

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society
Annual meeting minutes
May 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:37am by President Doug Young although we did not have a quorum. No quorum was ever achieved, so no voting could occur, including ExCom officer positions for 2008-09. The 2007-2008 ExCom was acknowledged – they have worked hard, and 2008 WDAFS is a strong example of their efforts.

Oregon Chapter awards

Past President's award - Doug Young, President

Doug presented the Past President's Award to Mike Reed. Doug lauded Mike's mentorship, encouragement and broad thinking. Mike helped the Oregon Chapter AFS navigate through some significant transitions and exhibited dignity through many challenges.

Fishery Team of the Year Award - Mindy Simmons, Awards Committee chair

Mindy presented the award for the Fishery Team of the Year to Stan Petrowsky, Casey Balwin, Bob Nichols, Jeff Dose and Todd Buchholz. In 2004 a landowner observed an adult coho in Joe Hall Creek in the upper South Umpqua River Basin. Inspired by the return, and despite past conflicts between landowners and land managers, the landowner worked with biologists from the Umpqua National Forest to restore fish habitat in Joe Hall Creek and its tributary. The enthusiasm from this team spread to neighboring landowners who began a beaver reintroduction program. Interest in coho salmon restoration started with just a couple of people and spread throughout the community, and the collaborative work of landowners and federal biologists has resulted in meaningful on-the-ground results in this region. Congratulations award winners, and thanks.

Student Scholarship Award - Colleen Fagan (for Scott Heppell, Student Scholarship Chair)

Shivonne Nesbitt was honored with the Graduate Student scholarship award.

Treasurer's report – Julie Firman, Treasurer.

The major expenses in fiscal year (FY) 2006 were support of the administrative assistant contributions to scholarships. There were extra costs for administrative assistance during this FY because of planned overlap during the transition between administrative assistants. This extra expense put us slightly in the red for the fiscal year. We have since decided to do without an administrative assistant and those savings will more than compensate for the loss the previous year.

The majority of chapter holdings are held in a money market account that earns 5% interest per year. Other funds are in a checking account, and an additional \$10,000 was invested in an investment fund administrated by the Western Division AFS. We invested in the WDAFS fund in August of 2007 and initially saw gains but the decline in the

market over the past several months has resulted in a net loss to date. It is important to remember that stocks should be considered long term investments and we expect to see increased returns over the long term.

Student Subunit Report - Jason Grant, Oregon Student Subunit Representative.

The Oregon Chapter AFS supports the OSU Fish and Wildlife Club annual field trip. This year they went to the Olympic National Park and were able to participate in many different activities with local biologists. They couldn't have done this trip without the support of ORAFS. If anyone has a volunteer activity and would like the participation of students in the club, please contact the student representative. Jason thanked Ian Reid and Brad Houslet for their efforts to put together the WDAFS/ORAFS Student-Mentor social.

External committees – Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey, External Committee advisor.

Hiram Li is the current Legislative Committee Chair and serves to help identify issues of concern for ORAFS. In past years the chapter had a paid lobbyist position. We no longer have a lobbyist, and now we find that issues come up so quickly that we don't have time to develop response statements. Mike Reed approached Jeremiah and asked him if he'd be willing to help identify emerging issues with relevance to the chapter. The leadership came up with a protocol for rapid response by the ExCom. The legislative committee identifies the issue, how it applies to the chapter's mission statement, and provides a recommendation on how we should move forward. The committee also sees creation of an ORAFS blog as a way to identify emerging issues and get feedback from ORAFS membership in a timely manner.

Progress report: tracked three state bills and provided comment on them. We are also tracking federal bills that may have an impact on Oregon's resources. We provided a comment letter on the BLM's draft Western Oregon Plan Revisions, and we are examining the Copper-Salmon Wilderness Bill, and we provided letters of support in past years. We're also looking at wave energy, marine reserves and marine dead zones as possible issues of concern. We are interested in hearing about any issues that interest the membership.

Mike Reed spoke about the ORAFS blog site. We will post a statement on an emerging issue and provide an opportunity for people to respond. We also have the capability to email lists of people concerned with a specific issue and draw their attention to an issue on the blog and invite their input.

2009 Annual Meeting in Bend – Martyne Reesman, Internal Director.

Martyne thanked Michelle Weaver who is our raffle and auction chair. We have to leave Sunriver because we're way too big. However, we have a commitment to finding opportunities to host meetings east of the Cascades, and we've found a new location in Bend – the Riverhouse. They've won several green awards and there are also several other hotels within a tenth of a mile. You can bring your pets and the river runs right through the property. We'll be there February 24th-27th.

Elections.

We still did not have quorum for a vote, but two positions don't require a vote: Past and current President. On September 1, 2008, Neil Ward will transition from President Elect to President and Doug Young will transition from President to Past President.

For all other positions, the list of candidates will be posted online and voting will be carried out by email. There was a call for additional nominations and Rich Grost was nominated for President Elect.

Broken Oar Award.

Eric Schulz was nominated for the dubious honor of the Broken Oar Award thanks to a spectacular loss of a boat that was sunk.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.