



Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

OR Chapter AFS: PO Box 8062 Portland, OR 97207-8062

TO: ORAFS Executive Committee

FROM: Josie Thompson, Secretary

SUBJECT: Minutes from ORAFS Executive Committee Teleconference, Thursday, January 11, 2017: 1500-1700

In attendance: Ben Clemens – Past President, Shivonne Nesbit - President, Kris Homel - President-Elect, Shannon Richardson - Vice President, Kevin Stertz – Internal Director, Dan Bingham – External Director, Katie Pierson - Treasurer, Josie Thompson – Secretary, Brooke Schlipf- OSU Student Subunit Representative, Rachel Lertora- OSU Student Subunit Representative, Anthony Pedro - MHCC Student Subunit Representative
Guests: Troy Brandt - Legislative Committee Chair, Erik Kancler - Legislative Liaison, Britta Baechler – WDAFS Student Representative

15:04 Call to Order/Welcome Additional Agenda Items

President – Shivonne Nesbit

Communications Check-In (AM/ExCom Calls)

- Kris will title annual meeting emails with AM Eugene in order to keep the conversations separate from regular ExCom business.
- All will send their reviews of meeting minutes in more quickly to improve turnaround.

Website Updates: Awards, Scholarships

- Shivonne believes she has made all website updates regarding awards and scholarship but asked ExCom to check and remind her if something is not.
- Shivonne reminded ExCom members that a Chapter timeline and information about Chapter history (which was compiled for the 50th anniversary) is available on the website under the “History” tab.

WDAFS ExCom Update

- WD Chapter of the Year Award - deadline is coming up on Feb 15, 2018
 - There are 10 Chapters within the Division.
 - This year they will likely split the award into two categories, small chapter award and large chapter award.
- Journal Access - A New National Membership Benefit Reminder
 - National members now have online access to seven journals.
- Survey Monkey Access
 - Shivonne noted that the Chapter has free access to a Survey Monkey account for polling members about AFS-related topics.
 - Beth Baird is the contact person for related questions.

- As a Chapter we have access to this account for free.
- Must obtain a login and password for our account first.
- New WD Committees
 - The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will be chaired by Cheyenne Owens. Shivonne is a member. If others are interested, let Shivonne know.
 - The Early Career Development Committee is chaired by Zack Baird from the Arizona / New Mexico Chapter. This committee is brand new. Shivonne mentioned that it would be great for an ExCom member to get involved.
 - The Financial Sustainability Committee will be chaired by Tony Siniscal. ().
- AM Business Meeting Agenda Items for the AM
 - In-coming ORAFS officer election results will be announced during the business meeting at the Annual Chapter Meeting in Eugene.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shivonne will send out an Annual Business Meeting agenda template after the call.
 - ACTION ITEM: All will look for Shivonne's email and provide suggestions.
 - Shivonne would like Brooke or Rachel to present for the OSU Subunit, as well as Anthony, for the MHCC Subunit.
 - There will be an External Director report including a quick summary of all committee activities and accomplishments.
 - Shivonne would also like to report on how we are thinking about using the first disbursement from the investment fund.
- Next Piscatorial Press Email
 - The next PP will include a reminder about the early registration deadline, new membership benefits and anything else that ExCom wants to include.

Legislative Update - Troy Brandt and Erik Kancler

Suction Dredge Mining Bill

- This bill restricts suction dredge mining in salmon and steelhead habitat, which may also help protect mussel and lamprey species.
- California's legislature had a similar bill which was challenged by a miner, and the case went to the State Supreme Court, which then decided to open more areas to suction dredge mining. The Oregon and Washington legislators have learned from this experience and are trying to craft something without similar loopholes.
- A DSL rulemaking committee and a stakeholder workgroup is leading the effort to develop the new regulations. This will include an update to their Essential Salmonid Habitat maps, to include more stream reaches.

Foskett Dace Delisting Petition

- The Foskett dace has been petitioned for delisting.
- Some ORAFS members have been involved.

HB 4015 - Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

- The following link was provided to this legislation being considered by the Oregon House of Representatives:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201711/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/139357>

- This bill could allocate \$13 million to implement elements of the ODFW's Conservation Strategy.
- An ODFW Task Force in 2016 made a recommendation to the legislature to set up a conservation and recreation fund that would benefit game and non-game species.
- The new legislation is being crafted so that the new state funding source and its purpose will make it eligible for federal funding match, possibly as much as a 3:1 federal to state match.
- Representative Helm is very interested in this bill as well as a number of conservation and outdoor recreation NGOs. Helm tried to get this legislation passed in the 2017 session. The language for the 2018 bill has been vetted, and the bill will be introduced.
- Erik asked if ExCom would be willing to take a look at the language and let him know if there are questions.
- However, the odds of the bill getting passed this session are not good, as it depends on voter approval of proposition 101. They could pass a bill to establish a fund, but wouldn't yet have funding, but that would let us pass one hurdle.
- Bills will be posted on the 21st and 22nd and Erik will forward us a list of those that seem relevant.

Investment Committee Update - Troy Brandt

- The investment fund is doing well, though currently lagging in the Standard and Poor's rating 2017 was a very good year for stocks.
- The account currently has \$342,000 including \$50,000 in CDs and cash. Most of the money is invested in index funds and a few individual stocks.
- The WD account has \$425,000.
- The ExCom can look at more of the details on the ORAFS Google Drive folder under "Investments" and "Schwab".
- The Committee is open to suggestions about investing in more socially responsible funds. Current investments in ETS may include some not-so environmentally responsible companies.
- Troy encouraged anyone to get involved that wants to learn more about investing, or has ideas.

Past-President- Ben Clemens

2018-19 ExCom Elections and Candidate Update

- All but one position, Internal Director, will run unopposed.
- ACTION ITEM: Ben will work with Shivonne to create an online ballot.

Bull Trout Library

- Phil Howell and Jason Dunham are accepting donations to create an online Bull Trout library.
- Available funds for donation requests based on ExCom's 2017-18 operational budget are down to \$296.
- ExCom members would like to know more about how the donations will be spent.
 - ACTION ITEM: Ben will ask Phil and Jason for information on how the donations will be spent, and also encourage them to come to us with a request during our next budget cycle.
- It was noted that the formation of the Salvelinus Confluentus Curiosity Society was driven by ORAFS members, as well as the effort to get Bull Trout listed.

- On a different note, Ben has not heard from anyone lately about the Cutthroat Trout Symposium, so the effort to organize it may have been tabled for another time.
- Shivonne mentioned that there are several line items in the budget for which we have had cost saving and proposed that ExCom members consider ways to spend that out before May 2018.

Professional Awards & Plaques

- Slide-in plaques for the following scholarships and awards have been approved to order:
 1. Diversity Scholarship
 2. Bond Scholarship
 3. AA Scholarship
 4. BS Scholarship
 5. MS Scholarship
 6. PhD Scholarship
 7. Best student oral presentation
 8. Runner up student oral presentation
 9. Best student poster
 10. Runner-up student poster (if enough entries to make worthwhile)
- Order approval will also be needed for engraved plaques for (some or all) of the following awards:
 1. Fishery Team of the Year
 2. Fishery Worker of the Year
 3. Lifetime Achievement
 4. Award of Merits (typically several)
 5. Bill Wingfield (not awarded every year)
 6. Broken Oar Award (not awarded in recent past)
- The scholarship and professional award winners will not be known until February.

Treasurer – Katie Pierson

Accounts Update

- Business Checking - December

12/01/2017 Balance	\$65,065.13
Credits	\$2,332.25
Transfers	\$0
Debits	-\$125.00
Checks	-\$135.00
12/31/2018 Balance	\$67,137.38

Credits include income from 123signup

Debits include the annual P.O. Box fee and One World Hosting domain renewal (website).

Checks include payment to artist for the Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award creation using funds raised by the Native Fish Committee.

- Investments **Will be updated quarterly (Next update Feb.)

1. WDAFS Endowment Fund – Oregon Chapter fund

Balance 09/31/2017	\$20,793.94
5-Month Gain/Loss	+\$1,706.04 (+8.2%)

2. Charles Schwab ORAFS Investment Account

Balance 09/30/2017	\$337,341.08
Transfers	\$0
Lifetime Gain/loss	+25,838.14 (9.2%)
Equities/ETFs/Bonds	\$306,076.28
Cash & Cash Invested	\$31,264.80

Jerry Bouck Scholarship Update

- The scholarship organizers (Christine Moffitt and Steve Bouck) have asked about the option of donating art to the auction event at the AM, but with 100% of the proceeds going toward the J.B. Scholarship.
- Though the ExCom is very supportive of the Scholarship, the Annual Meeting budget is tight and proceeds serve as our main funding source. Therefore, we will not be auctioning off anything for the specific Jerry Bouck Scholarship.
- ACTION ITEM: Katie will follow up with the scholarship organizers and discuss some alternative options such as conducting the auction for this artwork at a separate time, or through our website after the meeting.

Hutton Scholarship Update

- The Hutton Scholarship Program has not yet invoiced the Chapter for the 2018 scholar ExCom voted to sponsor.
- The OSU Fish and Wildlife Department is currently working on compiling a mentor list, and this will have to go through an approval process.
- However, it should still be possible for the Chapter to sponsor a scholar for 2018.
- It is possible that the program has been through some recent changes in staffing and administration, which may slow down the mentor approval and sponsor processes.

Disbursement Timeline

- Katie provided background information on the disbursement strategy.
- ExCom has had a brainstorming session on how the funds could be spent, but no decisions have been made, and time is running short. It would be ideal to have decisions made prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Katie made a proposal to survey Chapter members to see how they would prefer the money to be spent.
- Josie proposed adding the survey questions to the election poll, which should go live on February 1st.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shivonne and Ben will work together on formulating survey questions regarding disbursement spending decisions, and creating the election poll / survey before the 1st.

Fish Out of Water Waiver (FOOW)

- Katie made a motion to grant up to 10 FOOW waivers this year, so that she can put a solid number into the meeting budget.
- There was some discussion over the decision behind limiting it at 10. Mainly, that has been the limit in the past.
- Ben seconded the motion.
- No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Katie made a motion to approve the FOOW waiver applications recently submitted by Julie Sharp and Sarah Hart.
- Kris seconded the motion.
- No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President – Shannon Richardson

New MHCC Bylaws & Revised OSU Bylaws Approval

- John Boreman, AFS Constitutional Consultant, provided a quick review of both MHCC's new Bylaws and OSU's Bylaw revisions but requested a version of OSU's bylaw revisions with changes tracked.
 - ACTION ITEM: Brooke will look at the versions she has to see if there is a tracked changes version.
- There was some misunderstanding about the process approval for the revision of the OSU Bylaws. The Chapter membership does not need to vote to approve; only ExCom needs to vote to approve the revisions.
- ExCom also needs to vote to approve the final MHCC bylaws and petition, so they can be sent to the National Management Committee for final approval.
 - ACTION ITEM: All - Shannon will send the final version of both sets of bylaws to all ExCom and make a motion to approve for a vote via email.

AM Student-Mentor Match-Up Update

- Shannon has had one student express interest in participating in the Meeting Mentor program.

Auctioneer Chosen for AM - Contract Ready To-Be-Signed

- The contract is straightforward and ExCom already approved the contract cost at the Fall Retreat meeting.
- ExCom agreed that no additional discussion is necessary and the contract for Mr. Dorsey can be signed.

Student Representative – Brooke Schlipf, Anthony Pedro,

MHCC Updates

- The new Chapter petition and bylaw approval process has involved setting up a couple of committees.
- The club (and soon-to-be subunit) has their first official meeting next week.
- They are hosting a fish-themed art event where they plan to have salmon profiles cut out of wood and ready for people to paint.
- The subunit is working on their poster for the upcoming AM in Eugene, and trying to get their members to register, but the cost is prohibitive for some.
- Anthony asked Brooke how the OSU subunit runs their elections.

OSU Updates

- Rachel is back from studying abroad in Australia where she focused on marine science classes.
- The subunit recently hosted a movie night where they showed the “Chasing Coral” documentary.
- Upcoming events include a fish printing workshop and elections (after spring break) in early April. Brooke and Rachel are both running for leadership positions.
- They continue to spread the word to all OSU fisheries students about the Chapter meeting. They have reserved a few hotel rooms for students who are not able to sign up as volunteers. This meeting lodging support is included in their current work plan and budget.

Internal Director – Kevin Stertz

2018 Spring Retreat

- The dates have already been decided: April 27-29.
- Kevin is still looking for a venue, but he will let Katie know as soon as one is found.

2020 Annual Meeting Venue

- Kevin received a proposal from the Riverhouse in Bend today.
 - ACTION ITEM: Kevin plans to distribute this to everyone before the next meeting in preparation for a vote on the 2020 meeting location.

External Director – Dan Bingham

External Committee AM Update

- Dan hasn’t heard from any External Committee Chairs about attending the brunch social or putting a poster together for the Annual meeting, but believes that most will make it to the brunch.
- Dan also hasn’t heard from and External Committee Chairs about their intention to have committee meeting at the AM (and a preferred time) except for the Native Fish Committee.
- Ryan Battleson with the Freshwater should be having one.

Fish Culture Committee and Culture Conference Support - TABLED

Outreach & Education Committee

- Comments and suggestions on the updated Chapter brochure have been sent to Communication Committee Chair, Jim Yeo.
- Proposed grant changes – TABLED.

Secretary – Josie Thompson

Meeting Minutes Update

- ExCom agreed that Josie should prioritize finalizing the fall retreat meeting minutes for a vote over completion of the November and December ExCom monthly minutes.

Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites Invitation

- Josie will be staying at the Ashland Hills Hotel over President’s Day weekend and has an appointment with their Events team to tour the facilities that Saturday.
- The purpose of the stay and tour is to determine whether this venue may be suitable for hosting a future Chapter meeting or workshop.

President-Elect – Kris Homel

Annual Meeting Update

- Kris asked ExCom if we want to look into the costs required to provide a live streaming option for attending the eDNA workshop, and possibly for viewing plenary talks.
 - Katie asked about how the registration would work, as it may have to be done outside of the meeting registration website.
 - ACTION ITEM: Kris is going to put together an email about it and send out to us and decide on Feb. call.
- Kris reminded ExCom about the AM call next Tuesday.
- AM Program Timelines and Needs
 - Kris still needs photos of Shannon and Dan for the program.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shannon and Dan will send Kris a headshot for the meeting program.
 - Kris told Dan that she needs to know when the Committee meetings are going to be held at the AM for the program's meeting schedule.
 - ACTION ITEM: Dan will contact the external committee chairs before the end of the week and will correspond with Kris about any other committee meetings and preferred times.

The meeting was adjourned at: 17:01

Next conference call: February 8, 2018