



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, April 19, 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), Helen Neville (ID), Agustin Hernandez (MX), Leslie Nyce (MT), Shivonne Nesbit (OR), Cassie Mellon (UT), and Tamara Knudson (WA-BC).
2. Determination of quorum
 - a. A quorum was established.
3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. There were no additions to the agenda.
4. Approval of March 8, 2017 ExCom meeting minutes (Travis)
 - a. Minor revisions were received from Jim. Brian moved to approve the revised Excom minutes, Leslie 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 there was no Management Committee call last month, but this month's call is coming up on Friday. They have been reviewing a lot of Bylaws. Cleve also reported that there will be an AFS publications workshop coming up that Jim will be attending.
 - b. Cleve presented a letter he would like to send to agency heads and supervisors. The goals are to acknowledge employees serving as Chapter Excom Officers and those in committee roles. It also thanks organizations for allowing people to participate in meetings, while encouraging others to attend meetings and get involved.

- i. Brian commented that he thinks the letter needs to be cut down in length, that shorter is better. Travis agreed; it seems like it should be two separate letters each addressing one topic. Brian will provide comments and edits. Overall, everyone agreed it is an excellent idea and that they support it.
 - c. Cleve presented a letter from WD officers supporting the March for Science.
 - i. Travis commented that he supports the underlying message, but cannot support the letter as written.
 - ii. Jim suggested writing it as an opinion piece.
 - iii. Jackie commented that her feelings were similar to Travis, that she cannot support the letter as written. It should be a Cleve piece instead of a WDAFS piece.
 - iv. Cassie commented that the Utah Chapter struggles with agency support because of the advocacy role AFS sometimes takes.
 - v. Cleve commented that advocacy discussions are not new. This is something they worked on in the 80s, but feels like the situation now is more dire. He is happy to see the number of science organizations who have signed on to the March for Science. He will write it up as an opinion piece. In the future, he would like to have a discussion as to why AFS cannot take a stronger stance on political issues.
 - vi. Tamara commented that in the presentation that Cleve gave at the WA-BC Chapter Meeting, it included pros and cons, which he was not able to touch on in the letter, but she thought the presentation was great. She encourages advocacy through ways other than the march.
7. WDAFS Student Representative report (Zach)
- a. Zach was not able to make the call.
8. WDAFS officer candidates and upcoming election (Jim)
- a. Jim reported that he has one candidate for Vice President (Dan Dauwalter) and one candidate for Secretary-Treasurer (Tracy Wendt). Jim discussed this with the other WD officers and they agreed to go ahead and let them run unopposed.
 - b. Cleve asked the Chapter Officers how they recruit officers. Leslie commented that they do a lot of arm-twisting. Shivonne reported that the Oregon Chapter has similar issues recruiting officers. Tamara commented that we need a better list of job duties. Cleve will readdress this issue in Missoula.
9. WDAFS website (Travis)
- a. Travis reported that he has not made any progress on updating the website.
10. Proposed changes to WDAFS Bylaws (Jackie)
- a. Jackie reported that she hasn't had time to work on this, but the next step will be to send revisions to John Bozeman, before a 30-day membership review before voting.

11. WDAFS Annual Meeting planning updates

- a. 2017 annual meeting in Missoula, Montana (Leslie Nyce)
 - i. Leslie reported that early registration ends on Friday. Otherwise, everything is on track. They have switched to biweekly meetings.
 - ii. Cleve commended Leslie on her work on the meeting app.
 - iii. Jim commented that he has a tabletop display that he will bring to set up at Missoula.
- b. 2018 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska (Mary Beth Loewen)
 - i. No update
- c. 2019 annual meeting in Reno, Nevada (Joe Merz)
 - i. No update
- d. 2020 annual meeting in Vancouver, Washington (Alix Blake)
 - i. Tamara reported that they have started negotiations with the Pinnacle Hotel for the end of April, beginning of May.

12. 2017 WDAFS awards, grants, and scholarships (Jim/Jackie/Tracy)

- a. Jim reported that there are eight awards this year; plaques have been ordered and the invoice sent to Travis.
- b. Jackie reported that \$9,550 (of \$10,500 allocated) has been awarded in travel grants. Some of the awardees will not be able to attend.

13. Spring issue of Tributary (Tracy) – submissions due by March 8 (today!)

- a. Cleve reported that the Tributary has been sent out.

14. Reports by WDAFS Chapter Presidents (5-7 minutes max)

- a. Utah – Cassie – Not much to update. The 2018 Chapter Meeting date and location have been lined out. They are focusing more on giving back to members.
- b. Idaho – Helen – 2018 and 2019 meeting dates and locations have been lined out. They are working closer with their committees following the allocation of \$2,016 to each committee in 2016.
- c. WA-BC – Tamara – They just held their 2017 Chapter Meeting, which had about 125 attendees or ¼ of the Chapter.
- d. Montana – Leslie – They are focused on meeting planning.
- e. Oregon – Shivonne – They are looking for new locations to hold meetings because of high attendance rates. They currently have a female dominated Excom and are working on communication. She reported that Ben really enjoyed working with everyone.

15. New or other business

- a. Cleve has received an email (also to Troy Brandt and Tony Siniscal) asking if the Division will organize and sponsor an event in Tampa, similar to the Leadership Session in Kansas City and including a social.
 - i. Jim commented that we have \$500 in contingency funds that could be applied to support this social. He also commented that we should encourage the chapters to match this, as many of them are sitting on funds and are looking for ways to give back.
16. Proposal to cancel May 10 ExCom meeting (the ExCOM will meet from 10 AM – 4 PM on May 21 (Sunday) in Missoula in conjunction with the 2017 WDAFS meeting)
- a. There will be no cal on May 10.
17. Summary of Action Items
- a. Cleve –
 - i. Re-write March of Science letter as an opinion piece
 - ii. Readdress the issue of recruiting officers in Missoula
 - b. Brian, and other officers – Provide edits to agency letter(s) to Cleve
18. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 11:37 MT.