



# 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, Friday, Dec 15, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

In attendance: Ben Clemens – Past President, Shivonne Nesbit - President, Shannon Richardson – Vice President, Katie Pierson – Treasurer, Josie Thompson – Secretary, Kevin Stertz – Internal Director, Dan Bingham - External Director, Brooke Schlipf- OSU Student Subunit Representative  
GUESTS: Troy Brandt (Legislative Committee Chair), Erik Kancler (Legislative Liaison), Joe Gregoire (Mt Hood Community College, MHCC, substituting for Anthony Pedro, MHCC Student Chapter Leader), Britta Baechler (WDAFS Student Representative), Ryan Battleson (Education and Outreach Chair)

## **Call to Order 15:03**

- ExCom introduced themselves to the guests on the call.

## Legislative Liaison Update - Erik Kancler and Troy Brandt

- For the upcoming 2018 Short Session it is difficult to know exactly what bills will emerge
- Rep. Helm is going to introduce bill regarding fees that would go towards conservation and recreation funding which would be allocated to ODFW. The bill is designed so that the funding could be matched by federal funds.
- It would be great to have a letter of support from ExCom for this legislation, and Erik will have more information about this in a couple of weeks.
- Ben noted that he is still working on a White Paper with Ian Tatum regarding the effects of pesticides into waterways Rep. Paul Holdey's office in Eugene continues to push for legislation regarding pesticide and herbicide management and reduction with a focus on water quality (in municipal water) and pollinator health.
- Erik said that a White Paper focusing on the effects of pesticides on aquatic species would be helpful for supporting Holdey's legislation, especially if it was ready for distribution to legislators and their staff members at the end of the 2018 session.
- Troy said the suction dredge mining rulemaking is still underway. Miners are satisfied with the current rules which have restricted mining in ESH (Essential Salmon Habitat) habitat.
- Laura Tesler, The Wildlife Society Chapter's Legislative Committee Chair, has informed Erik about a bill regarding off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Owyhee Wilderness Area and potential effects at stream crossings. He plans to talk to her more about it soon and gather more details.

## **President – Shivonne Nesbit**

Communications Check-In (Annual Meeting (AM)/ExCom calls) and AM Planning Handbook Reminder

- When on AM calls (which may include non-ExCom members) and issues come up that are ExCom business, all should remember to table these discussions/votes (Fish-Out-Of-Water Waivers etc.) for an ExCom-only call.
- All ExCom was reminded to keep notes about any holes or deficiencies found in the AM Planning Handbook, and to think about whether the current content provides enough information and detail for the next person that assumes those duties to plan a successful meeting.

#### Website Updates: Listservs, Awards, Scholarships

- ACTION ITEM: Shivonne will add new award and scholarship language updates, and assist Lora in listserv updates.
- ACTION ITEM: Ben will provide Shivonne with an announcement for the website about a call for Professional Award nominations.
- All were reminded to send website update items to Shivonne and items for the AM website through Kris.

#### MHCC Presentation/Talk

- Shivonne went to MHCC to talk to students about ORAFS and building one's career. She said it was invigorating and refreshing to talk to students who are engaged and know that fisheries is definitely the field in which they wish to work.
- Shivonne has saved a canned presentation about ORAFS etc. for fisheries students that any of us can use if we want to set something up with a group of students.
- Joe said that the instructors at MHCC have been really helpful with promoting the upcoming AM.

#### Monthly WDAFS ExCom Meeting Update

- There was discussion around the web services that different chapters use, and costs being incurred for AM registration site use. Fees and taxes can vary between 6-9% of money exchanged. ORAFS pays 6.6% for money exchanges on 123signup (AM registration service).
- None of the Chapters or the WD has found software which can handle both abstract submissions and meeting registration.
- Several Chapters have migrated their websites so that they are located within the National AFS umbrella site. ORAFS has decided to stick with One World Hosting for now (\$250 every two years for maintenance, plus a domain cost of \$35 per year).
- Mike Meeuwig and Lora Tennant have a working document that they update continually which outlines our website details. Shivonne asked them to update it and move it to shared location (Google Docs folder).
- WD is setting up a financial sustainability committee, as well as Early Career Professionals and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committees. ORAFS can provide input and support for these committees, which are already soliciting members.
- The WDAFS meeting in Anchorage is in May and Kris should put this on her calendar. Rooms are \$200 per night, which is a little high so need to check the funding allocated for Kris to attend and plan appropriately.
  - ACTION ITEM: Kris will look into how much money we have set aside to spend on WDAFS meeting attendance.
- WDAFS has updated the language for several awards including the Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award, which will likely be split into two awards; one for small chapters and one for large. This separation is intended to recognize the difference in membership and resources between

large and small chapters. The chapter membership total that will be used to divide the award into small and large categories is under discussion.

- The next Piscatorial Press submission deadline is December 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - ACTION ITEM: All will submit their PP information to Natalie by December 20th and Dan and Kevin will forward a reminder to the internal and external committees.
  - ACTION ITEM: Shivonne will ask the PP editor to send these reminders directly to the committees in the future.

### **Past-President- Ben Clemens**

#### Future ExCom Updates

- Ben announced the names of the people that he has recruited to run for certain offices and in which offices the incumbents will be running unopposed.
- ExCom discussed other people who might be interested in running for an office.
- Joe Gregoire, MHCC was informed of the voting process and how members are notified about candidates and elections. Joe is interested in providing MHCC students with more information about ExCom, the offices, and how the election process works.

### **Treasurer – Katie Pierson**

#### Treasurer's Report & Current Budget

- Accounts Update
  - Business Checking

Starting Balance 11/01/2017	\$60,955.42
Credits	\$5,109.71
Transfers	\$0
Debits	-\$0
Checks	-\$1,000.00
Ending Balance 11/30/2017	\$65,065.13

Credits are income from 123signup, the Diversity Scholarship and an Annual Meeting sponsorship.

Check was for ORAFS sponsorship of the WDAFS-sponsored cutthroat trout book.

- Investments \*\*Updated quarterly

<u>WDAFS Endowment Fund – Oregon Chapter Fund</u>	
Balance 09/31/2017	\$20,793.94
5-Month Gain/Loss	+\$1,706.04 (+8.2%)

<u>Charles Schwab ORAFS Investment Account</u>	
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

- Shivonne said that it would be helpful for Katie to send out the Excel budget spreadsheet for each monthly call.

- Shivonne mentioned that there have been some savings gained from the two trips she has taken, and would like to see the savings added back into the budget, especially for when we have funding request decisions to make on our on monthly calls.
  - ACTION ITEM: Katie said she will figure out a way to do add these kinds of savings back into the budget that is transparent.
- The Chapter currently has \$296 left for sponsorships unless there is a reallocation.
- Since it would be helpful for current and future ExCom to know exactly who we sponsored and at what levels, this is something that could be noted in the Budget Tracking Worksheet which contains this type of information for the last two years.

#### Summary of Recent Meeting on First Investment Fund Disbursement

- The meeting was mainly a brainstorming session for ideas on how we could spend the disbursement.
- All agreed that it was important to spend it on membership investments, and trying to benefit as many members as possible.
- There were also ideas to invest in infrastructure needs, the website, technology, etc. and possibly a WebEx option for “attending” the eDNA workshop.
  - Waiting to see how much it would cost at the Hilton to set up WebEx and a phone line.
- A decision was made to survey the membership about their preferences on how the money is spent and a survey will be forthcoming in January or February.
  - ACTION ITEM: Shivonne will also engage past ExCom members for their thoughts on disbursement spending.
- Shivonne reminded everyone to look at the spreadsheet of ideas and add their own.

#### **Vice President – Shannon Richardson**

##### Student Subunit Bylaws Update

- In the November 28th email, the following timeline for new bylaws (MHCC) and bylaw changes (OSU) was communicated.

*ExCom review/comments due: December 8, 2017*

*Revised drafts back to Shannon: January 5, 2018*

*Unofficial AFS review with John Boreman: Send 1/8/2018, request response by 2/2/2018*

*Notify ORAFS membership with links to documents: February 12, 2018*

*Present at ORAFS Business Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018*

*Vote at Business Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018*

*Once passed, bylaws to AFS Management Committee for official review: April 2, 2018*

- Shannon has not received comments from most of us for OSU’s Bylaw updates.
  - ACTION ITEM: All need to review OSU Subunit Bylaw ASAP and send to Shannon or Brooke.
- Anthony has sent Shannon the MHCC Bylaws and she will send them out to ExCom today. Though the original comment deadline was the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, Shannon set a new deadline of December 31st.
  - ACTION ITEM: All need to review the MHCC Bylaws and send comments to Shannon by December 31st.
- Shivonne noted that the MHCC bylaws shouldn’t require much editing, because they are already in the correct format, and that these are mainly shared for transparency.

### Meeting Mentoring Pilot Project

- Shannon gave a summary of what the AM Mentoring Project is.
- This year it will be a pilot project and include just a few mentors and students.
- We are going to wait until the meeting's early registration deadline has passed and then reach out to registered students about the opportunity and also ask the selected mentors to provide suggestions.
- Shannon would like to remain involved in this next year.
- There won't be more than five mentors this year. There isn't enough time or early interest to find more or to run through a formal selection process.
- Shannon is also thinking of having a pre-AM meeting with OSU and MHCC students about what to expect at the annual meeting. But she might do it via webinar.

### **Student Representative – Brooke Schlipf**

#### WDAFS Student Colloquium Report

- The R-workshop was very helpful, the poster session was also great, and Brooke is looking forward to helping plan the next WD Student Colloquium.
- Britta (WD Student Representative) said that if Oregon does get chosen to host the next WD Student Colloquium, she will choose the venue, and she and Brooke will be working on it together.

#### Past/Upcoming Subunit Events

- Corvallis Environmental Center came and talked to the Subunit about their volunteering opportunities.
- They have also recently had film festival and study break bowling events.
- Some grad students have even attended some of these events, which is a new and welcome change.

MHCC Updates - None

### **Ryan Battleson – Education & Outreach Committee**

#### ORAFS Chapter Brochure Review

- Ryan said that our current Chapter brochure was updated for the 50th anniversary. The idea is to streamline the content and appearance so it looks more like the National AFS brochure.
- Some changes have been made, but Ryan is asking ExCom to take a look at it and provide comments back about the content and photos.
- There was some discussion among those who have already had a chance to look at it including a need to pare down the member benefits sections and the scholarships information (with a website link).
- Many agreed that it should include a nod to our Outstanding Chapter of the Year awards, more photos, and photos that include more women and more overall diversity.
- Ryan said he will send the current version to ExCom and cc Jim Yeo
  - ACTION ITEM: Dan will send out the latest version to ExCom with a deadline for comments.

#### Discussion on Scholarships for Teachers to Attend AM

- We usually seek applications from teachers interested in attending our AM.
- Ryan proposed a different use for this allocated funding. He thinks it would be more beneficial for elementary school teachers to have their costs covered for a workshop or training related to

watershed health or fish habitat education. Another option would be to supply funding for classroom supplies.

- It was pointed out that there are other groups that have more experience selecting teachers for grants and that have a lot of teacher contacts (they have the infrastructure) compared to ORAFS.
- Shivonne agreed with Ryan and thought this proposal would have greater reach.
- ACTION ITEM: Shivonne and Ryan will work on this together and come up with a formal motion to vote on via email and / or the next monthly call.
- Shivonne said she will be in touch with Ryan early next year.
- Katie added that the motion should include specific language that describes how three different budget line items would be collapsed into one or more new line items.

### **Internal Director – Kevin Stertz**

#### Spring Retreat

- ACTION ITEM: All - complete Doodle poll Kevin sent for availability.

#### 2020 Annual Meeting location

- Kevin said he would like to reserve a location at least two years in advance, especially in order to make sure we can get the dates we want.
- There was discussion about having the AM in Bend for two years in a row, in which case the Chapter could then hold the meeting at an I-5 or western Oregon location on odd years, which are non-Western Groundfish Conference years (when it is easier for marine fisheries folks to attend the ORAFS AM).

#### Ashland Site Visit Opportunity

- The Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites have offered us a free two-night stay for whoever could go for a weekend and get a tour of the facilities and talk to the Events Manager about our meeting needs.

### **External Director – Dan Bingham**

#### Fish Culture Committee – FY2017-2018 Funds \$1500

- ExCom and the external committee were unable to advertise the Fish Culture Meeting scholarship before the conference, so these funds have gone unspent.
- Shivonne and Ryan and Dan will discuss offline and report back to ExCom.

#### Ad-hoc Communications Committee Update

- See discussion with Ryan Battleson about the Chapter brochure above.

### **Secretary – Josie Thompson**

#### October 2017 Meeting Minutes Draft – Vote for Approval

- Shannon made a motion to approve the October 2017 ExCom Monthly Minutes.
- Kevin seconded the motion.
- No discussion.
- The motion passed unanimously

Summary of the Information Provided at the Oregon Aquatic Resources Mitigation Framework Stakeholder Meeting

- The Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of State Lands are close to unveiling a new mitigation framework for removal-fill permits and wetland impacts which will be based on wetland functionality more than just acreage. Many of the consultants present at the meeting seemed to be familiar with this type of assessment, but had concerns about how much longer it will take them to finalize permit applications.
- They are also hoping to unveil a new mitigation framework for removal-fill impacts to streams that occur during instream work / construction, but no details were provided. They plan to run a pilot version of the stream mitigation application, possibly with Oregon Department of Transportation, or another sister agency, in 2018.

**President-Elect – Kris Homel**

Annual Meeting Update

- Current abstract submissions now total 152 oral presentations and 20 posters, and they are still coming in. This is a large number of submissions and a good sign.

**17:00 Meeting adjourned**

**Next conference call: January 11, 2018**