



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

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

Agenda for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, Oct 15, 2015**

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

1. Introductions and welcome
 - a. Jim Bowker (President), Cleve Steward (President Elect), Brian Missildine (Vice President), Hilda Sexauer (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Jane Sullivan (Student Representative), Mary-Beth Loewen (AK), Jessica Gwinn (AZ-NM), Joe Merz (Cal-Neva), Bobby Compton (CO-WY), Jim Chandler (ID), Troy Brandt (OR), Mark Belk (UT), Mark LaRiviere (WA-BC), Tracy Wendt (Riparian Challenge Committee Chair), and Alix Blake (Young Professional Mentee).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve September minutes (Travis)
 - i. Minor revisions were submitted. Brian moved to approve the Excom minutes as revised, Cleve seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave an update on the finances. We are doing well and expect to see income from the Portland meeting soon. The endowment lost money again this month, due to the down-turn in the stock market.
 - ii. Jim commented that Bethesda has indicated that meeting profits could be closer to \$50,000 than the \$41,000 originally anticipated.
4. Update 2017 WDAFS/MT meeting in Missoula (Cleve)
 - a. One of the two hotel contracts is signed; the other is waiting on Helms-Brisco to go over it. They are trying to secure Federal hotel rates for the meeting. They are still working with the University to develop a contract.
 - b. Tracy commented that they are planning to have another conference call later this fall to fill out the committee list. Hilda is currently developing a list of committee responsibilities. Jim asked Hilda to send these to Eric Wagner and Travis for archiving. Joe commented that it would be good to have a standard meeting timeline available for meeting planners.

5. Chapter roundtable

- a. Troy – OR: They are planning for the meeting in Seaside. Their Chapter newsletter went out yesterday including a recap of the Portland meeting. They are voting on a Bylaw revision that would split the Secretary-Treasurer position into two positions. Jim asked Troy to send him the Portland meeting recap for inclusion in The Tributary. Jim asked how much the Oregon Chapter usually nets from a Chapter meeting; Troy responded about \$20,000 or 1/5 of their anticipated \$100,000 profit from Portland.
- b. Bobby – CO-WY: They are just starting to plan for the 2016 meeting. Their Bylaw revisions were approved and they are now updating their procedures manual.
- c. Jim C. – ID: They are planning for their 2016 meeting. They are having an Excom meeting in Lewiston (November 12th) that Jim B. is going to try to attend.
- d. Mark L. – WA-BC: They have their Excom annual retreat planned for Victoria, BC in two weeks. Alix commented that the first call for symposia has gone out for their meeting. Jim introduced Alix, the Young Professional mentee this year.
- e. Mark B. – UT: They met a few weeks ago and transitioned to new officers. Their 2016 meeting will be at Falcon's Ledge, which will be a unique meeting location. They rescheduled their meeting so that it does not overlap with the Reno meeting. They are hoping to organize a joint meeting with the CO-WY chapter for 2017. Cleve commented that the 2017 Division meeting in Missoula will be the week of May 21 and is hoping that it does not conflict with Chapter meetings.
- f. Mary-Beth – AK: Their Chapter meeting is the first week of November, in Homer, and they hope to have about 150 attendees. They have been discussing moving their meetings to the spring like the rest of the chapters. They are hosting their 2nd annual film festival. They are also going to have a women in fisheries symposium.
- g. Jessica – AZ-NM: Their 2016 meeting is joint with TWS in Flagstaff. They will have free continuing education courses on piscicides, resume writing, and macroinvertebrate collection and identification. They will have an Excom retreat at the end of November, and their newsletter will come out about the same time.

6. Update 2016 WDAFS/Cal Neva meeting in Reno (Ramona/Joe Merz/Jane)

- a. Joe gave an update. They are on fire with meeting planning. They are solidifying committee chairs and are working on donations and raffles. They have a list of plenary speakers. Cal-Neva recently hosted a short class on fish passage and made about \$12,000 in profit. It was very technical, but they are hoping to have a similar course in Reno that focuses more on organisms. They also plan to have a course on NEPA and on job application and interview skills. Hilda asked about having the Leadership at all Levels AFS course. Jim noted that Pat Mazik puts on a good class on how to get into graduate school and how to get a job. They are reaching out to the Patagonia store for a donation.
- b. Jim noted that the website is up and running. Registration will be up in the next 48 hours or so.

7. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)

- a. Jane got a good response for the Fishy Foto contest. She is planning to showcase the photos in Reno and possibly incorporate an art show.
- b. The Student Colloquium will be in April in Wyoming.

- c. Jane has been working with the Subunits to check their Bylaws to make sure they fit with AFS. Jane has been archiving everything she does and will send those to Travis and Eric for archiving.
 - d. There will be a dedicated student symposium at the Reno meeting and Jane is working out the details for paying student volunteers.
8. Update – Riparian Challenge Award (Tracy Wendt)
- a. The 2016 winners will be announced in Reno. The application period opens today and runs through December 15. Winners will be notified before the end of early registration. Tracy would like ideas on how to better get the word out about the award; she is looking for Forest Service and BLM contacts. She hopes to make past winners assist on the committee. Tracy will coordinate with Sharon Lashway and Beth Beard to get the announcement out.
9. Update – Environmental Concerns Committee membership recruitment (Lori Martin)
- a. Lori emailed all the chapter presidents about the committee. Her concern now is that it might get too big and is trying to find a balance.
10. President Update
- a. WD AFS standing and special committee Chair appointments
 - i. Appointment letters sent to everyone except for Division officers who automatically fill roles.
 - b. 2015-2016 WD AFS Proposed Budget
 - i. Jim, Travis, and Hilda have been working on the 2015–16 budget; it will be similar to last year. The draft budget will be emailed out in the next few weeks and we should be prepared to approve budget at mid-year meeting.
 - ii. Jim reminded chapter presidents that the Division is hoping to award professional travel grants again this year, hopefully matched by the chapters.
 - iii. There will be a discussion at the mid-year meeting about making all the travel awards as consistent (scheduling, what can be reimbursed, process for reimbursing, etc.) as possible.
 - c. 2015 Mid Year Ex Comm meeting
 - i. The meeting will be December 5, in Bozeman, MT. There is a block of rooms reserved at GranTree Hotel under Western Division American Fisheries Society.
11. New or other business
- a. Voting on Division Bylaws will open soon.
12. Next Meeting – Nov 19, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 MT.

Action Items:

Hilda – Send finalized list of meeting committee responsibilities to Travis and Eric Wagner for archiving.

Troy – Send Jim the Portland meeting recap for inclusion in The Tributary.

Jane – Send all documents to Travis and Eric Wagner for archiving.

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Tracy – Coordinate with Sharon Lashway and Beth Beard to get the Riparian Challenge announcement out.