



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

President Brian Missildine, President-Elect Jackie Watson, Vice-President Dan Dauwalter Secretary-Treasurer Tracy Wendt,  
Past-President Cleve Steward, Student Representative Britta Baechler

### **Executive Committee Conference Call: Wednesday, February 14, 2018** **Start Time: 8:00 am AK time/ 9:00 am PT / 10:00 am MT**

- Roll call; Brian Missildine (President), Jackie Watson (President-Elect), Dan Dauwalter (Vice-President), Tracy Wendt (Secretary-Treasurer), Britta Baechler (Student Representative), Ben Brown (UT), Amber Steed (MT), Tamara Knudson (WA-BC), Laurie Earley (Cal/Neva), Kevin Gelwicks (CO-WY), **David (AZNM)**, Dan Schill (ID), Jeff Falke (AK)
- Quorum was determined
- Approval of January ExComm meeting minutes-postponed till March – meeting minutes were lost, Tracy will re-circulate for help filling in from memory
- WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer report
  - Discussion of moving student travel back into WD (endowment):
    - Travis' recommendation is to move student travel portion of endowment back to WD endowment. This is \$ that was set up as a “safety net” and it hasn't been needed. Tracy will put together a background document and distribute. Just because we might move this away from the endowment, doesn't mean we are changing amount available for student travel
  - Update regarding endowment funds (30k): CD expired and we need to do something with this \$. Brian suggested we reinvest some and put the rest in one of our scholarship or other grant awards; Dan said we have 28 travel grant applicants so far and it would be helpful to have additional funds so we can help more people attend the WD meeting or travel assistance to the Society meeting. Jackie suggested splitting the funds across multiple – travel, small grants, colloquium, etc – there are a lot of options for where this money could go. It would be worth looking into what the typical ask is and how much more funding would benefit the program – usually we have to turn people down. Maybe we should revisit this once the small grant and awards period closes and decide later when we know better what the ask is. Need also to know if there is a time sensitivity for reinvesting.
- President's Report (Brian)
  - New committee updates
    - Diversity and Inclusion committee is working on their mission statement and professional code of conduct, doing a great job

- Early Career Professional committee is working on mission statement to go to EXCOM in next couple weeks
  - Financial committee is meeting regularly as well.
  - If you know anyone who wants to be on a committee notify Brian. Committees are all off to a great start.
- Other office updates
  - Bylaw updates – Jackie: Recent draft of updates went to EXCOM for comments, comments rec'd. Tracy commented that we didn't officially agree on change to term of student rep position. It doesn't have to be voted on by EXCOM but we need to come to a consensus before it goes out to the members. Student rep now serves one year and eligible to run for re-election for a second year, limit of two years. Proposed change to bylaws is that student can have graduated for second term and term would be two years but rep can opt out after first year with notice given a month before election. Jackie read the proposed language and everyone was amenable, so she will send the revision out for a vote of membership. Change is not likely to be official in time for elections this year, so we will probably have to hold an election for student rep this year. The amendment to the bylaws also makes the student rep a voting member. This is relayed as several changes throughout the document where the word "non-voting" has been removed from the bylaws in the descriptions of the student rep position. Other changes are to add the two new committees and change the name of the financial committee. Jackie sending to AFS for review and approval.
- WDAFS Student Representative report (Britta)
  - Keeping students in the loop about upcoming deadlines, scholarships, opportunities
  - Updated student subunit President and Vice President contact list
  - Sent out Doodle poll with times and dates for first bi-monthly call with subunit Presidents & Vice Presidents. The first call will happen during the last two weeks in March. Once she has responses from the majority of subunits about the specific date and time she will contact Brian about having an EXCOM member participate in the call.
- WDAFS 2018 Annual Meeting planning update (Jeff)
  - Arrangements: AV finalized, found vendor at a good value; Egan Center – starting to line up food and beverages for socials and breaks, lunches;
  - Awards – AK chapter student travel awards open now
  - Banquets, socials, entertainment – Welcome social Monday evening at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company; poster session tradeshow Tuesday evening followed by student social and film fest (sponsored by Fish Habitat Partnerships) at a different location (fish trivia for social); banquet Wednesday evening at Kincade Park, there will be busses, Friday there are 4 field trips arranged by conference – tour of hatchery, restoration dam removal project tour, guided fishing trips to Parks HWY streams, tour of Turnigan Arm– glaciers, wildlife viewing, hikes, etc.

- Registration is set to go live on the 21<sup>st</sup>, program – poster/paper abstracts open right now through march 5 but may extend if needed, symposia – 20 submitted, some full and some half day, list of topics etc on website;
- Plenary – 5 of 6 speakers are secured, working on last one
- Continuing education on Monday: pit tagging full day, water egress half day in class half in pool, students hosting an R open data science; two more workshops special stream and electrofishing not associated with the meeting
- Trade show mostly organized, vendors can register starting next week
- Website is going well, let Jeff know if we notice anything missing or needing updated
- Next week meeting of committee chairs to get coordination between meetings, likely to be 2x per month going forward. WD Excom business meeting on Sunday. AK is less than 3 hour flight from Seattle.
- Tributary – (Tracy) – New editors are ready to roll starting with the spring issue; Tracy to provide support as needed. Deadline for next issue is March 8; email articles to [westerndivnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westerndivnewsletter@gmail.com).
- Travel awards (Dan/Cleve)
  - Travel awards close on February 20<sup>th</sup>. There have been 28 applicants so far and about 60% are students, a couple international, some early career professional. Dan will do a list-serve blast reminder about due dates;
  - Awards: Group agreed we should extend awards (excluding travel awards) to March 15th – Dan will draft an email to listserve to remind people about deadlines extending awards and Riparian Challenge; Tracy to distribute; reminded Chapter presidents and student rep to forward to their lists to make sure to catch folks not on the WD list
- Montana meeting report on affiliate member discussion
  - Brian attended the MT meeting in Butte; Jesse also attended from AFS.
  - Amber said that at the MT Chapter business meeting there was discussion of affiliate members: in advance of the meeting they surveyed membership to see where they stood on having affiliate members, used Survey Monkey, Amber is happy to share results. They wanted to know mainly whether or not people support continuing to have affiliate membership over 75% wanted to keep having affiliate membership. Many gave reason of wanting to increase engagement across the state with fisheries professionals. The Chapter had been losing members due to cost of Society membership. Having affiliate memberships helps new career professionals as well as retired. Some are opposed because it's not recognized by AFS because it limits engagement. There was open discussion during the business lunch. They made sure people had a forum to discuss and make sure people felt heard. Jesse spoke about AFS' perspective. Brian added that not all affiliate members are fisheries professionals, some are in periphery professions, so they want to stay informed but not be full Society members. Ultimately, AFS is not going to interfere with affiliate memberships, they know this is something a lot of Chapters are doing.

- Chapter updates:
  - Laurie – during annual meeting Dan Cassidy from AFS, Jackie, Jesse, Dan will meet and discuss planning for 2019 AFS meeting
  - Amber – MT voted to amend bylaws to accommodate electronic voting, just waiting for final approval by AFS
  - Dan S. – ID president-elect working on upcoming meeting. He said they will have an all-star plenary session and need to get the word out – Dr. Daniel Pauly, Dr. Michael Hansen, and Gary Whelan.
  - Tamara – WA-BC is finalizing the annual meeting, early registration and abstracts due today, more deadlines coming up soon. Room block is full already. 14 trade show vendors. Meeting plans are going well. Brian will attend.
  - Brian said membership spreadsheets are just people who have paid up to date for 2018 and asked Chapters to remind their memberships to pay their dues
- New or other business
  - Received an email about policy webinar and how chapters can participate. Tamara said this caused trouble for the Chapter in BC because it made some people think they are an advocacy group. Brian said that AFS makes comments based on reviewed science. The term “advocacy” is complex and may be misleading. No one on this call participated in the webinar. Brian suggested contacting Dru Winters and getting her thoughts.
  - The listserve for WD is managed by Dave Lentz. In 2016, Beth updated the listserve based on membership at that time, but it is not updated continuously, people are not removed if they don’t pay dues, and not added when they join. Brian gave an example of someone who wasn’t on the January roster but was on the February roster and she hasn’t been getting WD emails, is getting AFS emails - not sure if she was on listserve and dropped off, or if she was never on.
  - Dave Lentz is very cautious of in-box overload.
  - Could there be a check box to add people to list serve when they renew? No because the membership and listserve aren’t linked. It would require manpower that doesn’t exist. This has come up many times and been discussed with AFS, but there isn’t currently a mechanism to do this. Maybe we can have list serve lists at meeting registrations and people could check to see if they are on the list and if not, add their email address. This is an issue at Chapter level as well. This discussion needs to be moved to higher level, AFS
  - There are other issues with the membership data base that need to be resolved. Jackie said there are issues where people aren’t members because people don’t renew in time and apply for travel awards so they don’t appear to be members and are therefore ineligible for awards. Separate issue from listserve.
- Adjourned.