



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

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

Agenda for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, February 19, 2015**

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

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. Hilda Sexauer (President), Jim Bowker (President-Elect), Cleve Steward (Vice President), Pam Sponholtz (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Jane Sullivan (Student Representative), Jennifer Stahl and Mary Beth Loewen (AK), James Dominguez (AZ-NM), Dan Brauch (CO-WY), Tom Curet (ID), Mike Gauvin (OR), Calvin Black (UT), Luke Schultz (Native Fish Committee), and Lori Martin (Environmental Concerns Committee).
2. Determination of quorum
  - a. A quorum was established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
  - a. Approve January minutes (Travis) (voting item)
    - i. Jim and Hilda each provided minor edits to the minutes. Jim moved to approve the January minutes as revised, Cleve seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
  - b. Finances Update (Travis)
    - i. Travis noted that there were no major changes to the finances. He has also applied for an automatic three month extensions for the taxes.
    - ii. Tom asked how long it takes to do the Division taxes. Travis responded only a couple of hours. Cleve asked if we used the 990 form; Travis indicated yes, the 990EZ.
    - iii. Jim mentioned that the Society is almost ready to allow units to invest in their endowment and asked how it compared to the Division's offer. Travis commented that according to Henry, the Division's endowment is outperforming the Society's. Hilda indicated that the Southern Division may be interested in investing with us.
4. WDAFS small grants – (Pam) (voting item)
  - a. Pam compiled the scores she has received; the majority of Excom members have submitted scores. The top two winners were obvious then it was a tie between the third and fourth. Hilda recommended funding the top three, Travis, Jim, and Cleve all supported this. Dan made a motion to fund Haynes (\$861), Scharlau (\$3,554.40), and Hogan (\$5,000)for the amounts they requested, Cleve seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- b. Pam will contact the winners and non-winners, and specify the reporting requirements.
- 5. Susitna Dam (Lori Martin) (voting item)
  - a. Sarah O'Neal joined the call and discussed the most recent draft of the letter regarding the Susitna Dam proposal. Jim, Bob Hughes, Tom Bigford, Sarah, Hilda, and Lori all worked to develop the letter. Lori mentioned that they were trying to put something together to the Alaska Legislature during their session; it morphed from bullet points into a much larger letter, but it addresses their points and is simple yet powerful. Lori asked who we should address it to and when we need to get it out by. Sarah responded that the Legislature is currently in session and will focus on Susitna towards the end of March; she also has compiled a list of people to send it to. Hilda commented that the next step is to work with the Alaska Chapter's environmental committee to address the report and plan, and to make use of Alaska's expertise.
  - b. Jim noted that the letter is addressed to FERC and asked who it will go to in the Alaska Legislature. Sarah has a long list of contacts, both in the Legislature and local governments. Hilda noted that Bob Hughes brought up sending it to more than just FERC. Sarah noted that including FERC is just to get it on the public record.
  - c. Jim asked what AFS sections might support the letter, for example the Bioengineering Section. Hilda emailed Laura Wildman (President), but hadn't heard back yet. Jim offered to do a follow-up with Laura. Jim noted that more letters might be better, but Hilda didn't know if there was enough time.
  - d. Jennifer mentioned that Phil Loring (Alaska Chapter Past-President) was going to bring it up on their next conference call. She indicated that the Alaska Chapter definitely supports the letter, but their Environmental Concerns Committee wants to review it. They could review it in a timely manner. Mary Beth asked if they should continue on with their own letter or sign onto the Division's letter. Sarah said she talked early with the Alaska Chapter and that they were nervous about putting the Chapter on the front; she asked if there is still that concern. Signing onto the Division letter could provide some political cover. Jennifer indicated that it would be nice to have the Division act as a buffer; in the past they have been worried about getting involved, but they couldn't ignore the issue any longer. She believes Chapter members will likely support this.
  - e. Hilda asked if there was any issue waiting a week or two. Sarah thinks this will be fine to wait until the end of the month; there is no hard and fast deadline. Lori thinks this is fine also, indicating a February 27 deadline with the intent to get the letter out the following week.
  - f. Cleve asked what our role will be as things proceed; will we sign on as interveners (formally in the FERC process)? Sarah responded TU is listed as an intervener and that there are certain windows of time to sign on. Cleve indicated that it is probably more work that we bargained for, but you get all the material from the study. We would have to be ready to hit deadlines. The current letter addresses environmental and economic concerns; the last time this dam was proposed, it was killed on economic grounds. Cleve suggested including some of the past history. Jim asked Cleve if he could write something up on this. Cleve will dig into the literature.

- g. Cleve and Sarah will write up some of the historical perspective. Hilda, Lori, and the Alaska Environmental Concerns Committee will review by February 28. Final draft will go out in early March. Jim will contact the Bioengineering Section to see if they are in support. Jim motioned to send the letter revised by Hilda, Lori, Sarah, the Alaska Chapter, and Cleve to the addresses identified by Sarah, Pam seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no objections.
  
- 6. Chapter roundtable
  - a. Idaho – Tom:
    - i. Their Chapter meeting will be the first week of March and Travis will be attending as the Division representative.
  - b. Oregon – Mike:
    - i. New officers were recently elected; they used online voting for the first time. Their spring retreat will be the third week of April and they will pass the officer torch at that time.
    - ii. They held their hatchery vs wild meeting in January and it was very successful; they had 275 attendees from throughout the west. This increased exposure for the Chapter and made more profit than their usual Chapter meeting (~\$20,000); they also called out those who registered as members who were not current on their dues. Jim asked if they could write something up for The Tributary and website; Mike said they would.
    - iii. They held a winter retreat this year instead of their usual spring and fall retreats. It was very successful and they covered Chapter business and finances.
    - iv. Their Legislative session is in full swing; they are dealing with suction mine dredging issues and released a white-paper on hatchery vs wild fisheries.
    - v. Employees have been criticized for their work on the dams in Alaska. As they are volunteering as a resource, they are not printing their affiliations on their name tags.
  - c. AZ-NM – James:
    - i. James became President at their recent meeting that Hilda attended. Their other new officers are: Jessica Gwinn (President-Elect), Bill Steward (Past President), Sharon Lashway (Secretary-Treasurer), and Sally Petre (Ad Hoc Member). They offered two continuing education courses at their meeting, a piscicide applicator class (which was also available as a webinar) and a resume/interview class for students. Financially they are doing well. They have a new website with the help of Sarah Gilbert Fox and Facebook is also popular. They have developed a handout/flyer for new members, which Hilda will forward to Excom.
  - d. CO-WY – Dan:
    - i. Their meeting is coming up in Fort Collins. They will be holding a continuing education course on fish nutrition taught by Jesse Trushenski; 45 people have registered. At least 150 people have registered for the meeting. Dan reported issues renewing AFS membership; it seems that communication is breaking down. Dan will contact Eva about this.
  - e. Alaska – Jennifer:
    - i. Their Chapter meeting will be in October or November in Homer. Their last meeting was very successful; it was jointly hosted with the Alaska

Water Resources group and others with over 430 attendees. Alaska has been working on issues regarding the clear cutting in the Tongass.

- f. Utah – Calvin:
  - i. They are about a month away from their annual meeting, which will be in Moab and Pam will be attending as the Division representative. Abstracts and the program have been finalized. They are working to revise their bylaws and have sent them out to Jessica Mistak, then they will go out for vote.
- 7. Update Professional travel grants and other travel grants for AFS2015 (Travis, Hilda)
  - a. Not much reported on professional travel grants except that the call for applications will be coming out soon.
- 8. Update on 2015 AFS/WDAFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Hilda/Jim/Mike)
  - a. Jim had to sign off prior to this agenda item. Update was very brief and only mentioned the number of symposia accepted and that the meeting would run from 8:00 am to 5:20 pm in order to allow for all the time slots required by symposia organizers to be met. Mike Gauvin mentioned that this might conflict with people getting to socials on time. Hilda stated she will provide that concern to the planning committee on their next call.
- 9. Update on 2016 WDAFS/CalNeva meeting in Reno (Jim/Cleve/Norm)
  - a. No update provided.
- 10. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
  - a. The Student Colloquium was recently held, they had a few no-shows, but there were 22 attendees (from five states) and 12 presentations. The quality of the presentations was very good. A big thanks to the Utah Chapter for their support; two members of Excom were there and they did some speed mentoring. In the future, it would be good to have a registration fee to get a commitment, and to schedule it around the Chapter meetings. The venue was perfect for the meeting and was all-inclusive. Jane is on the hunt for a location for the 2016 colloquium.
- 11. New or other business
  - a. Pam asked when Excom needs to be in Portland. Hilda will check with Michelle to find out when everything is scheduled but suspect that the Excom meeting will be on Sunday and the WD business meeting will be on Tuesday; not finalized though. Oregon will be having an award ceremony one hour before the grand social at the Hilton in the Ski View room.
- 12. The next meeting will be on March 19, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm MST.