



Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society

ExCom Monthly Call Agenda

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

VOTE

ACTION

REVIEW FOR MISSING INFORMATION / QUESTIONS

Future follow-up

CALL TO ORDER 3:03 PM

Additional Agenda Items/Establish a quorum*– Cory Sipher

*4 officers including president

Present: Cory Sipher, Kelcee Smith, Amy Unthank, Sophia Jones, Michele Weaver, Katie Woodside, Karah Roof.

Sophia Jones: Secondary Liaison for OSU since Adel is on travel.

Approval of past meeting minutes - Katie Woodside

- TASK: Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb Will be sent via email for review shortly.
- Annual business meeting 2025 notes included in winter PP.
 - End of Feb is comment period for meeting notes prior to vote

OFFICER UPDATES

President – Cory Sipher

- Legislative Liaison, do we still need one given short session?
 - Karen Hans is taking the lead on following the short Oregon Legislative session and we do not need to provide any more contract funds to Jack Dempsey, who helped us during the last long session.
- Disbursement for legislative session (budget was zeroed out, but could use disbursement)
- TASK: Cory completing Annual Chapter of the Year application, due soon
 - Reached out to Kelly Kotche to calculate # lost and # new members
 - Numbers fairly consistent
- PP nice to reference for quarterly accomplishments
- Spam in ORAFS email with Cory's name requesting money, others have received this in non AFS email
- Most spam is marketing ads from Whova

Past President – Michele Weaver

- Business Meeting Feedback?

- Cory: None yet
- FY26 Disbursement
- Disbursement
 - How do we want to use each year
 - Polled ExCom and others for ideas list
 - Katie Pearson leading committee, **TASK: Michele will follow up with compiled list**
 - Financial Sustainability asking ExCom to prioritize ideas
 - Within themes, several ideas
 - We can use as checklist or guidance documents; not a bylaw/policy
 - Mini-grant program could take a few years to develop and grow money
 - **Tie this to operating budget at spring meeting**
- **TASK: Send out vote once get AM comments**
- **Google Workspace – we need to set up two factor Identification by spring or will get kicked out**
- ExCom Recruitment
 - Complete!
 - There is a recruitment spreadsheet in google files. This helps track who requested follow-up in future years. **Cory, review file next year.**

President Elect – Kelcee Smith

- Old stuff in new agenda helps ExCom notes
- **TASKS for Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Respond to Jordan with requested materials for registration site"**
 - ExCom and Ashley getting Qs on cost
 - FB or Instagram posts could help educate folks
 - **TASK: Amy can work on a Facebook post**
 - Kelcee would like live website
 - One limitation of Whova
 - Kelcee meeting with folks to confirm registration site needs
 - Need sign-up for judging papers or presentations: **Karah will email Jordan that we need this added**
 - Need Q if want to be a mentor
 - Has soon as one person registers, we are locked out of page for editing
 - Jordan had sent out bulleted list of what needs to happen prior to opening registration
 - Details on food options
 - Details on workshops and workshop costs
 - Name or brief info better than nothing
 - **TASK: Kelcee will request updated list**
- ODFW DEI and Recruitment Table??
 - Do they pay? ODFW haven't had booth at OR Chapter meetings.
 - We have prices for non-profit (reduced pricing).
 - We shouldn't waive fees. Fee provides free registration.
 - Super sponsors could get free tradeshow booth
 - We can send email to state agencies to see who wants a recruitment table
- We need Oregon rep for Spawning Run
 - Options? Ian Tattum, Jeff Ziller, Tony Siniscal, Jason Seals, Sophia Kim; ask frequent participants
- 2026 PDX planning committee updates
 - Spreadsheet
 - Kelcee gets questions
 - Next meeting Feb 17

- Kelcee sent out an email with expectations and date." You are on agenda; here is the invite."
- There are smaller meetings with individual committees to jumpstart discussions
- Reached out in Jan to get folks to attend, do you know who your leader is, and ask about progress
- TASK: Katie connect Steph Gunkel to Karah Roof
- Final Plenary Speakers: Amy Bowers Cordalis (Western AFS paying her speaker fee, unsure on travel costs, flying from CA), Dr. Maime Parker flying from Washington DC, AFS Leadership (Tim Coordinating)
 - Honorarium and hotel covered
 - Scheduling for Thursday
 - Do they book flights and then get reimbursed? Or do we?
 - We didn't budget for flights, this is new for this meeting, no standard exists
 - Jordan has per diem form, will need receipts
- There are instructions for Whova app
 - These could be sent to chapters, helpful tips.
 - Confusion on co-authors versus co-speakers
 - Whova app: Multiple submissions?
 - Need multiple email addresses
 - Whova app: How to add coauthors?
 - Scroll all the way to bottom
- Abstracts open now: Close Feb 14
 - 75. Usually, bulk submissions occur at the last minute.
 - Wait to announce extension until after deadline
 - Consider extension on deadline (Feb 28? Feb 21?), give one more week.
 - Matrix will have to be completed post submission so don't wait too long
 - What was the goal for submission? As many as fit into time.
 - In files there is a matrix, which outlines max number of talks if X sessions and X amount of time
- Determining Workshop cost/schedule and rooms with Amber and Gina on 2/12/26
 - TASK: Kelcee will post schedule on OR AFS website
- Final, final Logo (Elizabeth Wilson)



The Power of Perspective

May 4-7th 2026, Portland OR

Vice President – Karah Roof –

- Mt Hood having nominations meeting for next sub-unit leads
 - Feb 17th at 12 pm, conflict with planning committee meeting
 - Can provide Kelcee with notes
- Chapter subunit updates
 - Mixer ideas: speed dating (stage of career as category)
 - Students should decide
 - Bianca asked why mentors participate and asked to split by why mentors participate
 - Kelcee remembers questions on a screen for mentors and students to ask, and someone MCing or prompting
 - Pre-send Qs to mentors
 - **TASK: Talk to Kate Self and student sub-leads**
 - **TASK: Sophia can reach out to student officers and will email Karah. She will follow-up with Adel.**
 - Student/mentor mixer not same as student social (off-site field trip)
 - There is food at student mixer, no alcohol, food is budgeted
 - Tuesday night (4 to 6, tentatively)
 - Event room reserved
 - No alcohol served at this mixer
 - Is there a number of students that attended from previous years to reference?
 - Off-site field trip
 - Sunday? First or second evening
 - Folks would need to pay for it themselves (no \$ for buses, etc.)
 - Student sponsored social event
 - There is nothing to walk to from Hayden island
 - Who is doing what event and who is paying for what?

- Reagan (early career professional, off-site, folks pay for own lunch)
- Auction/ Raffle Comm
 - We would like each Chapter to think about donating 1-2 items
 - No deadline for mailing yet
 - Could email Chapter presidents
 - Kate Self participating, Karah organizing/leading
 - Looking for Western participation
 - Folks can mail stuff to HQ?? Yes, as long as it's not money.
 - Need a name associated with it (put Michele's name on it)
- Libations
 - Talked to Greg Silver, not doing – Karah will handle beer (kegs) – Kate Self will be lead on libations, **TASK: Connect Kate to Katie**
 - Keg calculator: Social hours and # attendees
 - Michele looking at app and waiting to fill in social hours
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nYGE9jLXmRmSsZlGijlc-RUO4USuqSjT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113209979015987599296&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Student Representatives –

- MHCC – not present
- OSU
 - Secondary ORAFS liaison position has been filled in the club: Sophia Jones
 - TWS coming up
 - Gauging interest for AFS meeting, alleviating anxiety about professional interactions
 - Grad students have come to talk about networking and their experience
- OIT - not present

Internal Director – Gina Maag-Klobas

- Not present
- **Spring retreat dates 3-way tie:** May 22, May 29, June 12. Karah? Does everyone have a preference? I think May might be best. Probably the best deals will be for the 22nd. Do we still want Joseph, OR?
 - May 25 is Memorial Day weekend
 - May 29 may be best date for Karah
 - **TASK: Respond to Gina with date preference**
 - **TASK: What about Hood River??**
 - **TASK: Cory will follow up with Gina**
- 2026 PDX planning updates
 - AV budget revised- added 3 plenary sessions and 3rd workshop room. Sounds like 8 workshop rooms may be needed now.
 - Choices for plated lunch and dinners- they will provide vegetarian meals, just need the number before. Other dietary restrictions must be submitted 10 days in advance in a spreadsheet. They will prepare 5% over the guaranteed numbers to prepare for onsite/same day additions.
 - Amy, are you receiving emails for the DEI scholarship applications?
 - Ashley Sanders has not been responding to me, and Guillermo would like the scholarship committee to review those applications. **New due date is Feb. 27th.** He also wants to discuss (for the future) asking students to provide a reference letter from an ORAFS meeting.
 - Amy has not received anything
 - **TASK: Katie remind Gina about webmaster address**

- 2028 venue updates
 - Salishan said they can't accommodate a group of our size, switching to Riverside! Cheryl working on contract

External Director – Amy Unthank

- TASK: Amy will follow up with fish people that have band from Denny and her contact to determine quality and commitment
- Amy will follow up with the Marine Committee lead (Natalie Donato) and the OSU student rep (Sophia Jones) to help them plan a session for students to work on presentation/poster design for Western Division meeting participation.
- We can highlight committee accomplishments and goals during the May meeting, as well some of the committees will be holding meetings in relation to sessions.
- TASK: Amy will follow up with tourist activities.
- The May meeting price structure and other very basic info will be placed on our Facebook site by Amy.
- Amy joined Karah Roof (V-P) in a meeting with Kate Self and Ron Constable in late January - to go over updated letters and spreadsheets that Kate has for the Raffle Committee to use. There is a donor form letter that we should also go over with Jordan to make sure it is needed. We identified ODFW headquarters as a point to send raffle items (but must be mailed with Attn: Michele Weaver). We also discussed having Kelcee Smith put out an offer for the Western Division meeting plan group to have the other chapters donate and item or 2 for the raffle.

Secretary – Katie Woodside

- Followed up with Ashley on website updates (Sent Finalized Oct notes, Meeting minutes, member list).

Treasurer – Jordan Smith

- Not in attendance, out of office
- OSU Subunit Funding
- Disbursement came through for ECP and Laptop
- ECP applicants asking about qualifications - ~5mo. past meeting time, but negotiated ECP membership through AFS.
 - Leaning toward granting it or "if opportunities are still available on X date"...?
- Will be working on registration site this week
 - Any updates on the menu?
- AM Attendance
- Treasurer's Report

ADJOURN @ 5:01 PM

**ORAFS Executive Committee
11 February 2026
Treasurer's Report**

Checking Account Statement

Beginning Balance (01/01/2026)	\$17,760.77	
Deposits/Credits	\$30,800.00	Disbursement Deposit
Debits	(\$2,246.78)	Whoova Registration Site Add-ons, Website Add-on, OR Business License
Checks	(\$2,648.82)	Fish Culture Travel Grants, Fall Retreat Reimbursement
Transfers	(\$0.00)	
Fees	(\$0.00)	
Statement Balance (01/31/2026)	\$43,665.17	