



## California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Executive Committee Meeting

Location: Zoom Meeting  
Date: January 21, 2021  
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:17 PM  
Call-in: Zoom invitation sent via email

### Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Verification of Quorum (Nicole Kwan) – 6:08
  - 3 elected officers and 3 standing committee chairs
    - Elected officers: Dave Lentz, Jose Setka, Nicole Kwan, Rob Titus
    - Standing committee chairs: Gary Sprague, Zach Bess, Christina Parker, Ramona Swenson, Kelly Souza, Andrew Hampton, Esther Tracy, Shawn Acuña, Lisa Thompson
    - Student sub-units: Kat Dale
3. Agenda Review (Dave and ExComm)
4. Focused Discussion/New and On-Going Business
  - 2021 Election/Candidates
    - Jose has agreed to run again for Treasurer
    - Ramona has been reaching out but is still seeking candidates for President & needs names and ideas; members discussed some potential candidates
    - Nicole asked about how people get involved in in the committee positions. Ramona explained that it is the job of the officers to try and onboard people to committee positions so they can get experience and then feel more comfortable running for Officers; reminder to officers to work on this

- Rob encouraged ExComm members to really consider running because coming in without experience in the group can be a challenge for someone in the president position. He emphasized the benefits of serving as president, especially for early career folks
- Ramona asked for what barriers may exist:
  - Jose thinks its key to have peers encouraging each other
  - Nicole thinks starting recruitment earlier and maybe inviting people to sit in on a meeting could help them understand the group more and what they are getting into
  - Esther and Christina mentioned that we could better highlight the fact that there is a lot of support from the ExComm for a lot of the roles of elected officers
  - Kelly suggested a clearer explanation of roles would help, maybe in the form of a brochure
- Election materials need to be posted in the next two weeks if following the Chapter bylaws so that way there is 30 days voting period before announcing results at the annual meeting
  - Dave asked if we could postpone this year if we do not have any candidates; Ramona confirmed this is a possibility
- **Action:** Everyone, by January 28<sup>th</sup> give Ramona your recommendations as well as updated contact information if possible. Try to personally reach out to candidates to start the process
- 2021 Awards
  - Zach said that no nominations have come in and suggested extending it for another month
  - Rob suggested a group (a state agency team that oversaw Delta flow recommendations) for the conservation award

- Ramona suggested it might be worth saving nominees for when in-person activities can begin again. Esther agreed this would be worthwhile even for awards given to groups so that members of those teams can be recognized
- 2021 Chapter Business Meeting
  - Dave suggested a combination (20 and 21) business meeting with Rob to cover new items and those that were not able to be covered last year
- Communication Needs
  - Matt is working on getting a website going for the conference and once this is ready we will have more communication needs; Dave and Matt will work with Lisa on this
  - Dave asked if there were any other communication needs coming up besides elections
    - **Action:** Nicole will send Lisa a blurb and info for the chapter meeting spawning run

## 5. Officer Updates

- Secretary (Nicole Kwan)
  - Recent membership update as of 1/10: 181 (down from 431 on 12/10)
    - Christina suggested having Lisa send out a reminder to renew dues and that many employers will reimburse dues
  - Approved November and ExComm Retreat minutes
- Treasurer (Jose Setka)
  - Bank of America Checking Balance as of 1/21/2021: \$125,316.78
  - Bank of America Savings Balance as of 1/21/2021: \$38,780.90
  - Merrill Lynch Balance as of 1/21/2021: \$131,054.80 Approximately 17% growth from January 2020
  - Received membership dues for 2019
  - IEP reimbursements are moving along; one of the bigger outstanding checks has now cleared
  - Prepping year end items for 2020 and taxes

- President (Dave Lentz)
  - AFS national CVENT contract in place and can be used by chapters
  - Membership committee of the Western Division is going to send out a lapsed membership survey to learn more about why people have left
  - Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and WA/BC chapters are all doing their virtual annual meetings the same week as us; some of them are offering discounted registrations to each other's meeting
  - Western division is hoping for chapters to provide symposia ideas for their meeting
  - Oregon chapter is having trouble fundraising and getting enough talks submitted
  - **Action:** Dave will finish revising his workplan for 2021 to go over at the February meeting
- Past President (Rob Titus) – no report
- President-Elect (Matt Young) – not present
  - Sent an email update prior: annual meeting website in progress, 6 abstracts submitted so far, needs help finding plenary speakers
  - Nicole reminded everyone that state agencies may need more lead time for registration to get budget letter exemptions approved
  - Dave shared that Matt is working on conflict of interest paperwork with his workplace so he can continue participating

## 6. Committee Updates

- Time and Place (Kelly Souza) – no update
- Continuing Education (Stephanie Durkacz) – not present
  - Dave shared that Stephanie is also working on conflict of interest paperwork and may need help reaching out to some of the continuing education presenters
- Conservation (Gary Sprague)
  - RPECC updates:
    - Not going to take the lead on climate change as one of their themes this year as the society is already working on this (white paper, article)

- Going to follow the lead of Society on the wildlife act/great American outdoor act but are also waiting to see if things change in Congress
  - Will focus on how to support better science and science communication
  - Will address agricultural and livestock grazing and how waters of the US are affected
  - Will focus on dam removal, fish passage, and flow regime alteration particularly regarding the Klamath dam removals
    - Dave asked about whether the governor's budget includes any funding for the Klamath dam – no one present knows but Gary will try and find out
  - The RPECC will try to put a proposal together for a session for the Western Division meeting. That may not have occurred.
- Communications (Lisa Thompson)
  - Determined it would be ideal to send out updates regarding the meeting as they come; this is one time where sending a lot of updates would be worthwhile rather than waiting to compile things together
- Bylaws and Nominations (Ramona Swenson) – nothing else to add to prior election discussion
- Grants (Shawn Acuña)
  - Not sure what to do about membership travel awards (2 x \$500 and 2 x \$750) given little interest last time and lack of travel
    - Dave suggested since the student rate is so low for our annual meeting that we could structure it more for the western division or society meeting; Nicole said it could maybe be used for our meeting's continuing education courses too
    - Given short timeline, Dave suggested focusing on meetings further out
    - Rob thinks offering grants for our meeting might help bolster registration

- Shawn only needs about 2 weeks lead time since people do not usually submit until the last week and then the committee needs 1 week to decide
  - Nicole suggested a package 3-for-1 application for fees for our meeting, Western Division, and the Society meetings
  - Kat said she liked that idea or putting the money towards something that would help students, like professional development or seminar speakers on topics of interest to students
  - Ramona suggested opening it up to more options, similar to how our other grant is structured
  - **Action:** Shawn will write an updated version of the call similar to the semi-annual award and make sure everyone is aware it is open to all members and will turn it around quickly to Lisa for posting asap
- Small grants (Up to \$3000 total)
  - Shawn will post that soon and gave a heads up that he will need at least 2 others in addition to himself to help be on the review committee
- Merchandize (Chris Parker)
  - Shared that for the annual meeting this year people will get to choose a charity (from a small selection of ones that meet our criteria) to donate to as an alternative to merchandise and Chris will send a little certificate acknowledging their contribution
  - Same thing will happen for the Spawning Run (will be a donation)
  - Asked for others to share any charities they think meet our criteria for diversity and outreach
- Policy and Resolutions (Sheena Holley) – not present
- Finance (Wayne Lifton) – not present
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs) – not present
- Awards (Zach Bess) – nothing to add in addition to prior awards discussion
- Outreach and Diversity (Esther Tracy)

- Esther is working on getting the solidarity statement out and will be touching base with Felipe who is interested in getting involved
- Met with Sac State field biology group in December and drummed up interest among some of the students for attending our meeting in March; also working on linking them up with the Sac-Davis student sub-unit
- Started the Education and Outreach Plan based on notes from the December meeting
- Asked for interest in a socially-distant mixer but may need to wait until the summer
- Native Fishes (Damon Goodman) – not present
- Fundraising (Andrew Hampton)
  - Working on the GiveSmart program and was wondering if we have a campaign already set up for this chapter; Dave and Rob confirmed that we do not
    - Chapter will need to pay \$250
  - Jose asked about when sponsorship request letter will be sent out; Andrew asked for a timeline and Kelly and Dave suggested it be sent out now
    - **Action:** Andrew will contact Matt and Dave about our current sponsor list to confirm contacts and then will send out request letters

#### 7. Student Sub-Unit Updates

- Santa Cruz Monterey Bay Area (Kat Dale)
  - Kat introduced herself as a 5<sup>th</sup> year PhD student who was a SCMBA president in the past
  - Sub-unit is making plans for diversity seminars and more virtual events
- UC Davis/Sacramento (Kim Luke and John Liu) – not present
- Humboldt (Michelle Loftus) – not present

#### 8. Next meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup>

- Additionally, the tentative time for next conference planning committee meeting:  
Thursday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30pm

**ADJOURN 8:17**