



Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society

ExCom Monthly Call Agenda

Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

VOTE

ACTION

REVIEW FOR MISSING INFORMATION / QUESTIONS

Follow-up in future

Call to Order @ 3:04 PM

Additional Agenda Items/Establish a quorum*– Cory Sipher

*4 officers including president

Present: Adel Bordas, Amy Unthank, Michele Weaver, Cory Sipher, Kelcee Smith, and Katie Woodside. Gina Maag-Klobas and Jordan Smith joined by 3:30.

Approval of past meeting minutes - Katie Woodside

- Katie still needs to send November and December Notes for review.
- Use webmaster@orafs.org email for Ashley Sanders.
- Cory wrote email for members to vote on Annual Business Meeting Notes.
 - ORAFS Members listserv
 - Members list is not populated
 - We get updated members list monthly
 - We need to populate members list every time we want to send something to members list
 - President and Secretary get current members list to send to Ashley.
 - National AFS is updating database on their website so we currently need to request full list from Kelly otherwise emailed link will only show recent renewals. Kelly will send instructions once new database is up and running.
 - **TASK: Katie to send members list to Ashley.**

Officer updates

President – Cory Sipher

- Funding/donation request: Jeremy Romer asked if ORAFS could make donation to Salmon Scholar Fund for Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council. ~5K. What is the process of requesting outside normal ed and outreach grants?
 - This is not time dependent so we could revisit it during next budget and benefits flushed out.
 - Denny Lassuy offered funds as donation – this could be used for this purpose
 - Can this be a special disbursement outside of normal budget?
 - Will this benefit OR AFS Chapter?
- Lassuy Donation From Denny
 - Putting together finance paperwork
 - Need to figure out if they want it to be used a particular way
 - We have Lassuy fund, but it's not subsectioned
 - Put to memorial fund and split with DEI committees AND Ed and Outreach
 - Funds donated in early 2026
 - **TASK: Loop Jorden in to determine process**
- Retirement engagement committee
 - How do we keep retirees involved?
 - Michele: We had retiree social hour at a meeting
 - Committee engagement
 - Karen Hans (OR AFS Education Materials)
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Amy Unthank (ExCom)
 - Do we have reduced rates? (Yes)
 - Reduced registration
- Vendor and Sponsor outreach
 - Draft letter made
 - Adjusted levels. Keeping naming system with metals, didn't change to fish.
 - No lower level at \$250. Bronze starts at \$500, changed to \$600. Silver now \$1250. Levels changed because its larger meeting (combined with Western)
 - Vendor fees also adjusted.
 - Can't enter sponsorship level without adding comp registration (on webserver), could increase price to compensate for increased cost. Bronze and Silver usually use comp registration. Platinum doesn't usually use all comps.
 - What were numbers in CO?
 - AK started at @250 and had \$10K level
 - Tiers are variable in terms of starting amount as well as number of levels
 - Could leave bronze but make voice only, not list as website option
 - Normal registration ~ \$500. We need to make a profit.
 - Need at least \$600 for bronze tier.

Sponsorship level	Price	Complimentary registrations
Platinum	\$5,000	4
Gold	\$2,500	3
Silver	\$1,250	2
Bronze	\$600	1

Past President – Michele Weaver

- Screw Trap themed raffle ticket spinner has been finished. Materials were donated by ODFW from The Dalles Screen Shop, spinner design and construction done by Marty Olson (ODFW R&E Coordinator and ORAFS Education Outreach Committee Chair).



- FY26 Disbursement
 - Katie Pierson consolidated ideas: Annual Mtg Enhancement, Support Hutton, Expanded Grant Opp K-12. Research grants, Small grant for professionals or student, Continuing ed (workshops, quart field events, service days)., Admin support position, ExCom Discretionary
- ExCom Recruitment
 - Candidates: have 2 VP statements, 2 Ex Director statements, Looking for Pres, Meetings to recruit other candidates (Internal Director or Treasurer or Pres). Optimistic for full slate.
 - Perception is job interference.
 - Voting normally in Feb, prior to annual meeting
 - Vote by email. And winners announced at Business Meeting. Positions start May 1.
 - We could announce at meeting in May. Bylaws say positions start first day of the month after the annual meeting (June 1).
 - We could inform winners in advance so they can attend meeting, would inform ExCom also so ExCom is informed.
 - PP Held up until names and statements available.
 - Email follow-up with vote.

President Elect – Kelcee Smith

- 2026 PDX planning committee updates
 - Monthly, organized by Tim
 - Diff Committees may need to split into side meetings
 - Kelcee is equal program chair
 - So far it has been more Core Team, some folks have not been included.
 - Big group planning meetings sometimes were more just updates
 - Currently Western Planning mostly
 - Feels more cohesive when entire group on call
 - Emails indicate some things falling through cracks
 - If Jan meeting not improved, then improve in Feb

- Focus on Plenary Speaker recruitment
 - Agreed on 3 speakers, one each day
 - Corvallis – Attorney for Yurok Tribe
 - Tues morning invocation
 - Dr Parker @ 9 am
 - AFS Leadership come to speak about Future or Forward Direction
 - Tim requested them for Wed morning @ 8 am
 - Western: We don't need plenary speakers on Thurs
 - Speaker who set up family fishing program in Salem, gives moving talk on inclusivity (Reed)
 - Vendor lightning talks
 - Push ExCom
 - Flyers
 - Short talk on what we do
 - Committees who want to talk about themselves, tiny presentations
 - OR Comm
 - Western Comm
 - Native Fish Retrospective
- 6 Workshops and 22 Symposia (new deadline = 19 Dec 2025), review last week of Dec
 - Organizers being notified
- Abstracts open Jan 5, 2026 - go thru WHOVA
- Workshops cost and schedule being drafted
- Planning committee sheet
 - Does Gina need to recruit moderators for each room?
 - Kelcee will follow Michele's previous approach
- Final Logo (Elizabeth Wilson)
 - Straight water line
 - Bump on fish head
 - Version with no year
 - More contrast in the greens (background is dark)
 - No abdomen on the caddis fly



The Power of Perspective

May 4-7th 2026, Portland, OR

Vice President – Karah Roof –

- Chapter subunit updates **TASK: Get email from Cory**
- Contact with raffle auction
- Predawn tattoo donation
- Talked with student reps to get started on student mixer planning

Student Representatives –

- MHCC – Not present
- OSU
 - Biweekly events: Jeopardy, Sci illustration workshop, flyfishing event planned, hatchery visit in works
 - Secondary ORAFS liaison position recruited and has been filled in the club: Sophia Jones (Adel is studying abroad, Sophia would cover)
 - **TASK: Send intro email and contact info, figure out who is covering**
 - Sent OSU funding request to Jordan
- OIT – Not present

Internal Director – Gina Maag-Klobas

- 2026 PDX planning updates
- **TASK: Gina confirm meals with vendor**
 - AV budget revised- added 3 plenary sessions and 3rd workshop room
 - Some buffer available if needed
 - Firm date April 24th to guarantee minimum meals by
 - We need confirmation that can increase up to date of meeting
 - Can folks walk in that morning and request meals day of?
 - Choices for plated lunch and dinners
 - Chicken or chicken (lunch)
 - Pork or chicken (dinner)
 - **Vegetarian option needed; could replace one chicken option for lunch**
 - **How do we communicate and coordinate dietary restrictions**
 - Q built into registration, needs figuring on backend
 - Parenthesis after meal option so folks know what meal includes with symbols
- 2028 venue updates
 - Salishan said they can't accommodate a group of our size, switching to Riverside!
 - Dates still open for Riverside
 - Spring retreat dates
 - **TASK: Will send out poll to meet after Annual meeting**
 - Could have E Oregon locations
 - Wallowa Lake
 - Do we do it April or wait until later in May
 - Make it more centrally located
 - Group wait until later in May
 - Need treasurer handoff, takes half day
 - Less hectic, need to plan budget for next meeting
 - Also, we can review what worked and didn't work
 - Jordan: Could have longer week – meeting into spring retreat
 - Could be exhausted post annual meeting, need break

External Director – Amy Unthank

- DEI Comm met. Submitted to PP about 3-part training webinar. Link in newsletter.
 - Link was sent to members via email. (30 participants)
 - Interest in link on website.
 - Members had first opportunity to take training; it can be available to all.
 - **TASK: Ashley can post.**
- **TASK: Follow up on band?? Yes. Can provide demo.**
- Awards: Brian Bangs, Dylan OKeefe, Tyler Hoyt.
- Can't reach Karen Hans.
- Education Grants highlighted in newsletter.
- Potential to offer raffle ticket(s) as an incentive to take the DEI webinar.

Secretary – Katie Woodside

- No updates.

Treasurer – Jorden Smith

- Disbursement, how to spend? Should we use it for funding folks to travel to OR AFS meeting?

- First come, first serve – send request to Jordan.
- We need a wish list to spend it out but don't need to hold money in reserves.
- We could help scholarship winners attend meeting
- You might get more federal fish bios/scientists if there is a professional opportunity
- 20 assistance grants: open to all professionals?
- 10 for other travel (federal opportunities, what about state opportunities)
- Should we make it 10 gov employees (fed or state) = middle career
- We could also add a nonprofit for 10 individuals??
- Early Career Prof. - 10 opportunities = \$15,000 (ExCom request)
 - We can bump up request to spend out disbursements
- Treasurer Computer - \$800?
 - Excel, Microsoft Account
- Annual meeting (AM) sponsor level adjustments
 - 20% overall increase
 - 1 - 4 comped registrations based on level
- Received OSU subunit request
- Jordan has Heavy Workload coming up
- Treasurer needs personal computer to do job (could have Treasurer computer to support position, we have a Treasurer printer).
 - For security reasons
 - Easier for transfer of files
- Treasurer's Report

Adjourn End @ 5:11 PM

**ORAFS Executive Committee
14 January 2026
Treasurer's Report**

Checking Account Statement

Beginning Balance	\$17,970.77	
(12/01/2025)		
Deposits/Credits	\$5000.00	Bouck Fund Donation
Debits	(\$5,210.00)	Bouck Donation Transfer, P.O. Box
Checks	(\$0.00)	
Transfers	(\$0.00)	
Fees	(\$0.00)	
Statement Balance	\$17,760.77	
(12/31/2025)		