



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

To: ORAFS Executive Committee

From: Katie Woodside, Secretary

Subject: Minutes from the ORAFS Executive Committee Teleconference – Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

In attendance: Cory Sipher – President, Michele Weaver – Past President, Kelcee Smith – President Elect Karah Roof – Vice President, Katie Woodside – Secretary, Gina Maag-Klobas – Internal Director, Jorden Smith – Treasurer (joining meet late, joined by 3:30)

VOTE

ACTION

Call to Order/Additional Agenda Items/Establish a quorum* – Cory Sipher (3:04)

*7 officers including president

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Katie Woodside – (Sarah Abbott's minutes) ()

- Katie check- TASK for Katie to send to group for approval next meeting
 - ⊖ February Minutes and March minutes as submitted and edited by Cory. There was no discussion, and the motion passed at Spring Retreat. TASK: Katie follow-up to confirm.
 - ⊖ Annual Business Meeting Minutes - TASK for Katie to send to group for approval next meeting, follow up with Sarah
 - Needs to be sent out to entire group - approve by membership (list serve) for review and then call for vote
 - Last year it was sent out with the election ballot
 - Retreat Meeting Minutes - TASK for Katie to send to group for approval next meeting, follow up with Sarah

Officer Updates:

Main topics of conversation

- See below.

ORTWS Liaison – Derek Bromman

- Cory did not hear back, not in attendance.

Past President – Michelle Weaver

- Perpetual plaques
 - where do we display?
 - At meeting, Kelcee - at least bring the more recent ones?
 - **TASK: Ask Student Chapter what they would find meaningful (plaque versus paper and website), Solicit input.**
 - OSU as option to display
 - Photo with paper award
 - Do schools want to move forward with displaying plaques that we add names to
 - Do we move to only paper plaques?
 - Michelle: we have this on website under history
 - Scholarship awards, at least 10
 - Coy: Is it easy to find?
- Whoova app
 - A lot of notifications and solicitations
 - Michele can screen share an example of how it works from a recent meeting.
 - There are tips and tricks written up for how to navigate
- Moving to google workspace, google non-profit
 - Consolidated email
 - Bigger workspace (add photos)
 - Other Chapters happy
 - **Michelle TASK: Will work on that.**

President – Cory Sipher

- Western Division meeting wrap up - tasks moving forward
 - great meeting CO/WY
 - Turn out around 270 in person attendees
 - Format and venue went well
 - Sit down with West Div ExCom and CO/WY ExCom
 - Thoughts to move forward
 - Oregon hosting and West Div providing input was original understanding BUT actually combined meeting, shared planning committee - West Div will be on planning committee and coordinating with Kelcee
 - West Div meeting in May
 - Michelle discussed MOU to divide tasks between committee groups
 - Also discuss profit sharing (What is normal?)
 - Do we have template from previous joining meetings?
 - **TASK: Phone Gary or look through Google Drive**
 - **Michelle: we have CO meeting on Drive**
 - Program Agenda, multiple chairs
 - Tim president elect - cochairing committee with Kelcee
 - Usually we release meeting info in Oct, but that will likely be moved to Dec / Jan
 - Program and abstract late spring, Jan

- Michelle suggests starting planning earlier especially with Program (will be more work and need to reserve venues, and there will be more people)
- Tim/ Stev? had info on timelines for West Div meeting for Kelcee
- Coffee break talk at one of the vendor tables
 - Vendor payment structure had add on if they wanted to give 5 minute Ted Talk for additional cost (~\$200?)
- Vendors and posters lined hallways between meeting rooms
 - Poster session in morning with coffee
- Workshop ideas from Tim
 - Aquaculture
 - Art
 - Bruce Koike art (fish prints)
 - Underwater photography or videography (Rich Grost)
 - Freshwater Illustrated
- Student hosted off-site event (lead by students) - we should consider this option
 - Game center, bowling alley rented for CO/WY
 - Whats in OR??
 - Michelle: we could bus or uber folks
 - Zoo (Banquet in past)
 - Spirit of 77 boat (in past)
 - Students should provide input
- planning team Assemble! - see above
- venue visit in fall with WD Excom
 - Portland venue walk through in fall, will loop in Kelcee
 - Tim thought it was good layout
- meeting platform
 - West Div via Whoova App
 - Cory believed we are switching from CVENT to Whoova
 - We committed and have user accounts for the app
 - Michelle: we signed the Whoova contract
 - XCD meeting platform that National Chapter uses
 - Kelcee did not have good experience with Spokane meeting app
 - App in HI was okay
- timeframes - see above
- Cory would like to update photos on website
- ExCom Contacts updated on website
- Jorden is locked out of CVENT
 - Can we maintain access?
 - **TASK: Ask Sanders for link**
- Updates to contacts and website
 - Katie and Cory coordinated with Ashley Sanders
- ESA comment paper (Amy et al.)
 - Submitted through federal register comment period on updating definition of harm

- ORAFS Strategic Plan 2026-2030 [Link](#) (AFS Strategic Plan [Link](#))
 - Needs updating
 - **TASK: Sub bullets from Annual Work Plan, we need make sure those align with the Strategic Plan**
 - One year from now need final plan (Michelle and Cory)
 - Modeled after National AFS (we matched dates)
 - Does everyone approve? Or who approved?
 - Peter Stephens was president, Michelle thinks we should get membership input, but not membership vote, but ExCom vote
 - Task: Michelle will follow up with past president
 - Task: Cory ask where West Div and Nat Strategic plan is
 - Kelcee: Doesn't see West Div plan posted online
 - **TASK: Figure out where National Strategic Plan is**
 - Do we delay until they resolve?
 - Michelle would like to not delay
 - Do we follow their template still?
- 2028 venue?
 - Chatted with Derek and Wildlife Committee - they met in Salem
 - Michelle visited venue in Salem
 - Cory likes to mix up venue for OR AFS Chapter meeting
 - Gina: Cheryl compiles list of venue contacts and cost
 - Corvallis Alumni Center used would attract students, Michelle believes venue is too small for current membership
 - **TASK: Gina Reach out to Cheryl at least by Oct/Nov**
 - Bend attracts a lot of attendees

President-Elect - Kelcee Smith

- Notes from Cory
- Plenary speaker
 - Want diversity
 - Location
 - Work experience
 - Location (outside Oregon)
 - Photographer Tim recommended
 - Who does West Div want?
 - **TASK: Consider new speakers (we have had 1 to 3)**
 - Katie: Women in fisheries (Micki Varney?)
- Theme discussion
 - Group likes change and perspective
 - "Power of perspective, perseverance through change"
 - "The power of plasticity"
 - Drives Speakers, Logo etc
 - Examined other meetings
 - Perspective matters (SEAFWA)
 - The power of perspective
 - Examined past themes (grouped by categories)

1. Examining past, present, future not applicable unless big milestone meeting
2. Connecting Communities: just did this
3. Future technologies: forward thinking, not speaking to Kelcee
 1. Cory: Use of AI in fisheries (Kelcee: could be workshop or session) Perspective
4. What applies or is a meaningful idea for current year

Make it positive but not political or doomsday

 1. Perspective
 2. Change

Resilience

"Thriving through change"

Adapting to change

What are changes in evolution

What are new opportunities that came about through change

Thriving through change, what is the role of perspective

Vice President – Karah Roof

- Got links through Kate
- **TASK: Will reach out to student subunits about plaques**

Student Representatives

- Cory didn't hear back, no one present

Internal Director – Gina Maag-Klobas

- 2025 meeting invoice has been paid
- 2027 contract with Riverhouse is signed!
 - **TASK: Follow-up with Jorden**
- Stephanie passed along the feedback to Riverhouse about food at the poster session and the bar services at the banquet, so hopefully that will be smoother in 2027
- **TASK: Doodle poll for fall retreat dates**
 - So we can get place reserved
 - Late Sept/ early Oct is "normal"
 - Will invite student reps
 - Michelle: Was tied to meeting planning, so we could move to Nov
 - Jorden doesn't know hunting tag dates yet (mid June?)

External Director – Amy Unthank

- Talking to student on Marine Committee
- DEI webinars with Guillermo, he is asking folks to review on his Committee to finalize
- Legislative front
 - Want to look at funding for this task
 - ODFW Budget will be next topic (TASK: Amy catching up)
- Funding on fish culture groups, **TASK: Communicate with Jen on her request**
- Wildlife Society had links to letters
- **TASK: Upload current letters to website, examine what exists**
- **TASK: Amy think about how our letters and papers are organized**

- Michelle put some on website already
- Siletz motor restrictions
- ESA Listing Harm
 - Amy lead charge, received comments from multiple folks
- Topics submitted to state legislature
 - There are a ton of legislature letters (we need to consider organization given not on current page)
 - Press releases, position papers, letters, white papers, etc tabs
 - Cory suggests defining what these categories are

Secretary – Katie Woodside

- Requested updated membership list from Kelly Kotche
- Updated Sanders with list for website (discrepancy between the last update and this one (417 members -> 324 members)
 - New way to do Chapters could have reduced membership, now you just email and contact directly to add - no more checkbox when sign up for National Membership
 - Gina had to re-register as a new member and there was a box, but wasn't receiving contact back as an old member
 - Could impact fees
 - **TASK: Cory bring up at West Div**
 - **TASK: Bring up to Kelly Kotche, membership**
 - Change of officers form to document ExComm, follow-up that this was complete
- Updated Ashley Sanders and Kelly Kotche with new ExComm contact list

Treasurer – Jorden Smith

- Whoova - need to make decisions and needs small group or other admins for decisions with funding
 - Cory set up separate account for Kelcee, Jordan also added her)
 - Do we want to use Square for payments?
 - Small group meeting for fee structure, meeting app
 - Michele
 - Kelcee
 - Cory
 - Katie so is OK with being included: will be involved with sharing info later, setting up website, no notes needed
- CVENT Billing
 - Trying to bill after contract was already paid
 - \$500 to 1,000
- Pending Vendor Payment
 - Sent reminders for payment and haven't received anything
 - **TASK: Cory ask for payment (Pacific Corregated Pipe)**
- Misc. Reimbursements
 - **TASK: Will work with students**
- Tax Prep - Submitted in June last year
 - **TASK: Will need from returning officers average estimated hours per week. For fiscal year (01 May 2024 to 30 April 2025)**

- Michelle: Use Gary's previous hours
- TASK: End of FY Record Keeping - Needs to be secure location
 - Totes of past documents
 - Check copies
 - Can we store somewhere else?, ODFW Warehouse may not lock
 - Archive at OSU?
 - How many years do we need to keep? There should be a financial record schedule (5 to 10 years)
- Treasurer's Report (see below)
- Are expecting bill from CVENT. Haven't received it.
- Tribal registrations never responded to request for payment. Going to call as non-payments and move on.
- Account Balance Strategy

ORAFS Executive Committee
21 May 2025
Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Statement

Beginning Balance	\$94,017.28	
(04/01/2025)		
Deposits/Credits	\$44,024.03	Cvent- Registration Fees
Debits	(\$73,209.28)	Spring Retreat Reimbursements, OSU F&W Symposium Sponsorship, AM Venue Bill, DEI Workshop Installment
Checks	(\$27,613.66)	Scholarships, K-12 Grants, Legislative Liaison, Spring Retreat Reimbursements, AFS AM Sponsorship
Transfers	(\$0.00)	
Fees	(\$2.70)	Excess Transaction Fee
Statement Balance	\$37,215.67	
(04/30/2025)		

Available Funds as of 5/21/2025 = \$25,552.82

Other

- Cory: AFS Chapter of the Year Award
- Cory: Also received other awards at West Div. for BLM??
- Next meeting early June. Will send calendar invite and reminder

Adjourned at: 4:59

