

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries

Society February 29, 2024 | Bend, Oregon

President Gary Vonderohe called the 2024 Business Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) to order at 1:45 PM. Gary identified Jim Capurso as the Parliamentarian. Gary wanted to recognize all of ExCom: the Executive Committee (ExCom), Michele Weaver (President-Elect), Gary Vonderohe (President), Chris Hirsch (Past President), Kate Self (Vice President), Sarah Sapienza (Secretary), Jorden Smith (Treasurer), Joe Lemanski (Internal Director), Alex Harrison (External Director), Tjaden Archer (OSU Student Subunit), Emma Schaffers (Mt Hood Subunit) on helping build a successful Annual Meeting. Thanks also to webmasters Emma Garner (outgoing) and Ashley Sanders (incoming), the annual meeting planning committee, Natalie Scheibel for the meeting program, the sponsors and the vendors. There are many people who contribute to Oregon AFS including the Oregon State University (OSU) Student Subunit and Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) Student Subunit. Also, Internal Committees: Awards – Brian Bangs, Scholarships – Helena Linnell, Financial Sustainability – Tony Siniscal & Troy Brandt, Resolution & Bylaws – Kate Self, ORAFS/ORTWS liaison – Derek Broman, Historian – Mike Gauvin, Newsletter Editor – Stacy Strickland.

At 1:50, Gary introduced Treasurer Jorden Smith to summarize the Financial Statement from Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023. Consistent with the Chapter's Financial Sustainability and Investment Policy, the FY23 annual operating budget had a cap of \$58,994, which is calculated as the average net profit from the three previous annual meetings (minus the free meeting). Goals 1 through 6 were discussed in detail.

The FY23 budget supported the Chapter's core operations in addition to the \$48,850 spent on six Oregon Chapter AFS work plan goals:

Goal 1 is to Develop programs that advance understanding of fishery science and responsible stewardship of fishery resources.

- \$1,500 was spent on sponsorships of non-AFS conferences and projects to fulfill this goal.

Goal 2 is to advocate for policies and laws that benefit the conservation and sustainability of Oregon Fishery resources.

- \$6,000 was spent on legislative support to fulfill Goal 2.

Goal 3 is to Increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of fishery resources.

- \$9,486 was spent on competitive grants to K-12 educators and fish culture sponsorships to fulfill this goal.

Goal 4 is to promote the development of fishery and aquatic science professionals.

- \$13,170 was spent on student support, including student scholarships and OSU & MHCC student subunit grants, to fulfill Goal 4.

Goal 5 is to support and encourage development of professional members.

- \$1,199 was spent on awards and recognition of fisheries professionals to fulfill this goal.

Goal 6 is to maintain an active and diverse membership.

- \$4,433 was spent in diversity support, including a seed money donation to the Pacific Islands Chapter to fulfill Goal 6.

Total non-investment income for the chapter was \$180,537! From the Investment Accounts,

\$4,000 was spent in designated scholarship awards including the Albert G. Lassuy Memorial DEI Scholarship and the Gerald Bouck Memorial Scholarship. The Gerald Bouck Memorial fund had an ending balance of \$33,146. The Albert G. Lassuy Memorial DEI Endowment fund was established in FY22 and had an ending balance of \$89,886. Troy Brandt informed the Treasurer that the Investment Account had a total ending balance of over \$900,00 as of today! Finally, we want to give a shout out to the Financial Sustainability Committee for their stewardship of the Chapter's investment fund. And then of course, we want to thank our members, sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their continued support!

At 1:55 PM, Gary gave the President's Report on the Strategic Plan Objectives 2020-2025 and Goals. The Strategic Goals are list below:

1. Develop programs that advance understanding of fishery science and responsible stewardship of fishery resources.
2. Advocate policies and laws that benefit the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems.
3. Increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of fishery resources amongst chapter members and the general public.
4. Promote development of fishery and aquatic science students.
5. Support and encourage development of professional members.
6. Promote an inclusive fisheries professional environment to create and maintain diverse membership.
7. Maintain Financial Responsibility and Investments.
8. Regularly assess Chapter and Executive Committee operational structure to optimize chapter productivity and efficiency.

Gary noted that the Goose Lake workshop was extremely successful. Gary stated ORAFS still need help with posting to social media accounts.

At 2:10 PM, Gary introduced Laurie Early, Past-President of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS). Laurie presented on WDAFS, their missions, and some of the benefits they can provide. The Western Division includes 11 western states, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, and British Columbia and the Yukon Territory in Canada, all Chapters are supported by Western Division. Western Division supports members through numerous scholarships including the Eugene Maughan Graduate Student Scholarship. The scholarship provides up to \$5,000 annually to masters or doctoral students in the general area of fisheries science with one to three awards to individual students. Laurie also noted the 2024 Western Division AFS Small Project Grants is open for applications, applications are due April 1, 2024. The next Western Division Annual Meeting is co-hosted by the Pacific Islands Chapter and will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii from September 15-19, 2024. The theme for this year's meeting is "Conserving Fishes and Fishing Traditions Through Knowledge Co-Production". Travel grants are still available to help with the registration and travel assistance to attend the meeting. The Western Division Annual meeting next year will be held in Westminister, Colorado on May 11-15, 2025. Laurie reminded members of the

Western Division newsletter, The Tributary, can be found here:
<https://wdafs.org/newsletter/>.

At 2:15 PM, Gary introduced Emma Schaffers, MHCC student subunit representative. MHCC students hosted a Fishmas party and Kate Self was able to attend. In November, the subunit had a guest speaker from Washington County Fly Fishers and plan to host a fly-tying class later in the term. They have attended the Northwest Fish Culture Concepts in Bosie, Idaho. The subunit attended the Mt Hood Winter Term Club Fair. Upcoming events include guest speaker Katherine Cory and crabbing on June 7th. Gary introduced Tjaden Archer, OSU student subunit representative. Tjaden pointed out that the subunit is also an Oregon State University Club. The subunit participated in an invasive species pull in the Salmon River estuary with David Hill (USFWS). OSU students also volunteered with ODFW at the Chronic Wasting Disease checkpoint in Prineville. The students hosted a Beginners fly fishing trip located on the Middle Fork Willamette River with Trout Unlimited and traveled to the High Desert Museum with 18 students attending an all-day trip that included a shed hunt. They are hosting a snorkel event; 22 students have registered, and it will be 3 hours long. A Hunter safety course will occur later, including general First Aid and wilderness First Aid training.

At 2:25, Gary introduced Alex Harrison, the External Director for her report. Alex introduced the new DEI Chair, Guillermo Giannico. Two scholarships were awarded, and a session of presentations were held at the Annual Meeting this year. Link to donate to DEI fund on the Oregon Chapter website <https://orafs.org/contribute-to-orafs/>. Alex stated the Education and Outreach Committee will be hopefully funding lots of projects in the upcoming year. She noted that the Committee received 14 applications and \$10,000 was allocated. At least 10 of the 14 requests were funded. The Native Fish Committee Goose Lake workshop was very well received. The Piscatorial Press will highlight upcoming events for outreach and attendance. Workshop for this year is still undetermined. Alex announced that the Marine Habitat needs still needs a Committee Chair and to contact her or the new External Director if interested.

Alex introduced Troy Brandt, chair of the Legislative Committee to share what they have been tracking this year. Short session now, there are three bills are currently being tracked. 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. Offshore wind is a new topic of interest. To learn more about the bills, please email Troy Brant or Alex Harrison.

At 2:30, Gary yielded the spotlight to Past President Chris Hirst to announce the newly elected Oregon Chapter ExCom officers: President-Elect, Corey Sipher (BLM); Vice President, Kate Self (NWPPC); Secretary, Sarah Sapienza (ODFW); Treasurer, Jorden Smith (ODFW); Internal Director, Stephanie Messerle (BLM); and External Director, Amy Unthank (USDAFS retired). Chris thanked all the new officers for stepping up to steer the Chapter. Gary also congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked them in their willingness to step up and lead.

At 2:35, Gary introduced Kate, the Vice President, she discussed bi-laws, and how there are two student subunit representatives now, formerly there was one. Voting went out to

members and the motion passed via email voting. Gary solicited any other new business. Shivonne Nesbit suggested the Hutton Program, discussion involved funding with some of the disbursement funds.

At 2:40, Gary presented the Past President Award to Chris Hirsch and thanked her for her service in the Chapter. Gary noted it was great working with all the members and how ExCom made sure all the chapter had a voice.

Business Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 PM