



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

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

Executive Committee Conference Call: Wednesday, December 12, 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#.

PLEASE SEE END OF THESE NOTES FOR ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS CALL.

MEETING NOTES

Participants:

- President Jackie Watson
- President-Elect Dan Dauwalter
- Vice-President Todd Pearsons
- Secretary-Treasurer Tracy Wendt
- Student Representative Britta Baechler
- Jeff Falke (AK)
- Steve Brumbaugh (CalNeva)
- Eric Fetherman (COWY)
- Ryan Hardy (ID)
- Brian Ertel (MT)
- Kris Homel (OR)
- Paul Thompson (UT)
- Gabe Temple (WABC)
- Luke Schultz (WNF Committee)
- Doug Austen (AFS)
- Shawn Johnson (AFS)
- Dave Lentz (WD Listserve)
- Tim D'Amico (WD Tributary)

Determination of quorum (majority of elected officers, 1/3 Chapters)

- Established quorum; made amendments to and approved agenda

Approval of November ExComm meeting minutes (Jackie and Tracy)

- Tracy thanked everyone for reviewing and helping revise the minutes from the midyear meeting.
- Dan moved to approve, Steve seconded. Unanimously approved.

Budget (Jackie)

- After talking to AFS Management committee, the change in breakdown of meeting proceeds will not occur until after the Reno meeting. We will likely receive 10% of meeting proceeds from Reno, however the MOU has not yet been signed and will determine the actual percentage.

2024 Society Meeting (Shawn, Jackie, Doug)

- Shawn presented Hawaii as possible option to host the 2024 AFS meeting:

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- We became aware of a special pricing opportunity through a special grant due to volcanoes; proposal would be for September 2024. The concessions available in 2024 are:
 - Destination support \$25k for food, beverage, sounds like there is a wide range of items this could be used for
 - \$5000 site visit funds
 - \$5000 signing bonus
 - 750,000 miles on United Airway that could be used to get people to the meeting
 - Free facility rentals, usually \$180k, with a reduced food and beverage minimum of \$130k (less than we typically spend, so do not anticipate this to be a problem)
 - \$177/night room rate for attendees, which is less than we paid in Quebec
- Concessions only good until end of December 2018 so we need to make a decision soon. They may be able to make offers of other concessions in future years but they would be reduced.
- AFS received a letter from NOAA encouraging us to do the meeting in HI. This letter could help when seeking support from agencies to allow out of state travel for attendance.
- Other associations such as TWS and ESA have had meetings in HI with good attendance.
- Shared support and benefits from meeting would be spread out instead of all going to one Chapter.
- AFS has taken on some of the time-consuming and tedious tasks that Chapters are typically responsible for.
- HI as a meeting location would require a different model for managing the meeting since there is no chapter there and it could be incentive to get a chapter started in Hawaii again; there are a lot of fisheries people out there without an AFS presence. MOU would define management structure for the meeting and how benefits and responsibilities would be shared.
- Without a host chapter, WD could look at this as an opportunity to split proceeds across our current chapters and/or to set aside seed money for HI to get a chapter started, if they desire.
- At the WD midyear retreat we talked about re-energizing our membership committee, reaching out to HI and to salt-water fisheries professionals in general and this certainly fits in with that objective. We want to make sure this isn't a top-down approach driven by WD [to create a HI chapter].
- This is a good way to expand from being seen as primarily an inland society.
- 2024 was scheduled for CO-WY so if we go with HI we would just push the schedule down a year and move CO-WY to 2025, Eric (COWY) said that sounds great.
- Doug said travel approval will likely be the big challenge, but if often is for other meetings, too – especially with meetings like MX or AK. Sometimes we take a hit due to travel, but there are ways to make that up. Steve said that working for the State of CA it's tough to get to the society meetings anywhere if they aren't in CA – out of state travel for state employees is always tough. We will have to find out how much of an issue it would be for federal agencies – some have offices in HI so this could help them get there.

- Even with AFS taking on conference planning, Chapters are still responsible for a lot so we really have to think about how to handle responsibilities without a chapter in HI. If other WD chapters are helping out, we could consider that in how we split proceeds. Even without a chapter we do have members in HI who could help out.
- Travel cost could be a concern. Shawn estimated cost from 6 major cities and travel to Hawaii wasn't that different from going to Spokane, for example. Really shouldn't be any different from any other out of state travel for most.
- The Mexico meeting was a big draw, pulling people in to be involved and participate in WD, HI could do the same – a unique opportunity.
- HI was one of the most well-attended meetings for TWS, so it sounds like it could be done successfully.
- This will be on the agenda for the AFS Management Committee call, though there may not be a quorum. Doug asked Jackie to write a note of support to the committee for the 2024 meeting and she said she would [ACTION].

EIS Pebble Mine

- Doug commented that EIS for Pebble Mine is expected to be published in January 2019 and we should start coordinating to submit comments on this. Jackie will work with Doug and Dru to get information out to the Division [ACTION].

WDAFS Listserve (Todd and Dave)

- The issue is that not all WD members are on the WD listserv so it makes communication with the membership difficult.
- Todd is working on reassembling the membership committee and their first task will be to compare the AFS membership chapter list with the WD list then compare that to the WD listserv.
- WD uses Email Dodo as a platform and it is difficult to use compared to some others. This was set up by Beth at AFS some time ago. The main issues are:
 - There are no automatic updates coordinated with our WD membership list, which has only been done twice – it is not an automated procedure.
 - Dave does not have the ability to generate a spreadsheet of email listserv members – the only way to do it is to have Email Dodo do it for us.
 - Dodo is hard to reach and communicate with, but Beth seems to have ok luck getting through to them.
- We do not pay for the listserv. Dodo has a pay version, so maybe this is a service people typically pay for and that's why we have trouble getting their assistance – drawbacks from being free.
- Tracy said she has used Mailchimp, a different listserv managing service, extensively. Jeff commented that he has also used Mailchimp. Some benefits are:
 - Can import members from an excel spreadsheet without tech support. This is easy and fast and could be done each month when Eva's membership list comes out. Would take only minutes. The system automatically eliminates duplicates and does not re-subscribe email addresses of users who have previously unsubscribed.
 - Can export list of members without tech support

- Users can unsubscribe on their own – this would no longer have to go through Dave. Once unsubscribed, our admin can not accidentally re-add someone. They would have to re-add themselves.
- It is very easy to get code for a button to add to a website so people could subscribe from wdafs.org.
- The emails look really nice and it's easy to add in graphics or photos if desired.
- All of the services described above are FREE for users with 2000 or fewer members. For more than 2000, monthly rates apply but they appear to be small (~\$10).
- Tracy and Jeff have used Mailchimp and could help get Dave running. Tracy offered to help get WD set up and show Dave how to use it [ACTION].
- We need to reach out to Beth at AFS as a courtesy and let her know we are considering switching [UNASSIGNED ACTION], then Dave, Tracy, Todd and others will set up a call to switch us over to Mail Chimp and do a trial-run before we officially switch over[ACTION].
- Todd sent an email to Excom asking chapters to find someone from each to participate in the membership committee. Chapter leaders who have not submitted someone to Todd, please identify someone from your chapter to participate on the committee.
 - Todd does not anticipate having standing meetings – just as-needed as issues come up.
 - CalNeva has a membership committee chair Steve will have get in touch with Todd [ACTION].
 - Kris didn't get email, will coordinate with Todd [ACTION].

Colloquium Recap (Britta)

- The colloquium was held in mid-November at a beautiful retreat center in Columbia the Gorge
- Attended by 29 students from 5 states; equal mix of grad and undergrad students.
- There were 11 presentations on fresh and marine research that were very high quality
- Su Kim and Alix Smith of NOAA provided an infographic workshop followed by a 3 hour hands-on workshop. Some very cool final projects resulted from the workshop that Britta will share[ACTION].
- Students discussed keeping the colloquium as a separate in fall each year, versus holding it in alternate years, or in conjunction with the WD meeting. Students unanimously voted again to keep annual and separate from WD annual meeting. This is the second time vote has gone this way.
- Funding: thanks to all who contributed, raised over \$7000, only short about \$250 will talk to Jackie about shortage and where that \$ comes from [ACTION]. Jackie said we'd work with Excom to determine whether it comes from WD budget or from future colloquiums; to be discussed on a future call.
- OSU Fish and Wildlife club is collecting funds, still waiting on a couple checks, then will cut a check to WD for the deposit, less the shortage. Tracy and Britta will coordinate [ACTION].
- Next year: who organizes the colloquium? Based on the procedure manual, need to determine which subunit will host, Britta will put out a call this spring. Once there is a short list, they will be asked to submit a short proposal. Subunit will be responsible for more planning than this past year, as student rep position will be turning over. Many Excom members expressed compliments to Britta.

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Pink and Chum Salmon Workshop (Kris)

- This workshop has been occurring since 1960s. It used to be stand alone, now combined with an AFS meeting.
- Jeff is retiring so Kris is going to become co-organizer.
- There is some seed money left over from when it was a stand-alone event. The organizers are looking for a home for the website and the seed money. It was suggested that WD would be a good place for the money and the website since this workshop pertains to WD.
 - It would be easy for WD to hold the funds and keep track of it. Tracy will coordinate with Kris [ACTION].
 - Jackie will reach out to Travis about the website and cc Kris [ACTION].

AFS 150th Celebration (Dan)

- For the AFS meeting in Columbus, Jim Reynolds has been organizing an effort for chapters to put something together highlighting the history of the chapter
 - Develop an exhibit to display at chapter meeting following Reno, then transfer to Columbus and display at that AFS meeting.
 - Could be a simple poster, powerpoint, etc. – poster may be preferred because it would be most portable, but power point could work as long as there is a monitor and technology needs at meeting and in Columbus. Chapters are encouraged to think outside the box; just needs to be portable to Columbus.
 - Chapters are especially encouraged to showcase things unique to the chapter: old sampling techniques or unique methodologies
 - Dan is trying to get commitment by end of Jan from each Chapter and report back regarding level of interest from each. Dan will follow up and continue to report progress on this effort back to WD [ACTION].
 - The Division should do something highlighting our history as well. Jackie said the Division should reach out to Eric Wagner, as the archivist, but we also have a good number of past presidents we could get involved. Jackie will work with Dan to try and organize something, at least gage Division-level interest by the end of January [ACTION].

New or other business

- Winter issue of Tributary (Tim)
 - Niall has taken the lead on the Trib
 - Content looks light for the Winter issue: recap from colloquium, presidents hook, a couple other small items. Deadline for content is around the 15th, issue to go out on the 20th. Tracy can work with them as past editor to brainstorm people to reach out to – students are good in winter, ask committees for updates, call for symposia for upcoming meetings [ACTION]. There could be more in the Trib about what's going on at the Society level – Jackie is going to try harder to make Tim and Niall aware of what's going on at the Society so they can chase down articles [ACTION]. Some issues are just light and no one expressed major concerns about it.
 - The new editors are doing a great job.
 - Niall had reached out to Jackie for help reaching out to WD to see if people are happy with the Trib. Considering polling the membership about the Trib – what

do they want to see, do they like changes, etc., may be in Trib or separate. If it's done through the Trib, we should also poll the listserve to be sure and capture people who aren't reading the Trib and find out why not.

- Spring edition will be in March.
- Scheduling of January Excom Call
 - The Financial Sustainability Committee (FSC) has been asked to join the next call, though there was a conflict for one committee member. Options are to change the timing of the Excom call or have a separate call with a sub-group and the committee prior to the Excom call.
 - Jackie's preference would be to adjust the timing of the Excom call and extend the length of the call to accommodate the FSC call.
 - It was suggested that it's most critical for the officers to have a solid grasp of the finances so we should have a focused call with the FSC, then share the information with the full Excom for broader discussion.
 - Jackie said we need to have discussion across Excom about things like what to do with our expired CDs and that needs input from full Excom.
 - It was suggested that FSC and Excom could have an in-depth conversation about options, then inform Excom and make a group decision. It's really important that there is enough time to talk in detail with the FSC.
 - All Excom officers said they could do a call separate with the FSC, Jackie will send out a doodle poll [ACTION].
 - If we want FSC on the January Excom call, we would need to change the time so Troy could participate. Jackie will send an email out coordinating this [ACTION].
- Ryan from Idaho said the Chapter had an Excom meeting and approved to host 2023 WD Meeting in Boise. They have also discussed when to have chapter meetings so they don't conflict with other chapters in case people want to attend multiple chapter meetings.
 - Jackie said she's not sure what the solution is, since each chapter holds their meetings at a time that works best for their specific chapter.
 - Chapters vary on how far in advance they set locations and timing of their meetings; some set them years in advance. Often it depends on hotel booking commitment requirements.
 - Jackie will try to put this information in a location in a place that's accessible to all so chapters can see when other meetings are scheduled [ACTION].

11:36 Adjourn

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

- Doug asked **Jackie** to write a note of support to the committee for the 2024 meeting and she said she would.
- **Jackie** will work with Doug and Dru to get information out to the Division regarding the Pebble Mine EIS, once it is available.
- **Jackie** is going to try harder to make Tim and Niall aware of what's going on at the Society so they can chase down articles in order to get more in the Trib about what's going on at the Society level.
- **Jackie** will send out a doodle poll regarding time and date for FSC/Excom Officers call.
- **Jackie** will send an email out coordinating new time for the January Excom call so FSC can participate.

- **Jackie** will work with **Dan** to try and organize something for Division to contribute for the 150th anniversary display, at least gauge Division-level interest, by the end of January.
- **Jackie** will reach out to Travis about the website hosting for the salmon workshop and cc Kris.
- **Jackie** will try to put chapter meeting location and date information in a location in a place that's accessible to all so chapters can see when other meetings are scheduled.
- **Tracy** will reach out to the Tributary editors as past editor to brainstorm people to reach out to.
- **Tracy** will help **Dave** get set up on Mailchimp so we can do a test-run. Include **Todd** in correspondence and call.
- **Tracy** will coordinate with **Kris** regarding funding from salmon workshop.
- **Tracy** and **Britta** to coordinate with OSU chapter to send funds from colloquium loan to WD (Tracy just needs to make sure Britta has the address to send the check to, Britta to get that info to the Club).
- **Britta** to share infographics from the Colloquium with WD.
- **Britta** and **Jackie** will discuss the \$250 funding short-fall from the colloquium and come back to the WD with options.
- CalNeva has a membership committee chair **Steve** will have get in touch with Todd re: WD membership committee.
- **Kris** didn't get email about the membership committee, will coordinate with Todd.
- **Dan** will follow up with chapters and Jim regarding the 150th anniversary displays and continue to report progress on this effort back to WD.
- **Chapter Presidents** Assign a membership committee representative if you haven't already done so and put that person in touch with Todd. There is a membership file on the Google Drive where their contact information can be added.
- **[Unassigned]** someone needs to contact Beth to let her know we are considering switching from Dodo to Mailchimp.