



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, February 18, 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 Sexauer (Past-President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Jane Sullivan (Student Representative), Mary Beth Loewen (AK), Ramona Swenson (CA-NV), Bobby Compton (CO-WY), Jim Chandler (ID), and Troy Brandt (OR).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve January minutes (Travis)
 - i. No revisions were submitted. Hilda moved to approve the Excom minutes as presented, Brian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. A check for \$57,000 was received from AFS; \$7,000 in US Forest Service funds for the Cutthroat Trout Symposium and \$50,000 as the first profit payment from the Portland Meeting. Funds from vendors and sponsors for the Reno Meeting are starting to come in. The endowment took an almost 10% hit last month due to the drop in the stock market.
 - ii. Troy mentioned that he met with Schwab last week. The investment committee is looking to reduce risk, but Troy points out that the endowment is tracking the market.
4. Chapter roundtable
 - a. CO-WY – Bobby – They are in full swing with meeting planning. The program is out. It will be their Chapter's 50th anniversary also and they are including a special symposium with past presidents. They usually average 150–175 attendees, but they hope to have closer to 200 this year. Their new Secretary-Treasurer will be announced at the meeting.
 - b. AK – Mary Beth – Things are pretty quite with the Chapter right now. The University of Alaska is looking to restructure the fisheries program and location, which the Chapter is commenting on. They have an online poll to get members

opinions on the topic. There will be a bill in their legislative session on enhancement and permitting which they will be commenting on; Jim B. recommended letting the Division know if they need any help with this.

- c. Cal-Neva – Ramona – They are focused on Reno planning. The Chapter has allocated \$8,000 for student travel on top of the Division’s travel grants. Two subunits are expected to bring about a dozen students. They are working on their budget, hoping to have a two year operating budget; they welcome advice from other chapters on this. They are still looking for a candidate to run for president. They are looking to update their website and are looking at the Society’s template. Jim B. recommended contacting Sarah Gilbert Fox to see if she will contract for web services. Jim Hobbs and Travis are working together on meeting finances.
 - d. WA-BC – Brian for Alix – They are working on final preparations for their AGM. There will be a symposium on reintroducing salmon above Grand Coulee Dam.
 - e. OR – Troy – They too are working on meeting planning. They are doing an electronic officer election this year, but only the president has a contender. They received 10 applications for student scholarships and they offer scholarships at four levels (PhD, MS, BS, and AS). They are busy with their state’s legislative session.
5. Request from Education Section for Skinner Foundation - \$1,000 contribution – This item was tabled until next month.
6. Update 2016 WDAFS/Cal Neva meeting in Reno (Joe Merz/Jim)
- a. Cleve – The proposed presentation schedule is out. There will be 212 presentations in four rooms, in 17 symposia.
 - b. Brian – The program will be reviewed next week and hopefully on the website and to the printer by the end of next week. Ramona wanted to ensure that recognition of the Cal-Neva Chapter’s 50th anniversary will be in the program; Brian indicated that it would be. Hilda asked if the program would be ready for printing next week, will all the sponsors’ logos be in it; Brian indicated that he would get all the logos for the current sponsors in the program.
 - c. Jim B. – The planning committee is having a conference call every two weeks. Everything is on track. Registration is low, possibly due to the recent Portland Meeting. Sponsorship and fundraising are going well. Ron Essig will be attending and speaking at the opening of the plenary. Jim is hoping he will jazz everyone up. Dan Cassidy will be attending in Doug Austen’s place. Laurie Early is doing a tremendous job.
 - d. Ramona – We are still short on hotel nights, but if the hotel hits their occupancy goals we can get out of our room block. We will likely be ok and will make our commitment because 135 presenters have not yet booked a room. \$14,000 was budgeted for AV; but, Felipe and Liz will be bringing computers and projectors, we just need to rent screens, power strips, etc. An email will be coming out explaining the off-site, opening social and food trucks. Dave Lentz is working to arrange break-out meetings for CFG in Reno as an incentive to allow employees to attend. Government employees will need to speak to the hotel on a case-by-case basis regarding tax exempt status. Lanyards have been received and there will be a recycling box at the end of the meeting to return them.
7. Update 2017 WDAFS/MT meeting in Missoula (Dave Moser/Cleve Steward)

- a. Cleve – There was a planning meeting in Helena last night without about 20 people on-site and three people on the phone. A lot of the committee chairs are lined up. The theme will likely be based around the 50th anniversary of the Chapter but expanded to include the Division. They are working on a logo. They will be bringing a fish poster and other give-aways to the Reno Meeting; they hope to have a video looping at the booth also. Because there will be a long weekend after the meeting, they are trying to find incentives to make attendees stay in the area for the weekend.
8. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)
- a. The student colloquium will be April 13–16 at the Nature Conservancy in Lander, WY. There will be a full schedule of presentations, as well as a CV workshop and a writing workshop. There will be a field trip to do instream flow measurements and a social with trivia. They have currently raised \$1,500 (including \$1,000 from the Division) of their estimated \$4,000 budget.
 - b. The student social for Reno is lined up. There will be buses doing two pick-ups and two drop-offs. Announcements will be made at the meeting to remind people where to meet for the buses. They have a full student symposium. Twenty-three students have signed up to be paid volunteers.
9. Action Items from December 5 and January 21, 2015 meetings
- a. Rotating annual meeting schedule
 - i. Jim B. has spoken to a number of chapters on this topic. Everyone is positive and he thinks we should revisit this topic in Reno.
 - b. Revise PM re: Professional Certification reimbursement and other contingency fund
 - i. Brian and Jim B. are working on this.
 - c. How book projects are funded
 - i. Travis has contacted the Education and Fisheries Management sections regarding this. They are trying to track down anything that is written up. Travis will report further in Reno.
10. Upcoming activities
- a. Western Division report to the Governing Board – need Chapter reports
 - i. This will be electronic. Jim B. is hoping to pair it down from previous years so that people will actually read it.
 - b. SOP for co-hosting meetings – Chapter and Division responsibilities
 - i. Jim B. and Travis will work with the Cal-Neva Chapter after the Reno meeting to get something written up.
 - c. Annual meeting Chapter hosts – setting up the rotating schedule
 - i. This will be discussed in Reno.
 - d. WD AFS Business Lunch – award, recognition, election results (Hilda, Tracy, Bob G (or Jim B), Brian and Jane), budget update (Travis), Division updates, future meeting locations (Dave L), student rep report.
11. New or other business
- a. Jim B. reminded everyone to go vote for the incoming Vice President position. Voting is open through March 11.

- b. Hilda – The Bylaws have been approved by the Management Committee; they will be published online after Doug signs-off on them. The Procedures Manual will be revised before the Reno meeting and published online shortly thereafter.

12. Next Meeting – March 20. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 MT.

Action Items:

None