AGM will be February 16–19 Executive Airport Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre Richmond. Voting for officers will begin soon; they have two candidates for Vice President, but no candidates for the Student Representative position. They have awarded travel awards to Quebec and are looking to put funds into the Endowment soon.
- e. Oregon – Mike:
 - i. This is Mike’s first conference call; he is the new Chapter President. He works for ODFW as the recreational fishing program manager out of Salem; he also served as beer chairman for many years. They are planning for the Society meeting and are also hosting a symposium in January on hatchery vs. wild fish. Almost everyone on the Chapter Excom is new.

10. Reminders: Chapter information for Governing Board meeting in Quebec

- a. Chapter information for the Governing Board is due July 1. Jim commented that this is typically a 400 page document; they are trying to pull out the important things as bullet points. Tina commented that the strategic plan is in review; it has new strategies and suggested matrices for measuring success.

11. New or other business

- a. Jim thanked the Chapter’s for sending in their meeting metrics. In October there will be another questionnaire on what unique things different Chapters do at their meetings. Jim will then reach out to the Student Subunits to get their ideas and input.
- b. Brian is going to be looking at membership numbers from different Chapters.

- i. Mike asked what different Chapters charge for membership dues. Responses varied from \$2 to \$10.
- ii. Hilda asked how many members/meeting attendees are not Society members. No one was really sure. This is something to look at in the future.
- c. Mike asked about the mid-year retreat. Hilda isn't sure on dates, but suspects that it will be in Jackson, Wyoming. Pam would like it to be in late November to get some skiing in, but that seemed late to Hilda.

The next conference call will be on July 17. The call adjourned at 11:47 pm MST.