



# 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 Annual Meeting

**Date: Sunday August 16, 2015**

**Start Time – 10 AM to 5 PM**

**Meeting Location: Salon Ballroom I and II – Hilton Executive Tower (across the street from the main Hilton Hotel)**

**Buffet Lunch 12 PM**

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 (AK), James Dominguez (AZ-NM), Norm Ponferrada (Cal-Neva), Ramona Swenson (Cal/Neva), Bobby Compton (CO-WY), Jim Chandler (ID), Pat Saffel (MT), Troy Brandt (OR), Brian Missildine (WA-BC), Dave Lentz (list-serv coordinator and Time and Place Committee Chair), Luke Schultz (Native Fishes Committee Chair), and Lori Marin (Environmental Concerns Committee Chair).
2. Determination of quorum
  - a. A quorum was established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
  - a. Approve July minutes (Travis)
    - i. Jim moved to approve the minutes as revised, Cleve seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
  - b. Finances Update for WDAFS (Travis)
    - i. Travis gave an update on the finances. We are doing well and expect the Portland meeting to be very profitable. We will likely be looking to spend as much, or more, on membership benefits in the 2015–16 budget as we did during this fiscal year.
  - c. Audit Report (Mills) (5 min)
    - i. Travis reported that Mike Mills (Utah) completed an audit of the 2013–14 finances. This was the first audit completed in at least four years. Mike found no issues with the finances for that fiscal year. The audit report will be published on the website.
    - ii. Cleve made a motion to accept the audit as presented to the Excom without change. Brian seconded the motion, and it passed with no objections.
4. Committee Updates:
  - a. WDAFS Western Native Fish Committee (Luke Schultz)

British Columbia • Yukon • Mexico • Alaska • Arizona • California • Colorado • Idaho • Montana • Nevada  
New Mexico • Oregon • Utah • Washington • Wyoming • Western Pacific islands and trust territories



- b. Pam suggested that revisions should be made annually. Hilda agreed and suggested that the President take the lead and send it out to the officers.
6. Finance Update for Portland Meeting (Mary)
- a. The profits from this meeting will be distributed 70% to the Society, 20% to Chapter, and 10% to the Division. Current (optimistic) estimate for the WD portion is \$47,833. The high profit margin on this meeting is due to the Society negotiating down costs every step of the way, the great fundraising completed by Hilda, Troy, and Bob Hughes (the goal was \$130,000, but they raised over \$200,000), late registration fees for many Federal employees. Mary mentioned that it could be a while before all the bills are paid and the profits distributed.
7. Environmental Concerns Committee (Lori Martin)
- a. The Committee has been working on a number of major projects this year. They were: instream flow in the Chuitna watershed (a letter was sent), the hydropower reform bill (a letter was sent), the proposed KSM mine (a letter was sent and the Society is drafting their own letter), the Susitna hydropower project (a letter was sent), and the Searsville Dam removal project (no action yet, but working with the Chapter).
  - b. Most calls for assistance have come from the chapters. Lori is wondering who should be on the committee. Most chapters have a similar committee. She encourages those committee chairs to be involved with the WD committee.
    - i. Oregon – Troy: They have a legislative committee. Troy thinks that being involved with the WD committee would help keep their committee more active and involved.
    - ii. Cal-Neva – Ramona: They have a conservation committee which is currently open. It would be good for them to bounce ideas off the WD committee. It can be difficult to comment in the short time frame often associated with these issues, especially for an individual; having a group would make this easier.
    - iii. Idaho – Jim: They don't have a committee. This has been a topic of debate for many years; at what level should we participate? Having a person who plays a role with WD is worth pursuing. The majority of their members would support sound science and the importance of fisheries, but not getting into position statements. Broad membership means someone is always at risk.
    - iv. AZ-NM – James: They have an environmental concerns committee. It has been pretty quiet for a while. It has been hard to get people to commit.
    - v. Cleve asked how much the Society looks to the Division. Hilda responded that right now it is really good. Jim commented that having the backing of the Society is important. Dave commented that it would be great to have more Chapter involvement, especially when time is so important. Cleve commented that we are mostly reactive at the moment; we need to be more proactive (e.g., drought conditions in California).
    - vi. Jane commented that she has been approached by many students looking for ways to get involved. How can they help? Ramona commented that they can help with leg work and office work. Troy suggested helping with literature reviews.
    - vii. WA-BC – Brian: Their Chapter does not have this committee, but it is worth discussing.
    - viii. Montana – Pat: They have a resource management committee, that provides peer review and prospective.
    - ix. Alaska – Jennifer: They have one chair, but there have been a lot of issues in Alaska recently. They are looking to add at least one more person. They have added a form to their website for members to submit their concerns. It is always time sensitive and they appreciate the help WD has provided. Often it is difficult

for Alaska Excom to comment (job concerns), so it is best for WD to take the lead.

- c. Lori suggested going back to the chapters and continuing the discussion. Then figuring out formalities. Hilda will draft a letter to chapter members and Excoms. Pat suggested that the letter should outline the benefits of working together.
  - d. Sustina Dam:
    - i. Hilda reported that a letter has been sent indicating that we will provide more formal comments to the AEA Initial Study Report. They were to collect two years of data, but have only collected one, and likely do not have sufficient funds to continue. They plan to use the 1980 data as their second year.
    - ii. All the comments to the letter were positive except for one; the person hired to collect the data. This individual's concerns were forwarded to the Society and the plan is to contact him directly.
    - iii. Should we continue working on this issue and can we be beneficial? Pam responded yes, because we said we would. Travis suggested sending a letter clarifying our support of sound science, fisheries, etc. Leave the technical aspects to other agencies, who are already reviewing the data (e.g., NOAA, NMFS, FWS), and then if we support their findings, state the fact that we do. Jim likes this idea because of the time-sink associated with reviewing all the data, but cautions that we need to tread carefully. Cleve supports this as well (i.e., make a strong statement in support of credible science) and reminded everyone that there will be other opportunities to comment, this is just the ISR. We should lend the weight of our Society where we can be influential and not get down in the weeds.
    - iv. Hilda commented that their desire to use 1980s data will be an excellent opportunity to comment on the limitations of their study. This topic is not dead, we are going to stay involved, just not sure when or how.
8. AFS Presidents Report (Donna)
- a. Donna has been very busy for the past two days with Management Committee and Governing Board meetings. The focus has mostly been on developing a strategic plan, increasing the impact factor of our journals, working to make sure that Fisheries and AFS staff fill the needs of the members, and appropriately handling social media. Gwen White will chair the new Communications Strategic Plan. Doug has been doing a great job as the new Executive Director. He knows that journals cannot be our only source of income and is looking to bring in new resources.
9. Chapter Roundtable
- a. Troy – OR:
    - i. They are wrapping up their Hatchery vs Wild symposium and planning for Portland. Their Chapter meeting will be in Seaside, the first week of March. They have increased from 400 to 600 Chapter members, and hope to retain many of them. Chapter members must be Society members (no affiliates). They are working on a lifetime Chapter membership, which will be 12 times the annual rate. They continue to work on their financial stability.
  - b. Ramona – Cal-Neva:
    - i. They have about 500 members. They had an all-female plenary at their Santa Cruz meeting. They are busy planning for Reno.
  - c. Jim – ID:
    - i. He is not sure how many affiliate members they have, but they have 400–450 Chapter members and he guesses 60–70% affiliate. They are having an Excom meeting in July. They sponsored 15 Chinese students that were introduced to fisheries. Their 38 Minus project (artwork on native fish) was a huge success.

- d. Bobby – CO-WY:
  - i. He is not sure about affiliate members, but there are a lot. Membership is pretty stable. They have been working to get more consultant and non-traditional members to their meetings. They started a formal mentoring program. The Chapter is financially stable; they are looking to spend more money on continuing education and travel grants. They are also looking to reengage culture members. Their next meeting will be their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- e. James – AZ-NM:
  - i. They have about 70 members, and he guesses about 50-50 affiliate membership. They have a lot of members attending the Portland meeting. Things are pretty quiet right now. They have a fall retreat planned. They are sitting well financially. They surveyed their members and decided to put on a continuing education course in the fall. Social media is big; they are posting a lot of jobs. 2017 will be their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- f. Jenny – Alaska:
  - i. Their meeting last year was huge. They have about 700 members, all of which are Society members. They are supporting the film festival at the Portland meeting. They have been working on a lot of environmental concerns. They are giving out a cultural diversity award.
- g. Brian – WA-BC:
  - i. He is attending because Matt's wife just gave birth. They have about 400 members. Their next meeting will be at Lake Chelan, which is currently on fire. They are moving their retreat from September to earlier in the year. They are struggling with meeting attendance, so they plan to survey their members to see what they want. In their Chapter, if you serve on Excom for four years, they pay for your lifetime membership.
- h. Pat – Montana:
  - i. They are planning for the Missoula meeting. They have about 200 members, most of which are affiliate. They are interested in what the Division and Society can do for them.
  - ii. They have been focused on the intake diversion on the Yellowstone River. It prevents passage of Pallid Sturgeon, a species predicted to go extinct in Montana by 2018. The Chapter joined a lawsuit and wrote a friends of the court brief. The goal is to provide more passage. They surveyed their membership asking to join the lawsuit, support the lawsuit, or do nothing. They signed on as a supporter. Hilda asked how long it took to write the brief; Pat responded a couple of weeks using a pro bono attorney.

#### 10. Student representative update(Jane Sullivan)

- a. Jane reported that the 2015 student colloquium was a huge success. The 2016 host will be the University of Wyoming and they are going to shift the timing to the fall. The colloquium will include a proposal writing workshop.
- b. Jane is organizing a student photo contest. There will be three winners. WD will pay to frame the pictures, which will be auctioned off in Reno, with proceeds going to the Student Subunit from which the photo came. The submission deadline is October 1.

#### 11. 2017 WDAFS:Montana Chapter (Cleve, Pat)

- a. Pat has been working with Cleve, committee members, and the Society to review hotel contracts. They are starting to line-out a budget and they expect their attendance to be 400–450.

#### 12. 2015 AFS:WDAFS:OR updates Portland (Jim/Troy Brandt/Hilda)

- a. Dave Ward gave an update. All the presentations are scheduled on the application. There was a lot of last minute shuffling with Federal attendees. Portland will be the second largest AFS meeting of all time.
13. Chapter metrics (Jim)
- a. Jim thanked everyone for getting their information to him. We can now see how successful everyone's meetings were. Jim will pull out the membership benefits and decide where to expand and allocate funds. Troy suggested adding your meeting metrics to the back of your program (to make them easy to find and reference).
14. 2016 WDAFS:CalNeva meeting in Reno (Jim/Cleve/Ramona)
- a. Jim reminded everyone that the meeting will be at the Grand Sierra Resort. The off-site social will be at the Discovery Center which will be hosting the Monster Fish exhibit (supported by the 2015 WD Small project grant). The meeting will be three days plus a day of continuing education. There are lots of things to do in the area, fishing for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Pyramid Lake, Lake Tahoe. Details on the student social have not been finalized, but it may be at the Auto Museum.
  - b. The budget was revised based on comments from the Excom. Jim moved to approve the budget as revised, Pam seconded the motion, and the budget was approved with no objections.
15. Announce new officer and student representative (Pam)
- a. Pam announced that Brain Missildine will be the new Vice President, Travis Neebling will continue on for a second term as Secretary-Treasurer, and Jane Sullivan will continue on for a second term as Student Representative.
16. Announce/showcase new website (Travis)
- a. Travis briefly presented the new Society website and new Western Division website. Both will be going live in the next few weeks.
17. Next Meeting – Will be a conference call, the date and time of which will be decided by Jim Bowker. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 PT.