

# Annual Business Meeting Minutes

## Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society March 2, 2023 | Eugene, Oregon

President Chris Hirsch called the 2023 Business Meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) to order at 1:48 PM. Chris identified Leanne Roulson as the Parliamentarian. Chris wanted to recognize several individuals for their contribution to the Chapter: the Executive Committee (ExCom), webmaster Emma Garner, planning committee for the Annual Meeting, Natalie Scheibel for our meeting artwork, moderators, Jeff Ziller for the Spawning Run, and Stephanie Gunckel for student paper judging. Also Tony Siniscal for the music selection. 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 assigning in supporting our first in-person meeting post COVID-19. President Chris Hirsch acknowledged the tremendous lift by President-elect Gary Vonderohe to build a successful Annual Meeting.

At 1:51, Chris introduced Treasurer Adrienne Averett to summarize the Financial Statement from Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022. Consistent with the Chapter's Financial Sustainability and Investment Policy, the FY22 annual operating budget had a cap of \$58,994, which is calculated as the average net profit from the three previous annual meetings (held 2019-2021). The budget supported the Chapter's operation and five work plan goals. To that end, we spent \$38,465.80 including

funding non-ORAFS workshops, grant funding for educators,

student scholarships, and awards of recognition to fishery professionals. Total non-investment income for the chapter was \$95,185.52. For the Investment Account, \$4,000 was spent in designated scholarship awards including the Albert G. Lassuy Memorial DEI Scholarship and the Gerald Bouck Memorial Scholarship. \$30,000 in annual investment fund gains were disbursed in FY22 to host the FREE, 2022 virtual annual meeting for 828 attendees. The Gerald Bouck Memorial fund had an ending balance of \$30,083. The Albert G. Lassuy Memorial DEI Endowment fund was established in FY22 and had an ending balance of \$56,001. The Investment Account had a total ending balance of \$667,034.13. 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.

At 1:55 PM, Chris gave the President's Report on the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and goals, particularly to enhance diversity and equity within the chapter and create an inclusive environment. On that note, ORAFS hosted the first ever free virtual meeting and had 828 attendees from 27 states and 13 tribal organizations. This includes over 300 first time attendees. The goal was to remove barriers to attendance and access to cutting edge science from across the country. ORAFS also Hosted a World Fish Migration Day where relevant virtual Annual Meeting talks from 2022 were made

available on the ORAFS website.

We were awarded the 2022 Outstanding Large Chapter of the Year Award for the Western Division and the Society level. We were able to sponsor multiple conferences this year, these included: 2022 Emerging Technologies Information Sessions and State of the Coast: Oregon's Coastal Conference. 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 Bouck, and Lassey 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. One of these events was the Lamprey Identification Workshop.

At 2:05 Chris then presented Leanne Roulson, Past President for the American Fisheries Society. Leanne wanted to congratulate the Chapter on a successful meeting and wanted to provide some updates of AFS. Dr Croxton, the current AFS President, is focusing on policy, DEIJA, 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. She noted the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program has high school students shadow fisheries

biologists over the summer. For this coming summer, AFS had 47 placements and over 533 student applications. Requesting more placements of students by fisheries biologists. With respect to scientific communication, she highlighted the 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, taking place August 20- 24, 2023, in Grand Rapids, MI. Also the Latin America & Caribbean Fisheries Congress on May 15-18, 2023 and the 9<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress on March 3-9, 2024 in Seattle, WA.

At 2:10 PM, Chris introduced Dan Brauch, Past-President of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS). Dan 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/](https://fisheries.org/membership/)).

At 2:15 PM, Chris introduced Nat Godwin, OSU student subunit representative. They currently have 198 student members. OSU students attended the TWS Conference and the State of the Coast in Newport. Some other activities include a tour of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC), R workshop, fishing trip, and their professional development spring break trip including hatchery tours. On behalf of the subunit, Nat wants to thank ORAFS for their continued support. Chris introduced Bridget

Manning, student subunit representative from MHCC. Student membership has been reduced post COVID-19. Some of their events have included 12 days of Fishmas on social media and building hatcheries instead of gingerbread houses. They have attended the Fish Culture Conference and a Wolf Management talk. Coming up they are planning a movie viewing night of Blood Lake, an overnight trip to Oregon Hatchery Research Center with food provided and travel reimbursements and the end of the year clamming trip. On behalf of the subunit, Bridget wants to thank ORAFS for their continued support. Chris 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.

At 2:25, Chris introduced Alex Harrison, the External Director for her report. Alex introduced the new DEI Chair, Guillermo Giannico and thanked former Chair Gabe Sheoships for his work as Chair. Alex stated the Education and Outreach Committee will be hopefully funding lots of projects in the upcoming year. The Native Fish Committee Sabretooth Salmon workshop was very well received. The Piscatorial Press will highlight upcoming events for outreach and attendance.

Alex 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. There are 73 bills that are being tracked right now. To learn more about the bills, please email Troy Brant or Alex Harrison.

At 2:30, Chris yielded the spotlight to Past President Scott Heppell to announce the newly elected Oregon Chapter ExCom officers: President-Elect, Michele Weaver (ODFW); Vice President, Kate Self (CRITFC); Secretary, Sarah Sapienza (ODFW); Treasurer, Jorden Smith (ODFW); Internal Director, Joe Lemanski (ODFW); and External Director, Alex Harrison (ODFW). Jorden Smith will take over fiduciary responsibilities of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, including access to all bank accounts, from outgoing Treasurer Adrienne Averett as of May 1, 2023. Chris thanked all the new officers for stepping up to steer the Chapter. Chris also congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked them in their willingness to step up and lead.

Chris solicited any other new business. Tony Siniscal offered ExCom congratulations for Chapter of the Year. He thanked Dan and Leanne for attending the meeting. Tony also thanked the Chapter for keeping the meeting and Treasurer minutes updated on the website.

Chris presented the Past President Award to Scott Heppell and thanked him for his service in the Chapter. Scott noted the past virtual meetings were a huge transition and the great job ExCom did pivoting. He appreciated the focus and passion for the future of the chapter and including students and also the sage advice given. Scott thanked Chris and Andrea Carpenter, Peggy Kavanah, Adrienne Averett for their help planning the virtual meetings, without their help, the meeting would not have happened.

Business Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 PM