



American Fisheries Society

Oregon Chapter

TO: ORAFS Executive Committee

FROM: Katie Pierson, Secretary

SUBJECT: Minutes from ORAFS Executive Committee Teleconference, Thursday November 10, 2016
1500 – 1700

In attendance: President-elect – Shivonne Nesbit, President – Ben Clemens, Past President – Troy Brandt, Vice President – Jeremy Romer, Internal Director – Gary Vonderohe, External Director – Cory Sipher, Secretary – Katie Pierson, Treasurer – Tony Siniscal, Student Subunit Representative – Jacob Peterson

1500 Call to Order/Welcome Additional Agenda Items

- Ben asked if there were any additional agenda items; hearing no additions, Ben continued with the agenda.

Student Representative – Jacob Peterson

- Student subunit updates
 - Jacob believes that the majority of the student subunit are fisheries students. The subunit has been meeting bi-weekly, with various speakers. Ben and Jeremy will be speaking to the unit next week. Jacob and the subunit were encouraged to start recruiting early (i.e., now) for the next student representative to take over when the school year is over. Saturday, the subunit is going to the Morgan Creek Hatchery as a field trip. Jacob just sent Jeremy the last updated college contacts list. The subunit is planning a Spring break trip with the Bird Nerds club to do grouse surveys in Eastern Oregon.
 - Action Item: Jacob and the subunit will continue to work on the college contacts list and submit to Jeremy by 11-17-16 at the latest.

Secretary – Katie Pierson

- September minutes
 - Gary made a motion to approve the minutes, Shivonne seconded; there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously.
- October notes
 - Tony made a motion to approve the minutes, Shivonne seconded; there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously.
- Fall Retreat
 - Katie will clarify the notes. The fall retreat minutes will be finalized and submitted at the December meeting for consideration.

External Director – Cory Sipher

- Marine Reserves paper

- ExCom received edits to the Joint Position Statement on Marine Reserves (joint position statement between ORAFS and the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society [ORTWS]). These edits/comments included an incorrect reference, misstated purpose of the OR marine reserve relative to those in CA.
- Edits/comments were submitted to the Marine Habitat and Ecology external committee chair, Michael Harte, and he agreed to edit the comments per feedback received from ODFW Marine Reserves staff as part of their informal review after the paper was submitted to the email listserv. ODFW declined to provide official comments during the initial vetting period.
- Decision: ExCom will address the edits/comments, share these with the ORTWS and attempt to achieve agreement with them, and then repost.
 - Action Item: Cory and Ben will send the position paper back to Michael Harte, with a request to address the comments from the unofficial ODFW review. Cory and Ben will then contact the Wildlife Society.
- Erik Kancler and Legislative Committee overview
 - Cory created a standing call with Erik every month.
 - Erik filled out the Lobbyist Registration form and Ben has not received a confirmation yet. This information goes to the Government ethics board each month.
 - Action Item: Ben will follow up with Erik to make sure he is receiving the confirmation emails.
- Status of Diversity Scholarship
 - Gabe Sheoships (Human Diversity Committee) and Ryan Battleson (Education/Community Outreach Committee) are developing applicant criteria for this scholarship.

Past-President – Troy Brandt

- Hatchery/Wild paper update
 - Troy would like to announce the earliest and latest expected dates for release.
 - We need to figure out a policy for comments prior to the release of this paper.
- ExCom position recruitment
 - Each position has two candidates and Troy has a few more people to contact. In early December, candidates will send profiles for the newsletter which will also have the voting information.
- Winter Piscatorial Press (PP)
 - Natalie Scheibel will be stepping in to be the editor. Dec. 15th is the deadline for information. The PP will come out the first week of January.

Internal Director – Gary Vonderohe

- Federal Columbia River Power System letter status
 - Gary talked to a couple people, but has more follow-up to do. We can use the information from our website and update those letters. Timeframe: January.
 - The last update was done by ExCom, but Cory will try to involve external committees and Gary will reach out to additional ORAFS members. Once the letter is updated, Gary will send to ExCom for a vote.
- Oregon Chapter legacy document

- This is a reference document about how and why Chapter events and awards started. Gary has made a start, but the rest of the information will be found by searching the archives which are housed at the Valley Library at OSU Corvallis. This document would be a good place to store the information about the Conservationist of the Year Award (see October 2016 notes).

President-Elect – Shivonne Nesbit

- Overview of Western Division of American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) mid-year meeting
 - Retreat: Much of the focus was on the budget, and similar issues that we face. WDAFS is developing a survival guide for WDAFS officers. Jim Bowker is involved in the use of an online reporting tool which tracks a lot of different metrics. ORAFS reports twice a year to the WDAFS and WDAFS submits this information to the governing board. This online tool will collate all the information and make it accessible and useable. Data tracking is WDAFS and Chapters' biggest challenge, including membership tracking. There was a discussion around AFS certification. The major challenge is promoting the value of AFS certification. Shivonne is now part of a WDAFS ad hoc certification team, to explore how people use it and the benefits of the certification.
- Annual Meeting:
 - Donated Registration
 - OR-RFID has 2 free registrations that comes along with their sponsorship, and would like to donate to two people who need it. We will use these two registrations with the fish out of water waiver. Instead of \$50, registration cost will be free. We will decide how we make selections closer to the Annual Meeting.
 - Meeting budget & process for deviation from budget
 - Karaoke Kings band is asking \$300 over budget. We are considering another local band. ExCom would have to be consulted for changes in budget, it is doable, if we find cost savings elsewhere.
 - Educator attendance at annual meeting
 - We have a line item in the budget to help get educators to the meeting. Cory will remind Ryan Battleson, Outreach and Education External Committee Chair, to promote the opportunity.

Vice President – Jeremy Romer

- Status of edits to the bylaws, FSPIP, and handbook
 - By-law edits were minimal, including suggestions of word changes for section 7, standing committees vs. yearlong committees. Jeremy made edits and John Boreman approved the changes to the bylaws. Updated Bylaws can be found on the Google Drive.
- Inventory check (ORAFS meeting apparel)
 - Jeremy will go to Salem to check on the inventory. Tony has past orders somewhere, which can be used as a start to a working document about how much inventory we should have. Todd Buchholz (2013 ORAFS president) did the last order, through Les & Bob's in Philomath. Troy suggested Element Graphics in Corvallis and Shivonne has been working with a graphic designer in Portland who would also be good.

Treasurer – Tony Siniscal

- Treasurers Report
 - Accounts Update
 - Business Checking
 - October
 - 10/01/2016 \$84,011.07
 - Credits \$0.00
 - Transfers \$0.00
 - Debits \$487.92
 - 10/31/2016 \$83,523.15
 - Money Market
 - October
 - 10/01/2016 \$24,969.92
 - Monthly Interest Accrued \$0.42
 - 10/31/2016 \$24,970.34
 - Investments
 - WDAFS Endowment Fund – Oregon Chapter fund
 - Balance 07/30/2016 \$16,179.82
 - Charles Schwab ORAFS Investment Account
 - Balance 11/10/2016 \$200,978.92
 - Lifetime Gain/loss +788.78 (0.54%)
 - Equities/ETFs/Bonds \$147,630.37
 - Cash \$53,361.94
 - Tony has not had a chance to close the Money Market Savings account and transfer the money to the Charles Schwab account yet, but he plans on completing that transaction before the end of the year.
 - Tony will provide an updated endowment fund balance for the meeting in December.
 - Tony and Troy took advantage of the downward swing of the stock market and invested in high yield stocks, and several ETFs (REIT (Real-estate investment trust). Our first CD is maturing at the end of November, we will roll it into another CD.
 - Action Item: Tony will buy the supplies that we need, if there are additions to the list get them to Tony.

President – Ben Clemens

- National Science Foundation request for support letter for diversity collections (status)
 - Dr. Brian Sidlauskas was going to send the draft to Ben.
- WDAFS Tributary newsletter: Call for articles for winter issue. Send to Ben by December 6, 2016.
 - Action Item: Shivonne will put Annual Meeting blurb together for this newsletter.
- AFS rebates program
 - AFS has announced a program to provide an incentive for Chapters who’s members are also AFS members. Some chapters have a large amount affiliate members (members of the Chapter only and not AFS).
- Holly Huchko AFS certification reimbursement
 - We have a line item in the budget for three certification reimbursements. Gary made a motion to approve Holly Huchko’s AFS certification reimbursement, Tony seconded, there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously. Tony will cut the check and get the reimbursement to Holly.

- ORAFS received a donation request for an injured Wildlife professional
 - Tony made a motion to donate \$200 to support the injured Wildlife professional, Katie seconded, there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously.
 - Action Item: Ben will email to ask Holly how we should get the money to them.
 - WDAFS has a contingency line in their budget for these types of things.
- ORAFS Investment plans, Existing Monies and Soliciting Sponsorships
 - Currently, ORAFS is in a good financial position with an excess of two years' operating budget in our coffers. We have worked on tightening up the books, held two successful annual meetings, a symposium, and hosted the very successful AFS meeting in Portland. The revenue has been invested so that the money can work for us much like an endowment. The vision is that we will have a money generating fund so that we are not working so hard every year just to support our operating budget. The dividends and interest from this investment account can be used to support scholarships, research, and grants.
 - Action Item: ExCom will work on a packaged statement for the business meeting about what we are using our money for and what we see happening in the future.

1705 Call for Adjournment

Next conference call: **Thursday, December 8, 2016**