

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

March 3, 2022 | Cyberspace, Oregon

President Scott Heppell called the 2022 Virtual Business Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) to order at 12:40 PM. Scott identified Mike Gauvin as the Parliamentarian. Scott wanted to recognize several individuals for their contribution to the Chapter: the Executive Committee (ExCom), webmaster Emma Garner, planning committee for the Annual Meeting, Lauren Zatkos for our meeting artwork, moderators, Michele Weaver for the Spawning Run, and Ivan Arismendi and Stephanie Gunckel for student paper judging. There are many people who contribute to Oregon AFS including the Oregon State University Student Subunit and Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) Student Subunit. Businesses and vendors who sponsored the Annual Meeting were also recognized as they have helped one our primary goals for the year which was providing free admission for this meeting. We're hoping that we can figure out ways to do this in future years as well. Treasurer Adrienne Averett and Scott acknowledged the tremendous lift by President-elect Chris Hirsch to build a successful Annual Meeting.

At 12:45, Scott introduced Treasurer Adrienne Averett to summarize the Financial Statement from Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021. Consistent with the Chapter's Financial Sustainability and Investment Policy, the FY21 annual operating budget had a cap of \$54,380, which is calculated as the average net profit from the three previous annual meetings (held 2018-2020). The budget supported the Chapter's operation and five work plan goals. To that

end, we spent \$34,893.02 including funding non-ORAFS workshops, grant funding for educators, student scholarships, and awards of recognition to fishery professionals. Our net income for FY21 was \$173,329.93, the Bouck Memorial Investment account was \$29,235, and the ORAFS Investment Account \$634,923.58. Due to COVID19 impacts on Chapter supported activities and projects, annual investment fund gains were not disbursed in FY21, but rather reinvested into our long-term investment fund. Adrienne wants to recognize the Chapter's Financial Sustainability Committee for their prudent stewardship of the investment funds since 2015. She also wants to thank members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their generosity, their efforts are reflected in the summary of the Chapter assets, making our work possible year after year. Tony Siniscal appreciates the summary and Adrienne's work. He appreciates how ExCom stays under budget and wondered if there were any plans to increase expenditures as things have gone well in our investment accounts lately. Scott said that one of steps to doing that is lowering barriers to participation with the Annual Meeting, which we have accomplished this year. This will be an ongoing conversation at the Spring retreat for ExCom. Scott said he also welcomes ideas and comments from members on how they want to see those funds spent.

At 12:50 PM, Scott gave the President's Report on the strategic plan and goals, particularly to enhance diversity and equity within the chapter and create an inclusive

environment. President-elect Chris Hirsch announced our Albert G. Lassuy Memorial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Fund, which was made possible by donation from a long-time member of the Chapter, Denny Lassuy. This will allow us to award a DEI Scholarship in perpetuity and fund other Chapter DEI initiatives. We are trying to push a capital campaign to grow that endowment and to please consider contributing to that fund. He reviewed our actions towards other ORAFS goals. We have for two years managed to hold success virtual annual meetings. This year's meeting is the largest that ORAFS has ever hosted with 800+ registrants. We will explore the possibilities of making portions of future meetings virtual so they may be accessible to all to continue engagement. Due to our legislative committee, we have tracked bills through the state legislature including comments on Klamath Dam systems, land acquisition, and Representative Simpson's proposal of Snake River dam removal. We award scholarships to students at each educational level and this year included Bond, Bouck, and DEI scholarships. We also provide funding for subunits to engage in fisheries and aquatic sciences in a variety of ways, including funding for Certified Fisheries Professional training through AFS on a first-come, first-served basis. Laurie Porter inquired about the grants for training that Scott mentioned. He referred her to the website or advised to get in touch with if they need assistance.

At 1:00 PM, Scott introduced Annika Carlson, OSU student subunit representative. Annika

said they're so happy to have activities this year in person and some virtual. They've done a restoration project with Fitton Green Natural Area and invasive species removal. Some other activities include a collection tour, R workshop, fishing trip, and their professional development spring break trip including hatchery tours. OSU and MHCC students worked together to introduce the Near-Peer and Student Mentor mixers. They worked hard on the auction items that support ORAFS. Annika expressed that though this is her last year at OSU, she wants to stay involved with ORAFS and is grateful for the connections and experience. On behalf of OSU, they've thankful for the funds provided by ORAFS for opportunities for their students. Scott introduced Gina Maag, student subunit representative from MHCC. Students at MHCC were happy to return to a hybrid model for classes, which allowed them to get hands-on experience with electrofishing, rearing, and site visits. Club activities have been virtual, and they've been creative with their approaches. Their subunit Secretary, Bridget Manning designed a new subunit logo. Some of their online events have included working with the Native American Rehabilitation Association, a lamprey presentation by Christina Wang, and 12 days of Fishmas on social media. They have plans to conduct some outdoor events this year including native species planting at MHCC, hikes with the OSU subunit, fishing events, and the crabbing/clamming trip. On behalf of the subunit, Gina wants to thank ORAFS for their continued support. It is also Gina's last year and she plans on continued interface with ORAFS. Scott shared that it was great to see

activities students can participate in and it is encouraging to see these future fisheries professionals engaged in the Chapter.

Scott introduced Troy Brandt, chair of the Legislative Committee to share what they have been tracking this year. Troy thanked ExCom for their support and attendees for their interest. He wants to recruit new members to the Legislative Committee to help track items of interest and to hand off his responsibilities as chair. This year he's reached out to other organizations with similar interests to track bills, such as salmon credit program, incubation boxes, harmful algal blooms, ODOT wildlife corridors, illegal water use for illegal cannabis growing, and wake boat restrictions in the Newberg Pool of the Willamette River. Scott offered Troy a note of appreciation for tracking these issues as the Chapter is only as strong as their members engaged in the work.

Scott introduced Ryan Branstetter, the External Director for his report. Ryan thanked Troy for sharing his report with attendees. To increase DEI within the Chapter, he's happy that the Lassuy Memorial fund was established. Ryan has solicited external committees for comments on hiring a DEI consultant to educate ORAFS members on relevant topics and subjects (e.g., supporting ODFW and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with land acquisition in the Minam River). The Human Dimensions Committee was created this year, chaired by Ben Clemens, Jason Dunham, and Hannah Gosnell. Ryan shares it's been a pleasure to serve on ExCom the past two years and thanks Scott for his service and commitment.

At 1:20 PM, Scott introduced Kat Dale, student representative of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS). Kat presented on WDAFS, their missions, and some of the benefits they can provide. WDAFS serves as a bridge between chapters and the Society. One benefit is a lot of money for scholarships and grants, and opportunities to grow and serve within the organization. There are great ways that members can give back to fisheries through service on a committee, mentor a student/early career professional, participate in the Hutton Program, or become a journal reviewer or editor. Journals and webinars are available with your AFS membership (fisheries.org/membership/).

Scott then presented Dr. April Croxton, President Elect for the American Fisheries Society. April wanted to congratulate the Chapter on a successful meeting and wanted to provide some updates of AFS. Leanne Roulson, the current AFS President, is focusing on policy, DEI, and science communication/outreach efforts. The policy work is focusing on the national level topics, with regional involvement. DEI is a focal part of the society in making it welcoming and reflective of the fisheries community. On that note, everyone should have received a survey link from the Society regarding a National Science Foundation grant to help develop and audit tool to inform future DEI efforts and encourages everyone to participate. With respect to scientific communication, she highlighted the 152nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, taking place August 21-25, 2022, in Spokane, WA. With 70+ proposed symposia, the meeting will have in-person and

virtual options, with a focus on tribal engagement. The Spokane Tribe will do a salmon release in the Spokane River as a reintroduction effort. She thanked Todd Pearsons, Bob Hughes, Shivonne Nesbit and others from the Oregon Chapter that have been involved in the planning process.

Scott announced some new business and invited Karen Hans, chair of the Education and Outreach Committee, to talk about our new education grants. They are currently offering a grant up to \$1,500 for educators teaching projects about fish that get students out in habitats with hands-on experience. The information can be found on the ORAFS website under grants, with a deadline of March 15. Karen thanked Scott for the time to promote the grant opportunity.

Scott yielded the spotlight to Past President Peter Stevens to announce the newly elected Oregon Chapter ExCom officers: President-Elect, Gary Vonderohe (ODFW); Vice President, Claire Rosemond (OSU); Secretary, Sarah Sapienza (ODFW); Internal Director, Joe Lemanski (ODFW); and External Director, Alex Harrison (ODFW). Peter thanked all the new officers for stepping up to steer the Chapter. Scott also congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked them in their willingness to step up and lead.

Scott solicited any other new business. Tony offered ExCom congratulations for their record setting attendance to this meeting and the second virtual meeting. He also wanted to thank the Chapter for their continued efforts towards DEI initiatives. He did have some requests to bring to the

attention of ExCom. The five-year strategic plan has not been updated in a while and is important for overarching goals for the Chapter and alignment of the mission of the work of ExCom. He also would like to request several updates to the website (e.g., work plans, budgets, Financial Sustainability Plan policy, past ExCom officers) and will follow up with email documentation. Scott thanked Tony for having the Chapter's best interest at heart as he brings up these issues.

Scott presented the Past President Award to Peter Stevens and thanked him for his service in the Chapter. Peter wanted to offer his heartfelt thanks for all three ExComs that he has served with. The last two years have had some incredible challenges and ExCom has stepped up. Peter would like to end with a challenge that people who suggest change in the Chapter, to get involved as ORAFS is made up of volunteers and there will never be a perfect time to serve. Scott wanted to thank everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to keep watching for the awards presentation who have contributed to our field and the future of our Chapter. Mike Gauvin, the Parliamentarian, reminded Scott to take a motion to close the Business meeting. Tony Siniscal motioned to close the business meeting and Demian Ebert seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed. The Business Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.