



# American Fisheries Society

## Oregon Chapter

Conference Call Number: **515-604-9000** Participant Code **326424#**

Tuesday May 24, 2016 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**ExCom Present:** President- Ben Clemens, President Elect- Shivonne Nesbit, Past President- Troy Brandt, Vice President- Jeremy Romer, Internal Director- Gary Vonderohe, External Director- Cory Sipher, Treasurer- Tony Siniscal, Secretary- Katie Pierson, Student Representative- Justin McKinney, Incoming Student Representative- Jacob Peterson, Legislative Chair- Haley Blake.

### 1501 Call to Order/Welcome Additional Agenda Items

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

### 1503 ExCom Updates

#### Treasurer – Tony Siniscal

- April meeting minutes- Tony added the new executive committee (ExCom) names to the minutes– Gary made a motion to approve minutes with that addition, Katie seconded; there was no discussion; the motion passes unanimously.
- Spring retreat and Business Meeting minutes are forthcoming from Tony.
- Accounts Update
  - Business Checking
    - April 03/31/2016 – \$77,767.60  
Credits \$10,371.68  
Debits \$10,862.78  
04/30/2016 – \$77,276.50
  - Money Market
    - April 03/31/2016 – \$200,654.79  
Monthly Interest Accrued - \$3.29  
Interest since inception - \$17.86  
04/31/2016 – \$200,658.08
- AFS Portland 2015 – We have received the final check (\$24,300) for the ORAFS portion of the revenue from the Portland AFS Meeting. This money will be included as income during Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.
  - Tony explained that the initial plan is to move that money over to the savings account. Troy and Tony will meet with investment committee to figure out a long term plan and they will report back to ExCom in a few months with an idea.
- FY 2016 tax preparation - Tony is working with our certified public accountant (CPA) to complete our FY 2016 taxes.

- Tony is working on the transfer of signer authority for the ORAFS bank accounts. This includes removing Troy and adding Ben, as well as, trying to find a regional representative to help with this transfer process.

### **Secretary – Katie Pierson**

- Outstanding Action Items
  - i. Gary will draft a “legacy document” that outlines when/why/how a scholarship/grant/award was created and how long it is expected to continue and will update the information on the website.
    1. Gary is working on this document. However, he can’t find information on the web. Information might be found in the archives, and there was a suggestion to talk to Jason Seals, our Chapter historian.
  - ii. Troy will draft an announcement for the Piscatorial Press outlining the new financial plan once adopted.
  - iii. Troy will work towards finalizing the Hatchery:Wild white paper by the end of the Fiscal Year.
  - iv. Gary will work to finalize the Annual Meeting Planning Handbook; ExCom should provide assistance where needed.
  - ~~v. Tony will send instructions on how to access and clean out officer email inboxes.~~
    - ~~1. Tony can’t access the site, they made a secretary and a separate treasurer. Instructions on the google drive on how to access those emails. Passwords are being reset to end with 2016. Laura will link to the email that we provided.~~
  - vi. Ben will contact Laura Tesler to see if she is still interested in being our TWS liaison.
  - vii. Cory will seek out interest and cost estimates from potential legislative liaisons.
    1. See External Director update below.
  - ~~viii. Ben will send Tony language defining the roles/duties of the new ad hoc Diversity Committee.~~
  - ~~ix. Tony, Ben, and Gary will finalize the 2017 Annual Meeting Budget.~~
  - x. The location for the 2018 Annual Meeting needs to be determined and arrangements made.
    1. See Internal Director update below.
- Email listserv addresses
  - Troy, Ben and Katie will discuss the different listservs, members only and the larger one that includes non-members.
- Media usage (Facebook/other)
  - Cory Sipher, Ben Clemens, Troy Brandt, Shivonne Nesbit, Holly Huchko are all going to be Facebook account editors. Katie will not get an account.

### **External Director – Cory Sipher**

- Perspectives on Legislative liaison vs. lobbyist
  - A Liaison gives the Chapter a head’s up when legislation is “coming down the pike” that is of interest. A lobbyist will actually set up meetings with representatives to argue our

cause. There needs to be a good supporting system if we choose to have a lobbyist because the turnaround time needs to be quick.

- Ben believes that we need to move away from having a lobbyist, which Eric in the past has been in more of that role.
- Shivonne thinks that many people can do both, but you just need to be clear with your expectations with the person.
- Tony mentioned that Eric did register with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission during his past contract with ORAFS. He did not report any expenditures on lobbying activities.
- Haley thinks that it depends on what our Chapter mission is and what we are looking to do.
- Should we share this person with the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS)?
  - Cory explains that there would be no financial benefit for our Chapter to share a liaison. We would need to decide how that person would share the time. Cory believes that having a simple contract with our own liaison is the best way forward. There is agreement within the group.
- We will move forward with trying to find a liaison with a request for proposals (RFP) process because the session starts in January, so we have time for the RFP process.
  - Action Item: Cory, with help from Ben, Troy, Haley, will put together a scope of work for the liaison, RFP, come back to ExCom in 1 to 2 months with the results. Draft will be done before next conference call. Use Sue's RFP.
- Outcome of discussion with Eric Kancler
  - Cory spoke with Eric and he described a lot of the background work that has been done, for every hour there are 3 more hours of prep. Eric uses a three tiered approach (\$500, \$750 or \$1000 per month) and bills monthly. Cost varied based on whether there was a bill in session. Most recently, we paid \$8500 for Eric's services. He was only on the books for 1 year. Haley added that a benefit of Eric is that he is not associated with other environmental groups.
- Legislative Committee ideas
  - Haley reiterated that the current committee structure struggles with quick turnaround. In order to be effective there would need to be an internal system for reviewing legislation, and a streamlined editing process for white papers. She is trying to recruit a co-chair and other members who have expertise. We want to have a group in place so that when a topic comes up we can react in a timely fashion. One idea is to task the chairs of our other committees to be on alert when a topic comes up .
- Other potential candidates provided by Troy were Jamie Painter and Max Muller.

### **President – Ben Clemens**

- Vote on FY 2016 – 17 work plan & budget
  - Minor edits are needed in the scholarship section and the budget should reflect the \$2000 for the diversity scholarship (Denny Lassuy donation). The header and footer need to reflect the correct year.
    - Tony moved to approve pending the edits as noted to Ben, Shivonne seconded; there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously. Gary moved to approve the budget with the edits as noted, Tony seconded; there was no discussion; the motion passed unanimously.
  - Action Item: Ben needs to identify dates for outline and draft of Pesticides white paper and get that information to Shivonne and Cory.

- DRAFT goals for ad hoc Diversity Committee – Ben provided to Tony.
- ORAFS email instructions and webmail versus mail client
  - Some people are having luck with the link that was provided in the Google drive; however, some computers will not open that link. Tony will figure out what the problem is with the link and send out a solution.
- Link to PTAGIS on ORAFS website – Follow-up on member request
  - We are not interested in maintaining a link section of the website.
  - Ben will share this outcome to Karen Hans, who had requested this.
- Mentor list – suggested by Steve Kucas in an e-mail to ExCom
  - It was decided that the mentor list should not be on our website, because of spamming issues. We need someone to be the keeper of those contacts. We will ask Steve Kucas if he wants to be the keeper of those contacts, other ideas for a steward could be a graduate student or someone from the education outreach committee.
  - Jeremy is planning to compile a list of Oregon colleges and contact information for someone from each that can disseminate information about ORAFS, this list could also be sent out at the beginning of each year in hard copy to these schools.
  - Action Item: Jeremy will contact Steve Kucas to see if he is interested in being the mentor list steward
- WDAFS
  - Ben attended the WDAFS conference call and was impressed by our conference attendee numbers in comparison to other chapter's meetings.
- Tributary newsletter
  - Action items: Get information to Troy June 7th - plug for annual meeting, workshops
- 2016 annual meeting summary for Fisheries – This summary is already in process.
- ODFW staff can now be reimbursed up to \$50 for membership dues to AFS.

#### **Past-President – Troy Brandt**

- Piscatorial Press (PP) update – The due date for material for the next PP is June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- PP editor position – Troy asked if ExCom knows of anyone interested in taking over the PP editor position. Troy is going to get an estimate of the time commitment from Allison so that those interested in the position can be better informed.
- Investment policy-
  - Troy incorporated comments and will give one last review before moving money over.

#### **President-Elect – Shivonne Nesbit**

- Annual meeting planning for Bend-
  - Shivonne will be setting up an annual meeting conference call outside of the ExCom conference calls. She is focusing on having information available for the PP. She wants to expand upon the theme of diversity, diversifying our audience, challenging the conveners to diversify within the sessions, communications/social workshop. Shivonne will follow up with Steve Kucas. She is thinking about plenary speakers, with potentials being Don Ratliff and Dr. Kathryn Sullivan on diversity.

#### **Internal Director – Gary Vonderohe**

- Annual Meeting Planning Handbook-
  - The deadline for edits is the end of May. Gary will work on turnaround for the June conference call.

- Update on 2018 Annual Meeting venue-
  - Gary contacted Hilton in Eugene, they already have bookings (or it is held) Feb 19 through March.
  - Convention Center in Salem has similar prices, last weeks in February would work, the hotel has 193 guest rooms and suites. Gary hasn't looked at the Salem Convention Center yet, but he will be there in three weeks. Talked to Shawn Johnston about what to look for in bargaining. Room blocks and food/drink is where we can maybe bargain some more. Room rental is \$4,000 and food and beverage minimum is \$20,000. As a reference our maximum is 160 hotel rooms used in Bend.
  - Decision needs to be made by July. We could just hold a week with both hotels/convention centers prior to making the decision in July.
  - On our radar: Corvallis Convention Center and associated hotel may be built by 2018.

#### **Vice President – Jeremy Romer**

- Fish and Wildlife student subunit-
  - Normally there is a 10 person turnout for bimonthly meetings. Would like to focus on putting students in touch with potential employers and recruit to the chapter.
- Bylaws
  - Renaming of Investments Committee (*ad hoc*) to the Fiscal Sustainability Committee
  - Create Human Diversity in Fisheries Committee (*ad hoc*)
    - Status of the current committees – ExCom is planning to reinvigorate the committees this year but if a committee is no longer needed, and does not have participation, we can consider dissolving them. Any changes to the current committees will need to be officially submitted for Charter revision in November.
- Recruitment letter to colleges
  - Need updated contact info for appropriate contacts
  - Role of student subunit
  - Include scholarship information
  - Draft letter will come out to the ExCom

#### **Student Representative – Justin McKinney**

- Update on student subunit activities-
  - Held elections so there are new positions on the leadership team.
  - The Coastal Society (TCS) was recently officially added to the student subunit, which now includes members of AFS, TWS, and TCS.
- Introduced the new 2016 – 2017 Student Rep ( as of June 11<sup>th</sup>):
  - Jacob Peterson will be a senior at OSU. He joined the club this year. He will be working with Gary Vonderohe in Charleston this summer, so he will try to make it to our monthly calls.

**1805 Meeting Adjourned By Motion and Vote**

Next conference call: June 9, 2016