



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

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

Agenda for Executive Committee Conference Call on Date: **Thursday, Jan 21, 2016**

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 Sexeaur (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Jane Sullivan (Student Representative), Sharon Lashway (AZ-NM), Stephanie Thise (CA-NV), Jim Chandler (ID), Mark Belk (UT), Alix Blake (WA-BC; Young Professional Mentee), Tracy Wendt (Newsletter Editor), and Dave Weedman (Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee Co-chair).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve December minutes (Travis)
 - i. Minor revisions were submitted. Hilda moved to approve the Excom minutes as revised, Brian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave an update on the finances. Portland meeting income should arrive soon, which is good because we will have a lot of expenses over the next few months. The endowment lost money again this month, due to the down-turn in the stock market.
 - ii. Jim B. asked about a note in the historic meeting minutes about looking at a five-year trend in Endowment performance to determine Small Grant amounts. Travis recalled this from about the time he started attending Excom meetings. The Division has not looked at this recently because Endowment performance has been good, but Travis will run some numbers for the next conference call.
4. Chapter roundtable
 - a. WA-BC – Alix – They are planning for their Annual General Meeting at the end of March. Abstract submission and registration are open. They have eight symposia in place and one Continuing Education course. Two of three plenary speakers are in place and sponsors are starting to come forward.

- i. Jim asked all chapters to put together a meeting write-up for The Tributary and send them to Tracy.
 - b. UT – Mark – Their Chapter meeting will be the week before the Division meeting. The theme is ‘Fish need water’. They have two plenary speakers lined up and one Continuing Education course on macroinvertebrate identification. Abstract submission is open.
 - c. ID – Jim C. – Their Chapter meeting will be in early March. There will be three workshops at the meeting: Get it published!, Monitoring and adaptive management planning for habitat resources, and Aquaculture continuing education – Kootenai Tribal fisheries facilities tours. There will also be a symposium on Idaho’s lake supplementation program.
 - d. OR – Jim B. for Troy – They are focused on meeting planning. They published a new edition of their newsletter last week. They have submitted an application for the Best Chapter award. They brought in about \$100K from the Portland meeting.
 - e. AZ-NM – Sharon – Jim B. will be attending their Chapter meeting which will be joint with The Wildlife Society in Flagstaff. The theme is ‘Who will manage the future of public lands’; there will be eight plenary speakers. The day before the meeting starts, AFS will be hosting a free course on macroinvertebrates, as well as piscicide applicator training, and a resume/interviewing course. Thus far they only have 51 people registered, 26 abstract submissions, and three poster submissions. Sharon asked how to better engage members?
 - i. Jim stated that Brian is working on a brochure outlining how we create value for our members. Sharon stated that AZ-NM already has a brochure; Jim B. asked her to send it to Brian, Jim B., and Tracy. Tracy stated that in the next edition of The Tributary there will be an article on the value of AFS membership and involvement.
5. Update 2016 WDAFS/Cal Neva meeting in Reno (Joe Merz/Jim)
- a. Stephanie – The Excom met last night. Thus far they have 20 people registered and about 55 abstracts submitted. Two of three plenary speakers are lined up. Classes and field trips have been organized. The Chapter is sponsoring student travel and have arranged for a block of rooms at a cheaper rate.
 - b. Jim B. suggested moving the abstract submission deadline back 7–10 days which everyone agreed with.
 - c. Cleve reported that there are 18 symposia that have been accepted and that we need to cross-reference abstract submissions with individual symposia.
 - d. Brian reported that there are four applications for travel grants from young professionals, two from professionals, and 10 from students. Brian suggested extending the deadline one week to match the abstract submission extension. All agreed.
6. Update 2017 WDAFS/MT meeting in Missoula (Dave Moser/Cleve Steward)
- a. Cleve reported that the meeting planning is coming along well. They have the University facilities and hotel contracts in place. They are planning for 500–700 attendees. The first planning committee call will be next Friday. There will be a booth at the Reno meeting to advertise for Missoula. Cleve will be attending the Montana Chapter meeting in February and is hoping to sit down with the planning committee.

7. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
 - a. Jane is working with Ramona to get the contract signed for the student social in Reno. Jane has put together a spreadsheet for coordinate volunteers for the Reno meeting. She will not be attending the Student Colloquium, but is hoping to award her travel budget to other students.
 - b. Update on Student Colloquium
 - i. Richard Walker with the University of Wyoming reported that they have an exciting event planned. It will be held in Lander, Wyoming at the Nature Conservancy building and will be free for students to attend. The meeting will be four days with the first day being a travel day with a welcoming social/meet and greet the first night. The second and third days will be a mix of workshops and student presentations. The last day will be an outdoor activity, maybe hiking. They are sending out donation request letters.
8. Small grants awarded (Jim for Hilda)
 - a. Hilda reported that letters to the winners and non-winners of Small Grants have been sent out.
9. Riparian Challenge nominations received (Tracy)
 - a. Tracy reported that this was a really exciting year for the Riparian Challenge. Last year they had 10 applications from five states; this year they had 17 applications from 10 states. Half of the nominations were from outside an organization (i.e., not self-nominating). The winners will be announced the first week of February, before the early registration deadline.
 - b. Tracy reported that deadlines and publication dates for the upcoming editions of The Tributary are now posted online. Luciano Chiaramonte from Idaho will be helping Tracy with the newsletter. Future articles will focus on the benefits of AFS certification, membership benefits, and literature sources.
10. WD AFS Award nominations – WD AFS Officers will make decisions (Jim for Hilda)
 - a. Jim reported that a handful of award nominations were received. Division offers are currently reviewing them.
11. Action Items from December 5, 2015 meeting
 - a. Cleve met with Augustin from the Mexico Chapter last week. Unfortunately Augustin was not able to attend the Portland meeting, but he is hoping to attend the monthly conference calls and hopefully the Reno meeting. The Chapter is still not very active, but they are hoping to change that.
 - b. Sharon is now on all of the chapter Facebook pages/groups, except for CO-WY and Montana which don't have a group or page, and Cal-Neva which does have a page.
12. Next Meeting – February 18, 2016.

Action Items:

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

Travis – Pull notes from historic meeting minutes and run calculations for Small Grant Fund payouts from the Endowment.

Sharon – Please send a copy of the AZ-NM membership brochure to Brian, Jim B., and Tracy.