



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, February 8, 2018: 1500-1700

In attendance: Shivonne Nesbit - 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: Tony Siniscal - Financial Sustainability Committee Chair, Erik Kancler - Legislative Liaison, Troy Brandt – Legislative Committee Chair

Call to Order /Additional Agenda Items/Establish a Quorum - 15:03

Erik Kancler (Legislative Liaison) & Troy Brandt (Legislative Committee Chair)

Summaries of Current Legislation Related to Oregon Fish and Fisheries Conservation

- [HB 4015](#) Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund
HB 4015 would establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee. The creation of this fund was recommended by the ODFW Alternative Funding Task Force. The funding would be dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, administration, enforcement, and other activities that protect, maintain or enhance the native fish and wildlife of the state. The bill appropriates \$13 million to the fund for the biennium ending in June 2019.
 - This time-sensitive bill is supported by Representative Helm, Chair of the House Environmental Resource Committee, and is coming from the Natural Resources Committee.
 - The funding could also help ODFW keep license fees down, or at current rates.
 - Many conservation and environmental interests would prefer to see all of the money going straight to conservation and restoration work.
 - Hunter and angler groups will only support the bill if there is an immediate reduction in license costs.
 - Other groups approve of the way it is balanced out.
 - The Oregon State government is looking at a \$20 million gap in their budget right now due to federal cuts, so it seems unlikely that this will pass as written.
 - But another option would be to pass it and dedicate just a small amount of funds for the next biennium, which would be used to put together a committee

and a pilot program so that when/if federal funding is approved (\$40 million, see HR 4647 below) they can make an allocation to match it.

- Erik is asking ORAFS for a letter of support, but ExCom doesn't have a sufficient quorum on this conference call to vote.
 - ACTION ITEM: ALL - Shivonne is going to send an email to ExCom and make a motion to write a letter of support for HB 4015. ExCom needs to respond quickly with their votes.
 - ACTION ITEM: Assuming the motion passes, Shivonne is going to work on a letter of support for HB 4015 from the Chapter, and send to Erik for edits by Monday.

- [HR 4647](#) Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA; federal legislation)
The Recovering America's Wildlife Act dedicates \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. Funds in this program would be distributed to the state fish and wildlife agencies based on a formula. Oregon would be able to access approximately \$52 million per biennium for implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which identifies conservation actions aimed at protecting 294 of Oregon's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and habitats across the state
 - If both this bill and Oregon HB 4015 passed, then the funding dedicated by HB 4015 would be matched with RAWA funding.
 - Whether or not the federal act passes, it would be good for Oregon to begin dedicating its own funding to this work.

- Oregon Ocean Science Trust
 - This trust was created via Senate legislation in 2013 but has never been funded.
 - \$500,000 is now being requested for the trust.
 - ACTION ITEM: Erik will send us more info.

Tony Siniscal (Financial Sustainability Committee Chair)

Summary of Recent Revisions to the Financial Sustainability Plan and Investment Policy (FSPIP)

- Tony sent out the latest version of the policy to ExCom during the week of January 29th, 2018 for final comments.
- Tony reminded ExCom that the FSPIP is the culmination of a long term vision by previous ExCom members (and now by the Financial Sustainability Committee [FSC]) to manage ORAFS' funds for real returns and long-term sustainability for ORAFS.
- The revisions (which ExCom is being asked to approve) include a few outstanding items that had been approved at the ExCom Fall Retreat, and ones to reduce redundancies and improve the language flow. Here are some highlights of the changes:
 - Attempted to tighten up and add consistency to the language/terms/jargon. The next step will be to add a Glossary.
 - The reorganization included adding a dedicated section to explain how the various ORAFS budgets work and why/how they were created. This should be especially useful for the incoming President, who needs to know how much they have to spend.
 - Content changes include some guidance on creating an operating budget and that it will be the running three-year average of the profit made over the last

- three ORAFS Annual Meetings. This helps cushion the budgets for the volatility or changes in meeting profits each year.
 - Content changes also include information about the different Chapter funds (Checking, Savings, Investments, etc.) and deleting language about keeping the Chapter's money in the Western Division AFS investment account.
 - The 2017 Disbursement Plan was added.
 - Finally, the target asset mix was changed. Originally the minimum weight of our fixed income asset was set at 25%, but now the required minimum has been reduced to 15%. This gives the FSC more flexibility to move money into other asset classes.
- These changes have been vetted and approved by the FSC.
- ACTION ITEM: All ExCom members will review and get any edit's back to Tony in PDF form before the FSC's meeting in one week.

Annual Meeting Update

- An AM meeting invite has been sent for next Thursday. It will include a 30 minute meeting among ExCom members prior to the AM Committee call to talk about the meeting budget.

President – Shivonne Nesbit

Communications Check-In

Google Docs & Google Calendar

- Shivonne is moving toward providing the ExCom monthly meeting agenda and supporting documents via the Google Drive folder.

Elections

- The 2018-19 ExCom Elections ballot is now complete on Survey Monkey. The ballot includes a couple of questions about preferred use of the 2017 disbursement funds.
- ACTION ITEM: Shivonne will be sending this ballot link out to ORAFS members soon via email, and will also include a pitch for the Annual Meeting workshops and Spawning Run/Carcass Crawl.

Funding Requests and Unspent Funds

- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies [WAFWA](#) Letter - July 12-17, 2018 Eugene
 - Shivonne received a letter from Curt Melcher, ODFW Director and current WAFWA President, about the WAFWA meeting being hosted in Eugene in June. The letter presented information about vendor booth costs and a sponsorship request.
 - A discussion and a vote on whether to sponsor the meeting was tabled for the following ExCom meeting.
- Trouts and Charrs of the World Book
 - Jack Williams sent the Chapter a request via email for \$2,000 to assist with publishing costs for this new book.
 - Discussion TABLED for next meeting when Ben can be present.

- Bull Trout Library - TABLED for next meeting when Ben can be present.

Western Division AFS (WDAFS) ExCom Update

- The application deadline for WDAFS Chapter of the Year Award has been changed from February 15th to March 15th.
- Shivonne participated in the first WDAFS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting, chaired by Cheyenne Owens.
- Zack Baird, Arizona / New Mexico Chapter President, asked Shivonne about ORAFS' recent efforts to support early career development and said that WDAFS plans on creating an Early Career Professionals Committee.

Treasurer – Katie Pierson

Annual Meeting Registration Update

- 388 people have registered and there are 39 presenters who have not registered yet.
- 16 vendors have registered, and sponsorships currently total \$5,700.
- 9 people are registered for the communications workshop, and 9 for the large floodplain restoration workshop, plus 22 current registrants for the eDNA workshop.

Fish Out of Water Waivers (FOOW)

- The following FOOW application awards were approved by ExCom vote via email.
 - A motion was made by Katie to approve FOOWs for GV and NS on January 18th.
 - The motion was seconded by Kris.
 - No discussion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Katie to approve two more FOOWs for CM and CS on January 27th.
 - The motion was seconded by Ben.
 - No discussion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
- 6 Fish Out of Water Waivers (FOOW) have now been awarded in total, and one of the waiver awardees may not need theirs. Katie expects to receive two more FOOW applications for consideration soon.

Treasurer's Report

- Accounts Update
 - Business Checking - January

Balance 01/01/2018	\$67,137.38
Credits	\$10,666.38
Transfers	\$0
Debits	-\$769.88
Checks	-\$1000.00
01/31/2018	\$76,033.88

Credits are income from 123signup registrations and AM sponsorships.

Debits were to pay One World Hosting for 2 years of Chapter website administration, a payment to the Eugene fire marshall for the annual meeting vendor permit, plus plaque purchases and the Chapter's 501c3 registration to the Secretary of State.

Checking debit went to Erik Kancler to pay for his services.

- Investments ** Updated quarterly
WDAFS Endowment Fund – Oregon Chapter fund
Balance 01/31/2018 \$22,471.08

Charles Schwab ORAFS Investment Account	
Balance 1/14/2018	\$345,170.74
Transfers	\$0
Lifetime Gain/loss	+36,192.69 (12.46%)
Equities/ETFs/Bonds	\$326,584.76
Cash & Cash Invested	\$18,585.98

- In a related but separate discussion the subject of tracking visits to each part of the Chapter website came up, as it would be helpful to know which parts of our webpage people are visiting.
 - ACTION ITEM - Ask Lora Tennant if she knows how to use Google Tracker and if she can use it to track traffic on our various website pages.

Disbursement Funds Discussion

- ExCom has yet to make a decision about how 2017 disbursement funds will be spent, though many ideas have been listed through brainstorming sessions.
- Questions have been sent out to the membership about preferred ways to spend the funds, but there will undoubtedly be many different responses. Ideally, the funds should go towards something that benefits all or most of the Chapter, but that is difficult to do.
- This is the first time that ExCom has been given a disbursement from the investment account.
- It was suggested that the 2018-19 ExCom sets up a more formal process and timeline for future decisions on disbursement funds allocation.
- Shivonne would like ExCom to further discuss the allocation of these funds in the near future and before the Annual Meeting.
- During the next Annual Meeting Planning Team call on Thursday a proposal to use some of the disbursement funds to fill our AM workshops with students will be proposed.

Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) Bylaws & Petition -

- On January 18th, Shannon made a motion via email to approve the petition and bylaws submitted by MHCC to AFS and ORAFS, the result of which would be the creation of a new student subunit in Oregon.
- The motion was seconded by Ben.

- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Anthony said they will now be sent to the National Committee to be approved by their attorney.

Student Representative – Brooke Schlipf, Anthony Pedro, Britta Baechler

OSU's Past/Upcoming Subunit Events

- Had a beyond graduation event for students that aren't interested in going to graduate school.
- Had a fish printing workshop over the weekend, which was attended by 8 people.
- Had a professional conference preparation presentation including a general overview of what to expect, what to look forward to, and dining etiquette tips.
- Have a Citizen Science Day event coming up in the spring.
- Have a spring break trip in March to the Olympic peninsula where the group will visit a hatchery and a habitat restoration site.

OSU Bylaws Timeline

- The Society Headquarters staff provided their comments to Brooke.
- Brooke is sending the latest draft of their Bylaws Revisions out to the OSU subunit for a vote in two days.
- Brooke and Rachel wanted to know what their official titles should be in the Bylaws. They are currently referred to as the ORAFS Liaisons but would prefer to be called Student Subunit Representatives. All agreed that this is suitable.
- Rachel and Brooke also wanted to know when the OSU Student Subunit was first formed.
 - ACTION ITEM: Shivonne suggested asking Dan Edge or Carl Schreck, and asked to include the date of when the revisions were accepted in the new version of the bylaws.
- Brooke and Rachel are finishing their Outstanding Student Subunit application.

MHCC Update

- Over the next two weekends some members of the MHCC club are going to assist with the Hagg Lake spider blocks construction and placement. Spider blocks are artificial habitat structures and attractants for warmwater fish that can improve angling opportunities.
- The club also had representatives from the Columbia Riverkeepers, the Yakama Nation and the USFWS come and talk to them about natural resource issues.
- The MHCC's poster for the AM is done and designed.
- Shivonne mentioned that there is a PP section for Subunit updates, and encouraged Anthony to submit an update for the next issue.
 - ACTION ITEM - Shivonne will send an email to Natalie PP

*Student Liaison Update at the Business Meeting

- Shivonne noted that the representative will only have five minutes at the AM Business Meeting to provide a summary of their Subunit work over the last year, and this time will be split between OSU and MHCC.

Internal Director – Kevin Stertz

2018 Spring Retreat

- Kevin is still actively seeking a location for the ExCom Spring Retreat.

2020 Annual Meeting Venue

- Kevin has received proposals from the Eugene Hilton and Bend Riverhouse and he has placed these on the ORAFS Google Drive.

Update on Eugene Annual Meeting Planning

- ExCom discussed whether alternative drink options will be available at the meeting for non-drinkers and underage attendees. Kevin said that there will be.
- If students are arriving on Tuesday night for the workshops, it is possible that more rooms may have to be blocked off.
- ACTION ITEM: Kevin said that he will check in with Kris about it.

External Director – Dan Bingham

Education & Outreach Committee

- Education Grants
 - Ryan Battleson, the Committee Chair has selected an Education Grant Award winner for education materials.
 - Shivonne asked Dan to gather more information about how Ryan and the committee are promoting this grant opportunity.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Scholarship

- There are two applicants for the DEI scholarship.
- Gabe, the DEI Committee Chair, is going to administer the scoring process.

Annual Meeting Update

- Two external committees have committed to putting committee posters together for the poster session: the Native Fish and the Freshwater Habitat committees.

Secretary – Josie Thompson

November Meeting Minutes

- Josie made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.
- Kevin seconded the motion.
- No discussion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Fall Retreat Minutes

- The ExCom discussed when it is important to leave people's names out of the meeting minutes, such as when they have declined an invitation or have not yet accepted.
- ACTION ITEM: Josie will prepare any last questions about the fall retreat minutes for the next monthly conference call so that a final vote can be made to approve them.
- Josie was asked to hold off on sending out any more meeting minutes for review or approval until the Annual Meeting is over.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 17:01

Next conference call: March 8, 2018

