



# 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, February 8, 2017**  
**Start Time: 8:00 am AK time/ 9:00 am PT / 10:00 am MT**

1. Roll call
  - a. Cleve Steward (President), Brian Missildine (President-Elect), Jackie Watson (Vice President), Jim Bowker (Past President), Travis Neebling (Secretary-Treasurer), Zach Klein (Student Representative), Mary Beth Loewen (AK), Joe Merz (Cal-Neva), Rick Henderson (CO-WY), Kevin Meyer (ID), Leslie Nyce (MT), Katie Pierson (OR), Paul Thompson (UT), Alix Blake (WA-BC), and Dan Cassidy (Deputy Executive Director AFS).
2. Determination of quorum
  - a. A quorum was established.
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. There were no additions to the agenda.
4. Approval of EXCOM meeting minutes
  - a. January 11, 2017 – Minor revisions were received from Jackie and Jim. Jackie moved to approve the Excom minutes as revised, Brian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
5. WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
  - a. Travis stated that there were no major changes to the financial position of the Division last month.
6. Update and Q&A session with AFS Deputy Director Dan Cassidy

- a. Dan stated that Joe Margraf's Plan of Work focuses on making publications more relevant. In three months, AFS will be holding a publication retreat, which will be a multiday event in Reno, NV.
- b. The Mid-year Governing Board Meeting will be held in Mystic, CT beginning March 1. Steve McMullin's Plan of Work will be presented for discussion at the meeting.
- c. Dan discussed the impact of the Presidential election on organizations. AFS developed a document titled 'Future of the Nation's Aquatic Resources' for the new Administration. There has been a lot of interest and they are looking to develop educational programs around the document's 12 points.
- d. There is a new format to the Fisheries Magazine.
- e. AFS has received USFWS and state agency funding to update the Special Publication #30 (Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills). The Southern Division Pollution Committee and the Freshwater Mollusk Society will be taking the lead on this publication.
- f. The Southern Division recently held their annual meeting in Oklahoma City which had about 300 attendees, including a contingent from China who came to learn about Paddlefish.
- g. The Society is expecting about 2,000 attendees at the Tampa Meeting. After that, the 2018 meeting will be held in Atlantic City, NJ; 2019 in Reno, NV with TWS; 2020 in Columbus, OH; and 2021 in Baltimore, MD.
- h. The Society has identified three major areas of focus concerning unit development: communication, membership recruitment, and administration/governance. They have developed new web resources, have expanded sections on finance and social media, and will have more webinar options. These resources have gone out to officers and they are looking for input. There will be another face-to-face meeting in Tampa in conjunction with a social event.
  - i. Joe Merz asked about getting CE courses certified. The Cal-Neva Chapter has had difficulty getting support from the Society (Professional Certification Committee) and is concerned that 50% of the course profit goes to the Society.
  - ii. Dan would like to make this more appealing, but was not familiar with those issues. This would be a good topic to address in Tampa.
  - iii. Jim suggested taking it directly to the Management Committee. Cleve will keep a running list of these concerns and bring them up during the monthly conference calls. Cleve appreciates what Dan has done and wants to keep momentum going.
  - iv. Cleve commended Eva for getting the membership list out and everyone should be receiving it on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Leslie is concerned that she renewed in December and is not on the January list. Leslie also pointed out that there are a lot of blank names (only address and company details). Jim commented that these are the same issues we had 10 years ago. Dan commented that the list should be reviewed before it goes out, to

address issues like these. Jackie commented that one of her wishlist items is to have a working membership directory on the website, but we need a correct membership list first. Dan suggested sitting down with Eva, Dan, and a WD representative, and working through these issues. Cleve will bring this up at the Governing Board Meeting.

#### 7. Overview of Unit Leader Guide (Jim)

- a. Jim reported that there is a lot of good material in this document. AFS staff were supposed to reformat and clean it up before sending it out, but they didn't.
- b. Katie asked where this can be found. Jim responded that it is buried on the AFS website (Governance→Divisions, Chapters, and Sections→link at the bottom of the page).
- c. Cleve asked how we ensure this gets disseminated. Brian suggested a meeting at Missoula, include officers and those who are interested in being an officer, and include a webinar for those who cannot attend. Jim suggested that it automatically go out to all new officers.

#### 8. WDAFS Student Representative report (Zach)

- a. Zach reported that the venue for the Student Colloquium has been secured and fundraising will start soon. He has posted a blurb about it on Facebook. He is looking for motivational quotes or reasons to be an AFS member. Cleve suggested asking travel grant and award winners also.

#### 9. WDAFS website and listserv (Travis/Cleve)

- a. Cleve reported that the WD listserv is working again thanks to Beth and he is working to get all WD members added to the listserv (making it opt-out instead of opt-in).
- b. Travis reported that the new WD website is up and running thanks to the consultant that Bethesda hired. It will be a long process, but Travis will be working on getting everything updated over the next month or two. Jackie reported that she had some trouble getting to the site with the new address. Travis reported that it should be switched over soon, so that the old address works.

#### 10. WDAFS Annual Meeting planning updates

- a. 2017 annual meeting in Missoula, Montana (Leslie Nyce)
  - i. Leslie reported that everyone is plugging away. The registration site is going live on the 13<sup>th</sup> (or soon after) and will include CE course and fieldtrip pricing.
  - ii. Cleve reported that 26 symposia were submitted, but a few will likely be combined. Regardless, this is a great response.
- b. 2018 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska (Mary Beth Loewen)

- i. Mary Beth reported that there will be a planning meeting in Fairbanks next month. Volunteer coordination has begun.
  - ii. Leslie stated that Walmart has a volunteer program. They provide 10 employees for 60 hours total and make a financial donation.
- c. 2019 annual meeting in Reno, Nevada (Joe Merz)
  - i. Cleve asked Joe how much coordination has been occurring with the Chapter. Joe responded that they are working together, but everything is very preliminary at the moment.
- d. 2020 annual meeting in Vancouver, Washington (Alix Blake)
  - i. Alix posed the question, should the 2020 WD meeting be held in Canada. The GSA rate is \$230; however, only 40% of the room block is available at this rate. Mark LaRiviere has been working with Shawn Johnston to negotiate contracts, but a lot of hotels are booked already.
  - ii. Cleve asked when the last time the WA-BC Chapter meeting was in Canada. Brian responded 2015, it is on a rotation. Alix stated that most people have to rent cars because state/Federal vehicles cannot be taken into Canada. Brian's main concern is that not a lot of Federal employees will be able to attend. It will be a small meeting and there will be extra expense for those that are not in the 40% that get the GSA rate. Jim brought up that Federal employees have to get a special passport to travel (they cannot use their personal passport).
  - iii. Jackie commented that we made it work in Mexico with a less active Chapter. As WA-BC is so active, it should be easier. Travis commented that in Mexico, the hotel cost was \$80-\$100/night and included all food and drink.
  - iv. Alix commented that she has not received quotes from three hotels. She will try to get more. Cleve suggested including CARS (Canadian Aquatic Resources Section) in the planning. Katie suggested including the Western Groundfish Group in planning.

## 11. 2017 WDAFS awards, grants, and scholarships (Jim/Jackie/Travis)

- a. Small Project Grants (Jim)
  - i. There were 16 applicants; however four will likely be disqualified for not following instructions. Allocation of funds is usually hashed out at an Excom meeting. The next in-person meeting is not until May and some of the applicants need funds before that. Travis suggested that we can do this via conference call. Jackie suggested a deadline to review materials by February 23 which was agreed upon.
  - ii. Cleve suggested moving the nominating committee position from the Vice President to the Past President, as the Vice President has not yet attended a Governing Board Meeting. Cleve will formulate a motion and we will vote next month. However, Jackie pointed out that if this is a Bylaw change, it requires more work than that.

- b. Travel Grants (Jackie)
  - i. There are currently 29 applications for travel grants. The application deadline is February 13. Scoring will be based on criteria and will be completed by Jackie and two representatives from the Montana Chapter.

## 12. Spring issue of Tributary (Tracy)

- a. Tracy reported that the Tributary deadline is March 8.

## 13. Reports by WDAFS Chapter Presidents

- a. Montana – Leslie – The Chapter has been consumed with meeting planning and transitioning to a new website.
- b. CO-WY – Rick – They are working on meeting planning for the joint meeting with the Utah Chapter, which is less than two weeks away. They are expecting about 250 attendees. They are making decisions on travel grants today for Tampa and Missoula; non-winners will be forwarded to the WD.
- c. WA-BC – Alix – Their Chapter is moving forward with the Cedarholm Scholarship, awarding three \$1,000 scholarships this spring. They are planning for their annual meeting; the spawning run will be after the plenary session with a demonstration from Woosh, and they are inviting the public to run.
- d. Idaho – Kevin – They are focused on meeting planning. This year's meeting will be joint with TWS and they are expecting 600–700 attendees.
- e. Oregon – Katie – Their Chapter meeting overlaps with the Idaho Chapter meeting. They are expecting 450 attendees and 260 presentations. Their theme is 'Casting a broader net' and they are expecting a lot of non-AFS attendees.

## 14. New or other business

- a. Jackie has found a volunteer from the Utah Chapter (Trina Hedrick) to serve as the Division Representative on the Professional Development Subcommittee for Professional Certification.
- b. Patrick Trotter has requested that WD provide a fundraising committee member for the ad hoc committee on the Evolutionary Biology and Taxonomy of Cutthroat Trout. Brian and Travis both recommended that they find their own person rather than one assigned by the WD Excom. Cleve will respond to Patrick with this recommendation.

## 15. Summary of Action Items

- a. Cleve – Keep a running list of officer concerns and bring them up on the monthly Management Committee conference calls.
- b. Cleve – Bring up membership database issues at the Mid-year Governing Board Meeting.

- c. Cleve – Formulate a motion to move the nominating committee position from the Vice President to the Past President.
- d. Cleve – Respond to Patrick with recommendation that they secure their own fundraising person.

16. Next WDAFS ExCom Meeting (teleconference) – March 8, 2017

17. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:58 MT.