



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: **Sunday, March 20, 2016**
Time: 10 am – 5 pm PST, Grand Sierra Resort Carson 1&2

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), Jim Hobbs (CA-NV), Joe Merz (CA-NV), Rick Henderson (CO-WY), Jay Hesse (ID), Pat Saffel (MT), Troy Brandt (OR), Jackie Watson (UT), Dave Lentz (Time and Place Committee Chair), Leanne Roulson (RPECC Committee Chair), Jesse Trushenski (AFS), and Dan Cassidy (AFS)
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Approve February minutes (Travis)
 - i. No revisions were submitted. Brian moved to approve the Excom minutes as presented, Hilda seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
 - b. Finances Update (Travis)
 - i. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. Currently, we are flush with cash as few of the budget line items have been paid; however, we have a lot of expenses coming up with Excom meeting travel reimbursements and travel grants to Reno. We are on track to earn about \$17,000 from the Reno Meeting, but this might decrease as bills come in.
 - ii. Dan Cassidy indicated that the Division should receive about \$5,000 in additional income from the Portland Meeting.
4. Update from AFS HQ (Dan Cassidy)
 - a. Dan gave an update. He is just starting his second year with AFS and has a background in finance and accounting. AFS has a new website thanks to the hard work of the ESAB and member input. The site scales to different devices, allows for a single login for member services, and has a new communities section for communicating to members. AFS is still providing web services to units and there will be a webinar on this in May; however, going forward there may be some cost associated with website transition.

- b. A new Director of Communications has been hired (Martha Wilson). She has been working with Gwen White on the AFS Communications Team. The April mid-year Governing Board Meeting will prioritize communication goals and work plans. Cleve asked if there is a Western Division Representative on the Communications Team; Dan said he would have to check. Dave asked if Martha would be the new contact for the Email Dodo Listserv; Dan was unsure. Jim requested that all new members automatically get added to the listserv and that it be opt-out instead of opt-in; Dan will look into this. Jim asked about automatically cross-posting on Facebook groups; Dan indicated that Beth Beard has looked into this and is currently evaluating Hootsuite to accomplish this.
- c. A new Director of Education and Student Development has been hired (Jessica Mosley). She is collaborating with the Sections currently, but will soon expand to working with all units. She is creating a webinar to kick off the new education offerings. The rotenone CE course will continue along with more distance education opportunities. She is working to create a repository of the education offerings from all units. The Hutton Mentoring application process will be reviewed this spring.
- d. The Mid-year Governing Board Meeting will be held in Bethesda, April 5–7.
- e. John Boreman is currently reviewing the AFS Procedures Manual for approval by the Management Committee and Governing Board.
- f. Membership is growing with lots of new Student Subunits. About 1/3 of the applications are students and young professionals. The membership discount in 2015 yielded about 300 new members, 1/3 of which renewed for 2016. The Membership Committee is currently exploring the option of a tiered membership as well as considering ways to enhance the rebate program. Hopefully the new education and communication strategies will net new members. Brian asked if the 66% of new members last year who didn't renew were polled as to why; Dan didn't think they were. Troy brought up the inconsistencies he has observed between the OR and WD membership databases, as did Travis. Dan is not sure what the issue is, but he is going to look into it. He has seen these issues with other units and doesn't think it is a database issue.
- g. The Kansas City Meeting is expecting about 1,500 attendees and 40+ symposia. AFS continues to assume more meeting contract and planning work, to take the burden off the local team. 2019 will be joint with The Wildlife Society in Reno at the Convention Center and Atlantis Hotel. 2020 will be the sesquicentennial meeting and will be in Columbus, OH, Baltimore, MD, or Philadelphia, PA. Jim noted that Shawn Johnston loves to help units go over hotel contracts.
- h. AFS is doing a lot of policy work; Taylor Poole is the new Policy Analyst. AFS is also reviewing their investments and hopes to have a new investment advisor later this spring. Unit investment and insurance programs have growing participation.
- i. Jane asked about examining the membership database for changes in demographics and noted that there is nothing on the website about this. Dan stated that the Equal Opportunity Section and the Hutton Program are working on this. Travis and Jane will start to populate the Western Division website with resources.
- j. Cleve asked about the relationship with TWS. Dan indicated that they are hoping to work more cooperatively in the future. The 2019 meeting will be two separate events with some crossover. Cleve also asked about AFS providing insurance for

individuals (e.g., consultants) not just AFS units; Dan said he would look into this.

5. Chapter roundtable

- a. Cal-Neva – Ramona – Work has focused on the Reno Meeting. There are currently about 389 chapter members, 30 of which are from Nevada. They are working on a strategic business plan. They are going to have town hall type meetings to meet with members and get their input. They are evaluating CE needs. They awarded a lot of student travel grants to this meeting, on top of what WD provided.
- b. OR – Troy – The Chapter held their first coastal meeting in 20 years this year in Seaside, OR. They tried a number of different presentation formats. They have about \$200,000 to invest and are looking at a new investment account. Their spring retreat is coming up and new officers start in May. They have been responding to legislation, specifically a moratorium on suction dredge mining and artificial beaver dams. Jim noted that the changes to their state fishing regulations were a huge hit; went from 400 pages down to 100 pages.
- c. MT – Pat – Not a lot to report right now; mostly focused on meeting planning. They have about 260 members, 215 of which were at the Helena meeting this year.
- d. ID – Jay – They had about 313 attendees at their meeting in Coeur d'Alene including 59 students and seven young professionals. The Chapter provided 18 hotel nights in support. They moved their spawning run to the afternoon and had 100 attendees; there was also a keg at the end. There were four female plenary presenters. They brought in about \$28,000 in fundraising. To encourage more committee involvement, \$2,016 was provided to each committee. The Chapter is shying away from advocacy.
- e. AK – Mary Beth – Last year's meeting in Homer was the last fall meeting for the Chapter; they will be switching to a spring schedule. They held their first ever spawning run and it ended at a brewery. They held a symposium on women in fisheries and included a CE course on women in fisheries leadership. The 2018 WD meeting will be in Anchorage.
- f. UT – Jackie – The Chapter held an excellent meeting with about 80 attendees; this was down from their average of about 120. The lodging was in cabins. They only had one presentation session, so speed talks were used to create more time slots; this went over really well. Next year will be joint with the CO-WY Chapter and they are really excited.
- g. CO-WY – Rick – This year's meeting was the 50th for the Chapter. They had a symposium with presidents from each of the last five decades as well as a presentation by Lori Martin on women in fisheries. They provided free registration for past-presidents. They had 220 attendees which is about 80% of their membership. They made about \$18,000 in raffles and donations; \$2,500 from the raffle of a fat bike and a large amount from the donation of stream restoration consultation. They are seeing some 2-year schools becoming 4-year schools and adding a student subunit. They teamed students with professionals to do the moderating. They are looking for ways to use money to give back to their members.
- h. Jim will be asking all the chapters for meeting metrics, especially anything unique they do in their chapter.

6. Elections for WDAFS officer
 - a. Jackie Watson from Utah will be the new Vice President.
7. Update 2016 WDAFS/Cal Neva meeting in Reno (Joe Merz/Jim)
 - a. There are currently 460 attendees registered, 209 presentations, and 34 committee chairs/members involved in planning. This is the 50th anniversary of the Cal-Neva Chapter which will be highlighted at the banquet. Awards will be presented at the business lunches and at the banquet.
8. Update 2017 WDAFS/MT meeting in Missoula (Pat Saffel/Cleve Steward)
 - a. Pat gave an update. There is no official theme yet, but it will likely focus on science and the application of aquatic restoration. There are lots of examples of restoration in the location Missoula area. Planning has already begun. The meeting will be May 21–26, 2017, so it will be after all the chapter meetings. The week backs up onto the Memorial Day weekend, so they are trying to entice attendees to bring their families and stay for the weekend. There will be an on-site meeting on June 2–3. Troy recommended lanyards with two attachment points so that they can't flip around, or print names on both sides.
9. Update on future meetings
 - a. 2018 in Anchorage
 - i. Mary Beth briefly mentioned that they meeting will be the 3rd week of May and they are hoping to integrate Yukon members.
 - b. 2019 meeting – 149th annual AFS meeting in Reno
 - i. Jesse gave a brief update. The meeting will be September 30–October 3 in Reno. It will focus on women in fisheries and be joint with The Wildlife Society.
 - c. 2020
 - i. Dave mentioned that AZ-NM, UT, and WA-BC have gone the longest without hosting a Division Meeting. Jim contacted most of the chapters about the standard meeting rotation Travis presented in Bozeman. Most of the responses are positive and we should look into this for the future.
10. Request for funding
 - a. Motion by Education Section for contribution to Skinner
 - i. Hilda made a motion to allocate \$600 to support the Skinner Fund. Brian seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no objections.
 - b. 1st International Trout Congress
 - i. Cleve made a motion to allocate \$500 to support the International Trout Congress. Hilda seconded the motion. After much discussion, focused on the lack of clearly stating how the Congress would use these funds, the motion failed.
 - c. Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Oregon
 - i. Hilda made a motion to allocate \$500 to support the Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Oregon and \$500 to support the Fishes of Idaho book. Rick seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no objections.

11. Officer/Student rep update(Jane Sullivan)

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

- a. Update on Student Colloquium
 - i. The colloquium is a student organized, student run mini-meeting. It will be hosted by the University of Wyoming, April 13–16, in Lander, Wyoming at the Nature Conservancy. Other student subunits are also helping out with arrangements.
 - b. Jane is soliciting applications for the new Student Representative. Elections will be in June.
 - c. The Fishy Foto contest was a great success. The three winning photos will be auctioned off, as will smaller prints of all the submissions. Funds raised will go back to the subunits of the three winning photos.
 - d. There are three new student subunits, BYU Idaho, Salish (Eastern Washington), and Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Subunit (SCMBAS). University of Alaska – Juneau is also working on their bylaws.
12. Update from Jesse Trushenski (2nd Vice President of AFS).
- a. Jesse is focused on the AFS communication plan. She also asked for feedback on the new website. AFS is trying to increase the exposure of their journals. The unit survival guide has been recently updated. The nomination deadline for Society awards is April 1. If you use smile.amazon.com, you can automatically donate to AFS or any of the Sections and Chapters. Margaret Murphy is working on updating the Governing Board Report formatting and electronic submission; beta testing will start next year.
 - b. Jay commented that as a new officer you are in information overload. It would be nice to have the top three documents you should read.
13. Committee Updates
- a. Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns (Hilda/Leanne Roulson)
 - i. Dave Weedman and Lori Martin are the new co-chairs. They hope to have involvement from all the chapters, because they need the expertise from all the chapters. There is a new page up on the WD website for the committee. Leanne is the chair at the Society level. A new policy statement on mining was published in the January edition of Fisheries. They are selecting policy fellows to combine or rewrite policy statements. Tracy Wendt will be working on instream flow and hydropower. They anticipate a 6-month timeframe. They hope the new statements will be useful and get used. Jesse asked when should advocacy issues be elevated to the Division or Society level; Leanne responded that there is no clear direction.
 - b. Hutton Program (Hilda)
 - i. This is Hilda's first year chairing the committee. It is the junior fisheries program that focuses on minorities. The application period closed today. Last year 33 students were involved, 50% from WD (mostly the Spokane and Nez Perce tribes). They are developing a new criteria to get more qualified and motivated applicants.
14. Drafting Division annual meeting SOP and MOU
- a. Hilda, Jim, and Travis are working on these documents after discussions with Ramona and Pat. They will use the AFS MOU as a starting outline. They hope to keep it to 2–3 pages.

15. Update on Chapter membership and estimated number of affiliates
 - a. This information has been shared with Doug; he has received this information from the NED, but not from the other divisions. Currently about 20% of the “AFS members” residing in the Western Division are affiliate members. Jesse commented that these affiliate members are an opportunity; it is better to have them as a chapter member than nothing at all. With regard to the 2017 meeting in Missoula, Pat recommended a reduced cost Society membership. Jesse will try to sell this to Bethesda as a shortened-duration membership. Joe commented that affiliate members need to realize that there is more to AFS than a once-a-year meeting. Pat commented that when voting at a business lunch focuses on something they care about, then they want to vote. Jackie commented that there needs to be a prestige associated with AFS. Jim suggested that AFS should work to get pro-deals for members (an idea from the AZ-NM Chapter). Joe commented that in the engineering field, you have to be a certified professional to get work; it should be the same way for AFS.

16. Update on President’s Plan of Work
 - a. Jim will be focusing on publishing the “Unwritten Laws of Fisheries” book and working to gain an audience with AFWA and WAFWA.

17. Next Meeting – April 21, 2016. Meeting adjourned at 15:18 PT.

Action Items:

- Dan Cassidy – Determine if there is a Western Division representative on the AFS Communications Team.
- Dan Cassidy – Evaluate if all new members can be automatically added to the listserv (i.e., opt-out instead of opt-in).
- Travis and Jane – Begin populating the Western Division website with resources for increasing diversity in fisheries.
- Dan Cassidy – Evaluate the feasibility of AFS providing insurance for individuals (e.g., consultants) not just AFS units.
- Sharon Lashway and Tracy Wendt – Advertise smile.amazon.com for AFS or any of the units.
- Hilda, Travis, and Jim – Continue working on the meeting SOP/MOU.