



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, March 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), Cleve Steward (Vice President), Pam Sponholtz (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Dan Brauch (CO-WY), Jim Chandler (ID), Calvin Black (UT), Matt Klungle (WA-BC), and Tracy Wendt (MT).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve February minutes (Travis)
 - i. Travis briefly covered the revisions provided by Hilda. Cleve moved to approve the February minutes as revised, Pam seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave an update on the finances. Everything is looking good; the endowment made 5.2% last month. There are a number of anticipated expenses coming up in the next few months; the checking account will be able to cover these. If we need additional funds, Travis and Hilda recommend cashing in one of the CDs as they are only making 0.45% annually, instead of pulling funds from the endowment which is making us a lot more money.
4. WDAFS small grants – (Pam)
 - a. Pam let everyone know that the acceptance and rejection letters for the small grants were sent out last month. Pam took the time to let applicants know exactly what we were looking for when ranking the applications. She got some questions from the winners looking for clarification on the format for updates and Tributary articles.
5. Susitna Dam (Lori Martin, Hilda)
 - a. Hilda gave an update on the Susitna Dam project. The final letter went out to 27 people including the Governor of Alaska, FERC, and Alaska State Representatives; a press release also went out. To date, only one response has

been received; it was from the Director of the Habitat Section of Alaska and it was positive. Sarah O'Neal also received some positive feedback.

- b. The Environmental Concerns committee will review the initial study report and comment; Hilda and Lori will take the lead on this, anyone else who is interested in helping out should contact Hilda. A group in Talkeetna (Aquatic Restoration and Research Group) has offered to help; they assisted the Fish and Wildlife Service with their comments; Hilda will contact this group.
 - c. Cleve thanked everyone involved for pushing this along. Matt commented that at their Chapter's annual meeting the Alaska attendees were happy that the Division and chapters are working on this issue and the KSM issue.
6. Chapter roundtable
- a. Dan – CO-WY:
 - i. Their Chapter meeting was in late February; they had about 180 registrants which is on the high end of what they usually get. There was a lot of variety to the talks which yielded some positive comments. There was strong involvement from the fish culture people this year. Meeting income was ~\$40,000, but meeting expenses will be higher this year because of more attendees. They hosted a continuing education course on fish nutrition; it was after the meeting which led to lower attendance than normal.
 - b. Matt – WA-BC:
 - i. Their Chapter meeting was hosted in Richmond, BC last month. It exceeded expectation with ~125 registrants and a 50/50 split between WA and BC registrants which is great because only ~10% of their total membership is from Canada. Hilda asked if they switched officers at their meeting; Matt responded no, that it switches at the Society meeting.
 - c. Calvin – Utah:
 - i. Hilda gave an update for Calvin. Their meeting is next Tuesday. They will have two continuing education courses; a GIS refresher taught by UDWR and a course on using beaver in restoration taught by USU (this is an introduction into a five-day workshop).
 - ii. They would like to partner with the Division to support a professional to travel to the Portland meeting. The Chapter is having a meeting later today because they have two applicants who are not Society members.
 - iii. Dan commented that CO-WY is considering a joint meeting with Utah in Grand Junction, CO in 2017.
 - d. Jim – Idaho:
 - i. Their Chapter meeting was the first week of March. They had a record of ~350 registrants, 65 presentations, 30 posters, 38 students, and 12 young professionals. They hosted two workshops, one on fish culture (40 attendees) and one on forecasting salmon/steelhead returns (40 attendees). They awarded five student scholarships. The raffle and corporate sponsorship brought in ~\$23,000. Their meeting will be in Coeur d'Alene next year.
 - e. Hilda reminded the chapters of the challenge to donate a trip to the Portland meeting raffle. The Chapter that donates the trip that sells for the most money will get 50% of the sale price back to the Chapter. Email Hilda for more details.

Dan asked what the deadline is; Hilda responded that they will take trips up to right before the meeting, but the deadline for recognition in the program is June 1.

7. Update Professional travel grants and other travel grants for AFS2015 (Travis, Hilda, Jane)
 - a. Nothing to report, we are still working on this.
8. Update and approval for WDAFS2017 – Montana Chapter (Tracy, Hilda)
 - a. Tracy gave an update on the Montana Chapter's proposal for hosting the 2017 Western Division meeting. There is a lot of support in the Montana Chapter to host in Missoula; a committee was formed to develop the proposal. The meeting will mostly be on campus with some off-site socials. It will be the 3rd week of May, which is later than normal, but necessary due to graduation and the Special Olympics being hosted in town.
 - b. Hilda commented that the proposal looks great. Cleve said he looked it over carefully and everything looks good and is well presented. Pam pointed out that the plenary location can hold 1,000 people and asked what the expected attendance is. Tracy responded about 600, based on 500 the last time it was hosted in Montana and 750 in Boise. Cleve pointed out that the 2017 AFS meeting is going to be in Tampa, so this may lead some Western Division members to go to Montana instead of Florida. Pam commented that it is good that students will have left and asked if the meeting will be near Memorial Day; Tracy responded that it is the week before Memorial Day.
 - c. Cleve made a motion to accept the proposal to host the 2017 Western Division meeting in May, in Missoula, Montana. Dan seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion passed with no objections.
 - d. Hilda thanked Tracy and the committee for all their hard work on the proposal.
9. Update on 2015 AFS/WDAFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Hilda/Jim/Mike)
 - a. Hilda gave an update. To date, 2,541 abstracts have been submitted (2,183 oral and 358 posters). The Western Division Excom meeting will be on Sunday and the business lunch will be on Tuesday. Cleve commented that the number of abstracts is close to what they got in Seattle and that the deadline for submission had been extended until tomorrow.
10. Update on 2016 WDAFS/CalNeva meeting in Reno (Jim/Cleve/Norm)
 - a. Cleve gave an update. He stopped in Reno on the way to the Montana Chapter meeting. The VP of sales came in on Saturday to give him a tour. The rooms are really nice, it looks to be a fantastic place, and everything is self-contained. There is plenty of room and it will be easy to move from one session to another. They are currently redoing all the meeting rooms. There are lots of restaurant choices. There is public transportation into downtown. The planning committee is having a conference call on March 27.
11. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
 - a. Jane was not on the call.
12. New or other business
 - a. No new business

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13. The next meeting will be on April 16, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 MST.