



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

President Cleve Steward, President-Elect Brian Missildine, Vice-President Jackie Watson Secretary-Treasurer Travis Neebling,  
Past-President Jim Bowker, Student Representative Zach Klein

### **Executive Committee Conference Call: Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**Start Time: 8:00 am AK time/ 9:00 am PT / 10:00 am MT**

(Note: 2016-2017 WDAFS ExCom meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month)

1. Roll call
  - a. Cleve Steward (President), Brian Missildine (President-Elect), Jackie Watson (Vice President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Zach Klein (Student Representative), Mary Beth Loewen (AK), Joe Merz (Cal-Neva), Jay Hesse (ID), Cassie Mellon (UT), and Alix Blake (WA-BC).
2. Determination of quorum
  - a. A quorum was established.
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. There were no changes made to the agenda
4. Approval of minutes of last EXCOM meeting
  - a. One minor revision was provided. Jackie moved to approve the Excom minutes as revised, Mary Beth seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
5. WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer report
  - a. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. We have received the meeting proceeds from Reno and they were much higher than budgeted (\$21,668 vs \$12,725). This coupled with excellent proceeds from the Portland meeting has us sitting quite well financially; however, next year's meeting is not currently projected to be the windfall Portland and Reno were. Travis will provide a more detailed financial report at the Mid-year Excom Meeting next month.
  - b. Travis and Cleve are working on the FY17 WD annual budget, which will be presented/discussed next month.
6. President's Report (Cleve)
  - WDAFS officer participation at 2017 Chapter meetings – what is their role and how can they support Chapters?
    - a. Cleve commented that it costs the Division considerable money to send a representative to the Chapter meetings; however, we think it is valuable. We try to keep costs down, but full expect to pay registration and hotel costs out

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

- of the Division budget. As such, we would like 5-10 minutes to address the membership.
    - b. Mary Beth commented that when Hilda attended the Alaska Chapter meeting, not only did she address the membership, but she was part of their Women in Fisheries symposium. This was very successful.
    - c. Cleve asked that the Chapter officers provide some feedback on what they are looking for when a Division officer attends their meeting.
  - Membership goals and issues – how to recruit, engage, and retain members and future leaders
    - a. Cleve reminded everyone that it is the members that make the Society strong. This is everyone from students through retirees, and we are working on ways to better engage members at all levels. Members become future leaders and we are always looking for committee chairs and officers.
  - WDAFS Committees – purpose, membership, and activities
    - a. Cleve commented that a number of the committees have gone dormant over the years. He wonders if all of the them are still needed (e.g., the Time and Place Committee doesn't really exist anymore – do we need it?). Cleve will develop a list of committees that need to be filled for the Mid-year Excom meeting.
    - b. Cleve also mentioned and thanked all those that serve on committees at all levels.
7. Reports by WDAFS Chapter Presidents – recent activities/accomplishments. Please identify 1-2 major challenges (i.e., issues of concern) your Chapter faces and your plans for addressing them. Please also identify any “successes” you think other Chapters might want to emulate – what lessons were learned and what advice do you have for others?
- a. Idaho Chapter – Jay – The Chapter will be having a face-to-face Excom meeting in mid-November. Last year they pre-awarded \$2,016 to all of the committees. This was not embraced as well as was hoped. Some have used it for routine work, but they have not seen much for new initiatives.
  - b. Utah Chapter – Cassie – They are coordinating with the CO-WY Chapter for their upcoming, joint meeting (the first in 10 years). They are trying to figure out how to take the best aspects from each chapter's meetings and combine them. They still struggle to get members to become more active. As agencies are willing to pay non-member registration rates, they struggle to get meeting attendees to become members.
  - c. Alaska Chapter – Mary Beth – They are planning for their upcoming Chapter meeting. They are looking to better engage members and potential members in the Yukon Territory. They are working on updating their use of software and technology (e.g., using Ipad and Square for payments).
  - d. WA-BC Chapter – Alix – They held an officers retreat last month where they approved the budget and chose a meeting theme. One of their challenges is that they have 1,300 members in the AFS database, but not all are on their listserv.
    - i. Cleve reminded everyone that they can request a monthly membership update from the Society for cross-referencing.
  - e. Cal-Neva – Joe – The Chapter is focused on bolstering student benefit. They have increased the budget for student travel. They are also struggling to get people more involved; if agencies aren't paying to attend meetings, then people

aren't going. Attending a meeting is a benefit for both the individual and the agency

8. Planning update: 2017 WDAFS meeting (MT Chapter President Leslie Nyce)
  - a. Cleve gave a brief update. They have three plenary speakers lined up and are waiting to hear about Sally Jewell. Funding request letters have been sent out.
9. WDAFS Student Representative report (Zach Klein)
  - a. Zach gave a brief update. The 2017 Student Colloquium will be hosted by the Palouse Student Subunit, March 9-11. Zach is working on setting up a population dynamics course in R, to be taught by Dr Mike Quist and Dr Derek Ogle.
  - b. Zach has sent out a welcome letter to four new student subunits.
10. New or other business
  - a. Cleve asked officers what they wish they had known sooner about AFS (e.g., what services are available, what is AFS involved in, etc.). This question can wait until after the Mid-year Excom meeting, but please start thinking about it.
11. Summary of Action Items
  - a. Chapter officers – Please provide feedback to Cleve on what you are looking for when a Division officer attends you Chapter meeting.
  - b. Cleve – Develop a list of committees that need chairs and members for the Mid-year Excom meeting.
- 12. Next WDAFS ExCom Meeting – November 5, 2016 (the Mid-year Excom meeting)**
13. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:34 MT.