



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, May 21, 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), Pam Sponholtz (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), James Dominguez (AZ-NM), Jim Chandler (ID), Troy Brandt (OR), Luke Schultz (WD Native Fish Committee Chair), Dave Lentz (Time and Place Committee Chair and Listserv Coordinator), and Leanne Roulson (Environmental Concerns Committee Chair). Augustin Hernandez (MX) joined late.
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was not established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve April minutes (Travis)
 - i. As there was not a quorum, the meeting minutes could not be approved.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave an update on the finances. We are sitting well financially. The dues rebate has been received; it totaled \$12,328 which is less than the last couple of years. Travis completed the Division's taxes.
 - ii. Jim B. commented that on the AFS training conference call, that it seemed like people preferred the Western Division endowment over the Society endowment. Jim also commented that we should send a gift to Henry for all his hard work on the endowment.
 - iii. Hilda asked Troy how closely he works with Henry on the endowment. Troy responded very close. Henry is planning to retire in September and we need to get a game plan in place. The Endowment funding committee should meet with ExCom in August.
4. Environmental Committee (Lori Martin, Hilda)
 - a. There are no plans to move forward with the Susitna Dam project. Leanne brought up a couple of bills that are being considered and are relayed in the letter from Rich Bowers that was sent out, specifically Senate bill 123-6 which takes away control from the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Donna Parish and AFS have concerns about local control removing ESA accountability; it is like asking the fox to guard the hen house. They are working on drafting a letter with more fisheries focus. Donna and Ron don't want to sign

onto Rich's letter; Hilda agrees. All the dams that are up for relicensing are on 50 year license. The bill requires the use of existing and not new data; lots has changed in the last 50 years. The deadline for response is tomorrow. Hilda will get the draft letter out to ExCom. Jim B. thanked Leanne for working on this.

5. Chapter roundtable

a. Troy – Oregon:

- i. They just held their spring retreat. Fund raising for Portland is going well; they are within \$5,000 of their \$140,000 goal and have over 60 vendors. The Chapter donated \$10,000 for the grand social. They updated a paper on suction dredging for the House. They submitted written testimony on artificial beaver dams. They are wrapping up a white-paper on hatchery vs wild fisheries. They are working on an investment policy with either the Division or the Society. They submitted a Chapter of the Year application with the Division and Society. They identified five awards to be given out in Portland.

b. Augustin – Mexico:

- i. Their next chapter meeting will be in May of 2016. Their other officers are Veronica Morales and Cesar Silenis.

c. James – AZ/NM:

- i. They have a new website with lots of job postings. They are planning for their fall/winter ExCom retreat; new officers take over in February. They submitted a Chapter of the Year application with Western Division. They have submitted travel applications for Portland.
- ii. Jim B. commented that he often poaches their job announcements for the Western Division Facebook page and asked if someone could just post them directly. James said he would ask their Facebook person.

d. Jim C. – Idaho:

- i. Their ExCom retreat is next week. They are working on updating their website and Facebook pages. They are planning their summer retreat. They are looking to expand their 'Trout in the Classroom' sponsorship. They sponsored a program through the College of Idaho to give a class to Chinese National students on an introduction to fish and fish legislature.
- ii. They funded \$5,000 to the 'Fishes of Idaho' publication. They submitted a Chapter of the Year application and are working on their 2016 work plan and budget.

e. Jim B. commented that he is impressed with what everyone is doing and hopes to promote more of it on the Division website.

f. Hilda noted that everyone should have received an email from Steve about the upcoming edition of The Tributary newsletter. Dave commented that he will be submitted an article on the drought in California and how they are moving at risk trout populations into hatcheries.

6. Update Professional Travel Chapter Challenge, Student Travel Grants for AFS2015 (Hilda, Travis).

- a. Hilda gave an update on the student travel grants. These have been finalized. There were 35 applicants from all the chapters. They awarded nine students with partial funding.

- b. Travis gave an update on the professional travel grants. The application period closes on June 1. To date the website has had 85 visits from 45 unique IP addresses.
7. Update on 2015 AFS/WDAFS/ORAFS meeting in Portland (Jim/Troy/Hilda)
- a. Jim B. gave an update. There are 140 sessions in 36 rooms, full every day. They accommodated most of the requests. They emailed all the authors and coauthors, but some coauthors didn't know they were coauthors, so this created confusion. The DoubleTree hotel is full. The Hilton has a few more rooms. AFS is working on another hotel.
 - b. Troy spoke with Michelle yesterday and said there were less than 10 rooms available at the Hilton; you have to call to get a better rate. Jim B. said it sounds like there are some other events in the area which has caused the price to go up.
 - c. Chapter Presidents are invited to the Governing Board meeting.
 - d. The Western Division ExCom meeting will be on Sunday at the Hilton; Hilda is working on the agenda. We need Chapter Presidents or representatives to attend. The Division business lunch will be on Tuesday at the Conference Center.
8. Update on 2016 WDAFS/CalNeva meeting in Reno (Jim/Cleve/Norm)
- a. Jim B. is working to confirm that the on-site meeting will be in July during the Ichs and Herps meeting. Sarah Gilbert Fox developed the Kansas City artwork and has volunteered to do the Reno art and website if needed. They are still working to identify a theme. There will be a booth at the Portland meeting.
9. Update WDAFS2017 – Montana Chapter (Cleve)
- a. Hilda got an email from Pat. They are concerned about getting a hotel; no hotel will commit to more than 100 rooms. There is not good shuttle service around town so this may create an issue. They need Division help as they lost Tracy to Wyoming.
10. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
- a. No update
11. Awards Update (Pam Sponholtz)
- a. Dan Isaak was nominated for the Award of Excellence. Three applications for the Outstanding Chapter award (Idaho, AZ-NM, and Oregon) and two applications for Outstanding Student Subunit (University of Alaska – Fairbanks and Oregon State University).
 - b. There are two candidates for Vice President and one for Secretary-Treasurer. Candidate biographies and voting information will be out shortly.
 - c. It was noted that there was some confusion with the Outstanding Chapter award, regarding application deadlines in conjunction with the Society award and if award winners would automatically be forwarded for the Society award.
12. Membership Assistance (Includes Chapter Professional Certification, book publications, etc) (Budget Line 75)
- a. Unwritten Laws of Fisheries
 - i. The cost of printing this book is high. We need to reengage Tom Curet about publishing an electronic version. Funding is available for the [British Columbia](#) • [Yukon](#) • [Mexico](#) • [Alaska](#) • [Arizona](#) • [California](#) • [Colorado](#) • [Idaho](#) • [Montana](#) • [Nevada](#) • [New Mexico](#) • [Oregon](#) • [Utah](#) • [Washington](#) • [Wyoming](#) • [Western Pacific islands and trust territories](#)

Education Section for publishing. Jim C. will take the comments back to Tom for further review.

b. Fishes of Idaho

- i. The Idaho Chapter requests support for this publication. They have met with the three authors and are ready to take it to a publisher by the end of the year. The book will be 500+ pages with color photos and key illustrations. They are hoping for 1-2,000 copies at a cost of \$30-50,000. They hope for a hardback and electronic copy. They don't know how to pay the publisher; pay upfront or have publisher get royalties.
- ii. Hilda has been in contact with the author asking for a dollar amount, but they don't have one. As there is no application available, should these funds (line 75) be awarded on a first come-first served basis?
- iii. Travis commented that it is a bigger issue. The line item is for all membership assistance (professional certification, book publication, etc.). How do we weigh the benefits to one member vs many members? How would we address royalties? Western Division supported the 'Native Fishes of Idaho' book back in 2013; he would like to look back and see how that support was given.
- iv. Jim C. noted that this is time sensitive. He will contact the Education Section to see how they work book royalties.
- v. The item was tabled, while ExCom hashes things out.

13. New or other business

- a. Jim B. will try to get a commitment for the Reno on-site visit for July 15-20.

14. Next Meeting – June 18, 2015 – The meeting adjourned at 12:01 MT.