



# American Fisheries Society

## Oregon Chapter

TO: ORAFS Executive Committee

FROM: Katie Pierson, Secretary

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

In attendance: President-elect – Shivonne Nesbit, President – Ben Clemens, Vice President – Jeremy Romer, Internal Director – Gary Vonderohe, External Director – Cory Sipher, Secretary – Katie Pierson, Treasurer – Tony Siniscal, Student Subunit Representative – Jacob Peterson, Native Fish Committee Chair – Jim Capurso (for part of call).

### 1505 Call to Order

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

### Treasurer – Tony Siniscal

- Treasurers Report
  - Accounts Update
    - Business Checking
      - September 08/31/2016 \$86,951.18
      - Credits \$0.00
      - Transfers \$0.00
      - Debits \$2,940.11
      - 09/30/2016 \$84,011.07
    - Money Market
      - September 08/30/2016 \$24,969.51
      - Monthly Interest Accrued \$0.41
      - Interest since inception \$29.70
      - 09/30/2016 \$24,969.92
    - Investments
      - WDAFS Endowment Fund – Oregon Chapter fund
        - Balance 07/30/2016 \$16,179.82
      - Charles Schwab ORAFS Investment Account
        - Balance 08/16/2016 \$199,996.82
- The investments section of the Treasurer’s report will be updated periodically and not necessarily every month.
- Tony is working on the transfer of money to Investment Account (\$64k that was voted on in August); this involves closing the savings account.
- Tony is working toward Annual Meeting Budget Finalization. He is incorporating edits from Gary and will resend to ExCom and upload to the Google Drive.
- Annual Meeting Supplies Inventory

- Action Item: Ben will ask Mike Gauvin if he is willing to do the inventory of items at ODFW headquarters in Salem.

### **Secretary – Katie Pierson**

- Gary and Troy will work on compiling a “cheat sheet” for the Annual Meeting Handbook. This will be populated with quick facts (e.g., how many gallons of coffee, etc.) and will be eventually transferred to an excel spreadsheet that can be updated yearly.

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

- Annual Meeting Planning
  - The next Annual Meeting call is on Oct. 18 from 3-4 PM (reoccurring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 3-4).
  - The annual Meeting Website is live.
  - Shivonne will send out the first call for abstracts today. The abstract form is up on the website.
    - There are no keywords in the abstract form; there is a question about whether you are a part of a session, which will eventually have a list of the technical sessions.
  - Stand-alone meeting flyer
    - Action Item: Shivonne will put one together and upload to the google drive. Most people are being directed to the website in lieu of an additional flyer.
- Plenary update
  - Gary is going to give Shivonne one more Warm Springs contact to reach out to for the plenary session, if that contact does not accept we will only have two plenary speakers.
  - Action Item: Gary will book the rooms for the plenary speakers.
- ODFW-OSU sponsored mixer
  - Ben reached out to Selena Heppell; she did not have a budget yet but was interested.
  - Action Item: Ben will follow up with Tom Stahl & Selena Heppell about the ODFW –OSU sponsored mixer (everyone is invited).

### **External Committee Chair, Native Fish—James Capurso**

- Selection and disbursement of Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award
  - Background of Native Fish Committee
    - The Native Fish Committee of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society benefits from the leading experts of native fish and taxonomy who live locally. In order to make this a very active committee, Jim believes in having a backbone comprised of reoccurring events that the committee decides upon, and the committee’s Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award that collectively gets people motivated and involved in the committee. The recurring event is the Nongame Native Fish Workshop that focuses on the conservation of native fish and from this workshop the conservationist of the year is nominated. The committee chooses the fish that they focus on each year and they choose the Conservationist of the Year. This type of workshop is successful because it creates a forum for experts to engage in. Anyone who participates in the workshop is put on mailing list (currently about 80 people). Of those, around 25 active members help with organization of the workshop. Jim has done

presentations about committee involvement at the Western Division level; if there is value of doing that for Oregon Chapter, he is willing to give another talk.

- Current Native Fish Award
  - The award is a hand carved fish of the year (focal species of the workshop) that is also silk screened by the artist. Jim has been able to find a sponsor for that award (~\$350) in the last few years. If there ever comes a time where he can't get the sponsor, Jim will approach ExCom to request the \$300 historically used for food money be used for the carving instead. Usually the workshop is attended by 35 fisheries biologists and they nominate a conservationist of the year after that workshop. This award is presented at Native Fish Symposium at the ORAFS conference.
- There is a disconnect between the Native Fish Committee and ExCom about how the award is given each year. As a result, Jim has to re-explain every year. In hopes of eliminating that need, it would be good to add the information Jim provided to the Awards Committee information.
  - Action Item: Katie will add the information that Jim just provided to the Google drive.

### President – Ben Clemens

- Marine Reserves Joint Position Paper with the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society
  - Status
    - ExCom has received comments from the ODFW Marine Reserve Program.
    - Cory is going to send the comments from the ODFW Marine Reserve Program to the Marine Habitat and Ecology External Committee Chair, Dr. Michael Harte, today.
    - There was a discussion on how to move forward with comments after we have already voted to send a letter of approval on this position paper. The discussion was tabled for the November conference call.
- National Science Foundation — Request for support letter for diversity collections
  - ExCom was made aware from The Native Fish Committee that there will likely be a curb on funding for diversity collections (e.g., ichthyology museum collections). Jim Capurso has asked ORAFS to write a letter of support for such collections.
    - Action Item: Ben will check with Dr. Brian Sidlauskas and ask him to pen a letter of support for ichthyology research and additional funding. This will be a proxy for the Native Fish Committee since Brian is an active member. Timeframe: Next couple of weeks.
    - Ben will review and then forward it to ExCom before sending the letter.
- Federal Columbia River Power System comment period
  - Action Item: Gary will identify ORAFS members who deal with hydrosystems who might be willing to provide comment and update ORAFS' earlier letter (from years ago) about Snake River dams. ExCom will review prior to comment.
- Federal Columbia River Power System letter from Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA)—request for ORAFS to review and support their letter.
  - Action Item: Ben will decline the request from NSIA and indicate that ORAFS will be providing its own comments on the Columbia River Power system.
- Awards Committee

- Colleen is considering nominations. Ben presented the idea of creating an award for the most active external committee, but agrees with Colleen that the existing Award of Merit will suffice.

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

- Erik Kancler and Legislative Committee direction
  - Suction Dredge Mining White Paper Update
    - We have a couple summaries of suction dredge mining which were posted to our website in 2015, 2013. ORAFS wrote a white paper in March of 2013.
    - Action Item: Update the March 2013 paper given the current interest in a suction dredge mining moratorium.
      - Add information about the need for aquatic protection outside of the streambed and how upland mining can affect the supply and streams downstream of the mining.
  - Legislative Liaison
    - Erik has collected a lot of information about the upcoming session; Cory will forward an email from Erik to ExCom.
    - We need to decide how many times we should check in with Erik and who ORAFS' point person is.
      - Action Item: Ben will talk to Cory about who should be the point person.
- Status of Diversity Scholarship
  - The Diversity and Education & Outreach committees have been tasked with putting together an outline of the qualifications for the diversity scholarship. This will include who is eligible, what the applicants need to provide to the committee, and how will the committee will select a recipient. This is a one-time award that will acknowledge Denny Lassuy's donation.
  - Action Item: Cory will follow up with the Diversity and Education & Outreach committees about the Diversity scholarship. Jeremy would like to include this scholarship in his outreach to universities.
- Website improvements: Addition of Volunteer Page, and/or committee sign-up
  - Action Item: Cory will continue to follow up with our webmaster about moving forward with a place to sign up for committees and other volunteer opportunities on our website.

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

- Riverhouse on the Deschutes—venue logistics
  - Forest Service fish biologist meeting: They need a room for a boardroom style meeting.
  - BLM fish biologist meeting: Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning, they may need projector and screen. Gary will work with BLM to make sure that the room is set up with what they need.
  - Action Item: Gary will reach out to ODFW and ask if they have any room needs at the meeting.
  - There was a concern about whether the salmon served at the Riverhouse will be wild caught or farm-raised.
    - Action Item: Gary will ask the Riverhouse if the salmon they serve is hatchery or wild, if there is a wild option available and what the price difference would be.

### **Vice President – Jeremy Romer**

- Student Paper Judging Chairs
  - Johnny Armstrong and Luke Schultz.
- College List
  - Jeremy has the latest version of his list. There is another list on the google drive that he will incorporate into his list.
- Volunteer Coordinator
  - Jeremy is still looking for a volunteer coordinator.
- Bylaws, FSPIP, and Administrative handbook updates
  - Jeremy will go over the edits with John Boreman. We have not received approval from the Governing Board yet.

### **Student Representative – Jacob Peterson**

- The subunit held a Student Mentor Mixer; it went really well. It was a casual talk about research and internships with grad students.
- Ben and Jeremy will be giving a talk to the subunit on November 16.
- The OSU Fish and Wildlife Club would like to take a field trip to the Open House at the Fish Hatchery that the South Coast Anglers put on. It will be Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Jacob will let the students know that student volunteers at the ORAFS annual meeting will have free housing available on a first come first serve basis.

### **1700 Call for Adjournment**

Next conference call: **Thursday, November 10, 2016**