



Oregon Chapter
of the
American Fisheries Society
OR Chapter AFS: PO Box 8062 Portland, OR 97207-8062

To: ORAFS Executive Committee
From: Andrea Carpenter, Secretary
Subject: Minutes from the ORAFS Executive Committee Teleconference - Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:00 PM – 4:40 PM

In attendance: Peter Stevens – President, Scott Heppell – President-elect, Becky Flitcroft – Past President/Interim Treasurer, Peggy Kavanagh – Internal Director, Ryan Branstetter - External Director, Kaylea Berry – MHCC subunit, Elena Eberhardt – OSU subunit

Call to Order/Additional Agenda Items/Establish a quorum (3:00) - Peter Stevens

- Peter welcomed Elena. He briefly described the process, which included Robert's Rules, and the mention that all participants have a voice and a vote at ORAFS.

Approval of Minutes (3:05) - Andrea Carpenter

- Peggy motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, Ryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Simpson Concept Discussion (3:10) - All

- Peter provided overview that overall, the concept is broad – breaching of the lower Snake River dams – and the letter not strong enough, in the eyes of ORAFS. Additionally, the Society won't engage until WD (Western Division) aligns. ORAFS can either wait for WD process to play out or take this on as an ORAFS letter. We can stick with our current path, and strengthen our concerns. This is really important and we can kick it back to the Legislative Committee and Ed Bowles.
- Scott doesn't think that they're mutually We (ORAFS) can put out our own letter simply by adding a couple of sentences regarding the environmental concerns and mentioning the role of sovereign nations while maintain the key broad views that we support.
- Another option is to restructure the letter by stating the primary points up front, otherwise these are lost and our opportunity wasted. Add tribal consultation, environmental concerns, and ORAFS official policy stance to the opening paragraph.
- Peter proposes that Ryan gets language to Peter by 4/16; Peter reorganizes the letter and strengthens our thoughts by 4/19. That week, he circulates it to ExCom for feedback and then to Legislative Committee.
- Action item: Ryan will edit the ORAFS version of the letter and send it to Peter by 4/16.

Spring ExCom Retreat (3:40) - Peter Stevens

- Peter will send out the agenda for the 2021 retreat soon, following the format that we followed virtually in 2020. Meeting: Friday 4/23 from 1:00-3:00 and Saturday, 4/24 from 10:00-12:00.
- Reminder to outgoing officers to not only talk to the incoming volunteer, but also provide a written summary and/or timeline of actions/events. These are meant to be living documents, so add and update once it is in your hands. If you didn't receive one, create one for the next person. Friday will be Peter's final meeting of his tenure and will talk about the history/background. The second day will focus on Scott's agenda, budget, and looking forward to the new year.
- Becky mentioned that Elizabeth (former ExCom treasurer) and Adrienne (incoming Treasurer) were officemates in La Grande and have had conversations about the Treasurer position.

Scholarship Honoraria

- Some speakers are not able to accept honoraria and want to donate it to a scholarship fund. ORAFS doesn't have a dedicated fund for scholarships since they come out of the general budget. It might be more work for the Treasurer to create/track a new scholarship for these purposes since they'd be a restricted fund.
- Becky thinks the Treasurer would not want to track another thing, but also isn't the typical personality in this position. How much money would we need for a special investment to pay for itself? How large would it need to be to pay out a ~\$2000 scholarship? DEI donor wants to make DEI part of an endowment, which means another scholarship account some years down the line. Bouck is designed to be self-perpetuating and not part of the ORAFS budget. Ask Fiscal Sustainability Committee (FSC) how to divvy dividends into pots.
- Scott thinks we need to look at this from the standpoint of potential donors who want to see their contribution going to something specific, in this case supporting students. It may take a restricted account. After 3-5 years, there would be enough money (from returns on investments) to fund a scholarship. We could also use it to cover if something falls out, like DEI endowment.
- Our long term view is that we need an initiative to seed a scholarship account. Our short term view is that we need to put the donation in the bank and then sort it out. The DEI endowment doesn't likely need a motion and vote. Can talk to the FSC and leave for a vote in May or June.
- FSC advises and consents spending for anything outside the annual budget. Due to past financial instability, FSC has had bias toward not spending money in order to build coffers to avoid fundraising. Often chapters host national meeting to increase revenue, however, we don't have to due to the FSC investments. This topic merits a broader discussion about disbursements at the retreat.

Officer Reports (3:50)

President - Peter Stevens

- WD ExComm Meeting Update
 - Discussed Simpson concept and chapter views

- WD annual meeting: ORAFS has money for Scott to attend
- WD ExCom submitted Colorado/Wyoming (their small chapter of the year award winner) to the Society's chapter award. Although ORAFS won the large chapter of the year award, we weren't submitted. Peter can inquire to learn more about the reasoning.
 - Becky thinks we probably win 'too often' and there should be different tiers at the Society level as well.
 - Peter mentioned that CO/WY had a very successful virtual conference; one that was more successful than their in-person annual meetings. It was a remarkable achievement for them.
 - It would be good to know their rationale considering the application is 15 pages long and an involved process. Need to know their rationale. Is there an anti-Oregon bias? The WD FSC committee is essentially the ORAFS FSC. We do a lot within WD.
- AZ/NM Chapter asked about increasing DEI. Peter pointed out that diverse recruitment on ExCom is challenging if you don't have the diversity in the chapter from which to recruit.
- Appreciate the quick response time for legislative bills. Often a challenge to respond timely to Legislative Committee. Speedy responses help keep us relevant.

Past-President/Interim Treasurer- Becky Flitcroft

- Treasurer's Report
[FY 2021 Budget](#) (for reference)

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Small Business Account	86,504.37
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	86,504.37
Accounts Receivable	24,381.75
Total Current Assets	110,886.12

Long Term Assets

Bouck Memorial Investment	12,874.07
ORAFS Investment	427,046.76
Total Long Term Assets	439,920.83
Total Assets	550,806.95

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	5,395.98
Total Current Liabilities	5,395.98
Total Liabilities	5,395.98

Equity

Current Year Earnings	<u>49,599.69</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>495,811.28</u>
Total Equity	545,410.97
Total Liabilities and Equity	550,806.95

- ORAFS has plenty of money in the bank.
- Becky reached out to Cvent to get registration money, she hasn't received anything. She has paid Cvent bills, though they aren't itemized and are a challenge to determine what the bill reflects. Not sure of total conference hours, since not itemized. Part of challenge arises from prepaying in 2020 when we set up Cvent for registration. Looks like we did receive the lower rates for registration (more in-line with the Society).
- Received the last sponsorship funds.
- Award letters and checks are outstanding.
- All outlaid funds for the annual meeting are out.
- Not all checks have been cashed. Hoping so by April 30.
- Tracking info to provide to Adrienne for taxes.

President-Elect – Scott Heppell

- Appreciated conversation regarding scholarships. Changing the face of the profession is important.
- Thanks for making it as easy as it could be to pull together and create a good meeting.

Vice President – Todd Hanna

Not in attendance.

Internal Director – Peggy Kavanagh

- Thinking about starting the process of getting a contract with Riverhouse for 2024. Peter suggest waiting to apply insight from 2022 to the contract negotiations.
- Scott brought up that OSU is thinking about a larger conference center in the coming years. Not quite the same set-up for lodging as other venues, but within the town there is enough.

External Director – Ryan Branstetter

- Drafting tribal language for Simpson concept.
- Working with Jason and Ben on the Human Dimensions Committee
- Need to work with Natural Production and Habitat on the merge.
- Gabe forwarded info regarding and opportunity for DEI training. Peter thinks this is a training more suitable for attendance by Scott and/or Chris. Will distribute info.

- Submitted material for Piscatorial Press. Challenged to find names of scholarship/award winners on the Drive. Peter mentioned that he wants to clean up the Drive files.

Secretary – Andrea Carpenter

Not in attendance.

OSU Student Representative - Elena Eberhardt

- Excited about prospect of in-person classes in the fall and to host events.

MHCC Student Representative – Kaylea Berry

- Had a meeting last week to elect officers and two first-year students won. Decided to divvy up the workload by sharing more with Vice-President.
- The subunit had a hiking event.

Business conducted via email after the meeting:

- Scott moved to submit the Rep. Simpson lower Snake River concept to the Legislative Committee for final review and transmittal. Todd seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.