



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, March 14, 2018

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

To join call, dial 1-800-582-3014 and enter passcode: 837490314# Leader passcode 567446688#.

- **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - *Tracy to send out January minutes for assistance*
 - *Cleve will send out an email summary of awards to Excom officers and initiate a discussion or call about this*
 - *Jackie to do another call or two for votes on bylaws revisions*
- Roll call – *Brian Missildine (President), Jackie Watson (Vice President), Cleve Steward (Past-President), Tracy Wendt (Secretary-Treasurer), Britta Baechler (Student Representative), Dan Schill (ID), Brian Ertel (MT), Jeff Falke (AK), Ken Moser (AZ-NM), Tamara Knudsen (WA-BC), Laurie Earley (Cal-Neva)*
- Determination of quorum – Excom quorum
- Approval of January and February ExComm meeting minutes – Tracy asked for help with January meetings from everyone, they were lost and recreated completely from memory. Please make any corrections, additions, etc. Tracy to re-send to all. February minutes approved: moved – Jackie, second – Cleve; approved unanimously.
- WDAFS Secretary-Treasurer report
 - Finances – Dan’s trip to Cal-Neva was not budgeted so we’ll be over, but Brian didn’t go to Puerto Rico so it may even out. The Wildlife Society hasn’t visited Reno yet. AFS has asked Laurie and Jackie to go to Reno to meet with TWS for planning this year; may have to ask Dan Cassidy if they can pay for it.
 - Books listed on the Balances by Month will be straightened out next month
 - Next month we will talk about CDs that were mentioned on the February call.
 - Cleve said we have a record number of applications for small project grants and asked if we were planning to increase funds for that and possibly other awards. All award applications are due tomorrow. Cleve would like to have a special call to discuss this. Cleve will send officers a summary and open a discussion about it.
- President’s Report

- New committee updates – Brian said the two new committees are very active: *Early Career Professionals Committee* already has a webpage up. Both new committees are working on mission statements. The *Diversity and Inclusion Committee* is working on conference code of conduct. Both committees have gained new members due to Excom officers mentioning the new committees at Chapter meetings.
- Division Leaders Conference Call – The first call with all four divisions occurred. The group has good conversations and are going to set up another meeting next quarter.
- Other officer updates
 - Bylaw updates (Jackie) – We have been receiving some votes on bylaws and some comments. She will do another email push for votes in March and in April
 - Governing Board meeting (Jackie) – A lot of topics were covered, including some concerns about future of the Society and working with meeting host chapter; new direction is unclear, but Jackie will keep an ear on it. One potential change is how funds from AFS meetings are split between host Chapter, Division, and Society. Diversity and Inclusion at the Society level is advancing, but is not as far along as our Western Division D+I committee. There were a lot of questions about consequences, legality, etc. Jackie will have another update with more detail on the next call. Cleve said we need to keep in mind that AFS is planning meetings far out, 2024, for rotation for hosting meetings. 2023 is COWY by our plan, but AFS is looking at different locations than COWY. Laurie said she thought 2022 was CalNeva or Spokane. We need to tighten up communications with AFS about the rotation – they need to communicate with us better about it, for instance, visiting potential sites without reaching out to Division or Chapter. WD meetings are well-attended.
 - Next mid-year retreat (Jackie) asked if we should approve a budget remotely instead of at mid-year retreat next year so we can have the mid-year retreat in the spring (instead of fall). This would give us a chance to approve the budget in a timely fashion. Laurie said it is nice to have the meeting in the fall so officers can meet face-to-face, but agreed that spring is a good idea. Keeping the topic open for discussion and will reach out to chapter presidents individually.
- WDAFS Student Representative report (Britta): Bi-monthly call for student subunits begin March 29th at 1 pm PST. The call will be about 1 hour to 90 minutes. Brian will be on the call to give an update on Excom activities. If any other officers want to participate on the call, please join. Britta is working on volunteer assignments for the annual meeting. Cleve said outreach to students is showing – 4 applications for the student subunit award have been received so far. There was discussion for clarification on the Student Rep election this year. In the past, we haven't actively recruited candidates when student rep wanted to run for a second term, but the group agreed that competition is beneficial and makes Excom stronger. Because the change to the bylaws is not approved yet, we need to solicit candidates and hold election after new bylaws are approved. We tend to get the best results if we do a student rep election while classes are in session. Election for VP will run April 1 through end of April and will be in the next Tributary.
- WDAFS 2018 Annual Meeting planning update (Jeff):

- Jeff said plenary speakers are all lined up (there are 6).
- The spawning run now has a planning committee and is pretty much squared away.
- Abstract submission deadline was Monday: 54 posters 340 oral presentations, they are checking now for duplicates.
- Registration is open – so far there are 56 registrants. Early registration runs through 21st of April and they expect a lot of folks to register closer to the end of that period
- Please look at the website and let Jeff know if there are any errors or omissions.
- Tributary – Tracy talked to Tim at the CO-WY Chapter meeting and they are up and running with new co-editors! Expect the next issue to be out soon.
- Division and travel awards (Cleve) – We have nominees in all categories. The Riparian Challenge received several nominees. We will be selecting winners and contacting awardees; subunit and chapter awards will be announced later - still one day to get in nominations.
- Chapter updates
 - Jeff – AK turned in their best chapter nomination
 - Laurie – CalNeva Chapter meeting was two weeks ago and was well attended. They met with Dan Cassidy re:2019. California state employees can't travel out of state and this may be an issue with other states so the Chapter is looking forward to more discussion about this in the future. The Chapter's nomination for Division award is on the way to Cleve
 - Dan – ID Chapter just had their annual meeting. They had 235 attendees in ID Falls. The plenary session went well, focused on the importance of writing. There was a great workshop on scientific writing. Excom meeting next month and will be discussing website. They would like comments from folks who have tapped into Society site.
- Meeting updates
 - Tracy attended the COWY meeting. They had a vote about hosting the (2024?2023?) AFS meeting and it was split. The chapter provides scholarships at the Universities with sub-units in CO and WY and voted to add one at Colorado Mesa. They also voted to contribute funds as a budget line item annually for WD student colloquium. Overall, support for students was very impressive.
- No new or other business
- Adjourn 10:55