



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, March 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), Joe Merz (Cal-Neva), Rick Henderson (CO-WY), Dan Schill (ID), Leslie Nyce (MT), Ben Clemens (OR), Cassie Mellon (UT), and Alix Blake (WA-BC).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Agenda
 - a. There were no additions to the agenda.
4. Approval of February 8, 2017 ExCom meeting minutes
 - a. Brian moved to approve the Excom minutes as presented, Joe seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with no objections.
5. WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer report (Travis)
 - a. Travis gave a brief update on the finances. There were no major changes this month; however, with Chapter meetings in full swing, the checking account balance will likely drop over the next two months. The endowment has seen excellent growth the past few months due to an uptick in the stock market.
6. President's Report (Cleve)
 - a. Cleve reported that the Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting was well attended and well organized; however, one day was not enough to get through all the business.
 - b. AFS is holding a special workshop on publications. Jim will be attending to represent the Division. Aaron Learner (AFS Publication Manager) reports that AFS journal impact factors are not near the top, but actually below the 50th percentile. One of the current criticisms is the time it takes to publish is too long compared to other journals. AFS is discussing a new journal directed towards the layperson, a joint publication with TWS, and reaching out to other markets (e.g.,

students vs professionals). Aaron and Jim will present results at the Missoula Meeting.

- c. The Society is working on a diversity initiative, which is good to see at the top of their priority list. Many of the Chapters are working on this issue also.
 - d. There was lots of discussion on membership. They understand their chronic problems, but have not yet addressed them. This topic should be readdressed with Society officers and staff at the Missoula Meeting.
 - e. The next Governing Board Meeting will be at the Society Meeting in Tampa. Everyone is invited to attend; Brian and Cleve will be representing the Division.
 - f. Cleve has some materials on policy and communications that he will send out.
7. Review of process for nominating and electing WDAFS officers (Cleve/Jim)
- a. Jim is taking the lead as WD and Society nominating chair, but is looking to fill the Nominating Committee positions. Jim has been asking people to move into leadership roles. He has been getting a lot of no responses mostly because of lack of agency support. He has three or four potential candidates for Vice President, one of which is definite. He also has at least one potential candidate for Secretary-Treasurer. Jim is also looking to fill committee positions.
 - b. The timeline would hopefully start next month, with voting opening towards the end of the month. He has requested candidate statements from all potential candidates. Travis will organize online voting.
 - c. Cleve is working on a letter addressed to agency heads. It will include an appeal to acknowledge and support employee participation. This is also the topic of his next President's Hook.
 - d. Jim reminded everyone that the Division covers all related travel costs.
8. WDAFS Student Representative report (Zach)
- a. Zach continues to work on getting students more involved.
 - b. Planning for the student colloquium is coming along.
 - c. Zach is taking the lead on Missoula Meeting volunteer coordination.
 - d. Cleve suggested connecting with the Student Subsection President and WD Representative.
9. WDAFS website (Travis)
- a. The website is up and running; however, much of the information is out-dated because an older backup was used to resurrect the site. Travis will work on getting this updated and Jim volunteered to assist with this.
10. WDAFS Annual Meeting planning updates
- a. 2017 Annual Meeting in Missoula, Montana (Leslie Nyce)
 - i. The Program Committee is working on the program; March 21 is the deadline for abstracts.
 - ii. We will be using Coreapps for the mobile meeting app. This is what the Society uses.

1. Brian asked why this app. Leslie reported that both of the available options were very similar, so it came down to the price difference.
 - b. 2018 Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska (Mary Beth Loewen)
 - i. There will be a planning meeting at their Chapter Meeting later this month.
 - c. 2019 Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada (Joe Merz)
 - i. They are still very early in the planning stages. Right now they are focused on their upcoming Chapter Meeting, but will be hitting it hard after that.
 - d. 2020 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Washington (Alix Blake)
 - i. They are looking for bids at potential cheaper locations right now and are considering holding the meeting earlier than May.
11. 2017 WDAFS awards, grants, and scholarships (Jim/Jackie/Tracy)
- a. Awards – Jim reported that he has received lots of nominations for awards.
 - b. Small grants – Jim reported that he has received scores from seven or eight of the Excom. Rather than burden everyone, the WD officers will use these scores to allocate funds. There is \$5,000 budgeted for small grants and the five top scoring requests were for over \$13,000, so there are some decisions to be made. Cleve suggested allocating additional funds. Travis responded that the only place we can take funds from is the \$1,000 allocated to undergraduate scholarships.
 - c. Travel grants – Jackie reported that there were 41 applications for travel grants. After scoring, it was decided to allocate 37 travel grants in the amount of \$250. Jackie made a motion to move the \$1,000 allocated to undergraduate scholarships to travel grants and then give higher travel grant awards to some of the applicants. Brian seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no objection.
12. Spring issue of Tributary (Tracy)
- a. Cleve reported that the deadline for newsletter submissions is today.
13. Reports by WDAFS Chapter Presidents (5-7 minutes max)
- a. WA-BC – Alix – They are organizing for their annual meeting which will have three plenary speakers and a Woosh demonstration in a local park (as part of their spawning run which is open to the public). They are awarding a new scholarship this year in the name of Jeff Cedarholm. Cleve asked that they send a write-up on this to Dave Lentz for the listserv.
 - b. Idaho – Dan – They had an exciting meeting; it had been 12 or 15 years since the last joint meeting with TWS. It was the largest meeting in the Idaho Chapter history with 587 attendees, 86 of which were students. The meeting was about 2/3 fisheries and 1/3 wildlife.
 - i. Jim reported that at the student mentoring social they had color-coded name tags to differentiate students and professionals. Each were given raffle tickets to hand out to people they talked to, and they raffled off a shotgun.

- c. Cal-Neva – Joe – They are really excited and little overwhelmed with planning for the Eureka Meeting. The program is full and they are trying to open another room so that they can take more presentations. They have 250 registrants already. Their new website is up and running, hosted by the Society. Jim will be giving his AFS presentation as part of the program.
- d. Oregon – Ben – They had a very successful meeting last week with over 500 attendees. The theme was ‘Casting a broader net’ and they had good participation from those that dabble in fisheries or aquatic sciences (e.g., Department of Environmental Quality). They had lots of good feedback on their theme. They had a motion to have the Chapter move forward with supporting the Hutton Scholarship Program; they are now polling their members to identify funding sources. They are evaluating new social media options (e.g., Instagram, Snapchat, and webinars). They are working on a white paper on suction dredge mining and its release of mercury. They elected six new officers whose term starts on May 1.
- e. Utah – Cassie – They held a joint meeting with the CO-WY Chapter. It was very successful with about 300 attendees and lots of students, particularly undergrads. They held two, well attended, CE courses, on eDNA and pit tag technology. It was great to work with a different Chapter. There was also a special session on boreal toads.
- f. Montana – Leslie – They are focused on WD Meeting planning. The Chapter has switched to a new website, which will be going live soon. Leslie reported that she is not getting the updated membership list each month. Alix reported that she is getting the list for WA-BC.
- g. Cleve asked Jim if he can compile the 2017 meeting metrics as he did last year. Jim reported that this should all be going into the new Governing Board database reporting tool. Dan asked who is responsible for entering this information; Jim responded that everyone is responsible.

14. New or other business

- a. Proposal to review formula and process for allocating/reallocating WDAFS funds to awards, scholarships, etc. (Travis)
 - i. Travis will have this ready next month.
- b. Proposal (motion) to change the WDAFS Bylaws and Procedures Manual to appoint Past-President as re Division representative to the AFS Nominating Committee (Cleve)
 - i. Jackie stated that we need to change the officer duties for the Society nominating committee from Vice President to Past President in our Bylaws. This requires submitting it to the Society Constitutional Consultant for review, then a period of review by the membership, then a vote by the membership. Jackie will coordinate updating the Bylaws and getting them sent off to the Constitutional Consultant.
- c. Meeting with AFS President Joe Margraf and Executive Director Doug Austen at WDAFS meeting in Missoula (Cleve)
 - i. Cleve will schedule this meeting.

- ii. Dan commented that their response was really good at their Chapter Meeting.
- iii. Jim reported that he still has issues getting office staff to return calls and emails, so there is a lot to bring up.
- d. Proposal to move next WDAFS ExCom Meeting from April 12 to April 19, 2017 (same time) – avoid conflict with WA-BC Chapter meeting (Cleve)
 - i. There were no objections to this. Next month's conference call will be on April 19.

15. Summary of Action Items

- a. Cleve – Send out materials on policy and communications from the Mid-year Governing Board Meeting.
- b. Travis – Set up online officer voting
- c. Cleve – Write and send letter to agency heads regarding employee support for AFS officer and committee positions.
- d. Alix – Send a write up to Dave Lentz for the listserv regarding the Jeff Cedarholm scholarship.
- e. Jackie – Coordinate updating the Bylaws and getting them sent off to the Constitutional Consultant.
- f. Cleve – Schedule a meeting with AFS President Joe Margraf and Executive Director Doug Austen at WDAFS meeting in Missoula

16. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:36 MT.