



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

Location: Zoom Meeting
Date: March 18, 2021
Time: 6:00 ~8:10
Call-in: See Zoom invitation

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Verification of Quorum (Nicole Kwan) – 6:07
 - 3 elected officers and 3 standing committee chairs
 - Elected officers: Dave Lentz, Rob Titus, Matt Young, Jose Setka, Nicole Kwan
 - Standing committee chairs: Gary Sprague, Jim Hobbs, Stephanie Durkacz, Ramona Swenson, Zach Bess, Kelly Souza, Wayne Lifton, Christina Parker
 - Student sub-units: Taylor Zenobia
 - Other: Steve Brumbaugh
3. Agenda Review (Dave and ExComm)
4. Focused Discussion/New and On-Going Business
 - Report on 2021 Annual Meeting (Matt)
 - 117 registrants overall; 60 of which were members; 15 were students
 - 40 presentations covering habitats from Santa Barbara to Alaska; presentations are available on Cvent for 90 days after the meeting
 - Total of 30 registrants across the two continuing education courses (which got great feedback)
 - Annual meeting budget
 - Most expense (\$5200) was for the CVENT meeting platform and per registrant charge

- Total expenses: \$7,258
- Income from fees and donations totaled: \$10,607
 - Some outstanding invoices (totaling \$1165) that Jose is working on/Matt is sending him
- Net revenue: \$3,349
- Outstanding items:
 - Mix up with CVENT in beginning meant Idaho got some of the Chapter's registration fees but they are in the process of cutting a check and this is reflected in the budget items above
 - Checks to go out for the student awards that Jose and Zach are working on
 - Figuring out how much the Chapter should donate for the charitable contributions
 - Chris suggested including some of the annual budget for merchandise (\$2000) instead of just the annual meeting budget. Matt suggested that we could just roll this into some of the annual meeting budget. Nicole suggested setting the minimum donation of \$500 for the charity with the least votes and then work up from there based on the proportion of votes for each charity
 - Chris would like to build relationships with these organizations to help the Chapter meet some of its diversity, equity, and inclusion goals
- Student awards: presentation quality was very high and impressive
 - Cramer Fish Sciences sponsored a poster session award again this year and upped their sponsorship by presenting the award to two presenters. They will be getting this payment to Jose

5. Officer Updates

- Secretary (Nicole Kwan)

- Recent membership update as of 3/10: 303 (up from 276)
- Spawning run: had a handful of entrants, some of which got around to posting their results on the website
- Update that elections close at COB on 3/19
 - Votes to date: 62
 - Nicole will notify officers, Ramona, and Lisa once election closes
- ExComm voted to approve the meeting minutes from February
- Nicole will updated draft of Business Meeting minutes to have posted on the Chapter website; will not be finalized until the 2022 Business Meeting vote
- Nicole suggested setting up a listserv for regular Cal-Neva communication between ExComm and select others and will set this up. If it works out, Steve suggested we incorporate upkeep of the listserv in the Chapter Procedural Manual. Nicole thinks upkeep of the list this would fit well within the secretarial duties
- Treasurer (Jose Setka)
 - As of 3/18:
 - Bank of America Checking Balance: \$127,371.32
 - Bank of America Savings Balance: \$38,781.53
 - Merrill Lynch Balance: \$131,444.98
 - Total: \$297,597.83
 - To date we have received \$3,075.50 in proceeds from the annual meeting
- President (Dave Lentz)
 - Society updates:
 - Membership is down 12%; student membership down 18%
 - Discussion around rebranding AFS logo and adding a tagline
 - WDAFS annual meeting updates:
 - DEI initiatives in progress, going to have a symposium at the virtual annual meeting in May

- WDAFS meeting will have a symposium featuring the western Chapters' meetings best talks
 - Cal-Neva's Winner of the Best Student talk, Terra Dressler, UCSB, will submit her abstract for this session and the Chapter will cover her \$30 registration cost
 - Alaska Chapter annual meeting is coming up soon
 - Montana had a very successful annual meeting; benefited from cooperative arrangement with other Chapters for discounted registration fee
 - Utah Chapter is working on getting the WDAFS annual meeting up and running
 - Colorado/Idaho had great turnout; used Zoom instead of CVENT but Chapter president offered that they would use CVENT if doing something like this again
 - Awards
 - Large Chapter award went to Oregon Chapter
 - Small Chapter award went to Colorado-Wyoming Chapter; CO-WY Chapter meets the criteria for a large chapter at the society level and will be forwarded for nomination by WDAFS for the Society's large Chapter award_
 - Best student sub-unit award went to SCMBA
 - WDAFS Snake River Dams Letter, drafted by WD's RPECC (Gary and Dave)
 - Rep. Simpson from Idaho working with a variety of groups and states to get information about what everyone's concerns are regarding the 4 lower Snake River dams, long recommended for removal by salmon conservation community, and has created a proposal for how to remove the earthen berms and sediment from the reservoirs in 2030 and 2031, with provisions for impacts this would cause

- The WDAFS/RPECC letter is in response to this proposal and highlights the positive aspects of dam removal for fish, currently does not include any critiques or criticisms of other aspects of the Simpson proposal but only focuses on the science of impacts of the dams to salmon and steelhead and sturgeon and not other elements of the larger package
 - There is some skepticism about the proposal, specifically where some of the large amounts of money are going and aspects relating to suspensions of legal and regulatory protections under the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act
 - Idaho and WA-BC Chapters considering abstaining from the letter
- Dave would like input on how to proceed on this regarding the position of the Chapter
 - Gary and Ramona suggested adding criticisms to the letter regarding some of elements in the proposal, including its treatment of the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts
 - Lisa would like to know if there has been any population dynamics modeling and has concerns about the timeline
 - Matt agrees that the letter currently feels incomplete and that giving up all litigation and environmental protection in the basin for the period suggested is concerning
 - Gary proposed not approving the letter as-is but would consider approving it if the letter adds another paragraph discussing the concerns regarding the environmental acts and litigation
 - Rob suggests the tenor of the letter be shifted to highlight the concerns not just the positives of dam removal
 - Dave will communicate to WDAFS that we are not in support of the letter as-is but would consider supporting it if the tenor of the letter was changed and it included a paragraph about the Chapter's concerns regarding protection and litigation

- Action: Dave will send his response to WDAFS around to the ExComm before replying to Todd
- Dave is working on finishing up his President's 2021 Work Plan; Dave will contact committee chairs and will begin a review of Society and Chapter strategic plans
- Spatial chat – Dave wants to know if we should cancel our subscription or continue it? The Chapter may be able to use it for student outreach later this year
 - Matt suggested we stop paying now and re-subscribe if we chose to do a future event
 - Chris mentioned if we have a future event under 25 people we could use their free plan
 - Dave agreed, we will cancel the subscription for now and rejoin later
- Past President (Rob Titus) Cal-Neva should help with display for 150th anniversary at the Baltimore meeting; Rob recounted the reports given by officers and committees at the 2021 Chapter Business meeting
- President-Elect (Matt Young)—Matt's report was the summary of the 2021 Chapter meeting held virtual

6. Committee Updates

- Time and Place (Kelly Souza)
 - The group decided to move forward with planning at Tenaya Lodge since doing another RFP would set us back at about two months and likely make hotel space more competitive
 - There is recognition that this will be a more expensive conference, with reduced days, and we will have to provide all meals since there are no other places to eat in the vicinity
 - Ramona, Gary and Kelly all attested that the facility is nice, space is adequate, and the setting is beautifully placed adjacent to the south entrance to Yosemite National Park

- Chris P. suggested doing some legwork up front to help membership defray costs e.g. the California Association of Professional Scientists has a competitive program offering multiple \$400 grants quarterly to help CAPS members defray professional enhancement opportunities that the state does not fund, typically for professional conferences and travel expense)
- **Action:** Kelly will work with Tenaya to try and get the prices down a bit and use the registration numbers that Matt will send her, to update predicted revenue.
- Continuing Education (Stephanie Durkacz)
 - Stephanie will be sending out two surveys to membership soon to gauge interest and participation in virtual Continuing Education courses:
 - A follow up survey to participants in the virtual meeting CE courses we just held to see what they liked or may suggest for improvement. This one will be emailed out
 - A survey to membership to see what kinds of CE courses they would be interested in attending virtually later this year. This one will go in the newsletter
- Conservation (Gary Sprague)
 - Klamath Dam Removal Funding
 - The Klamath Dam removal is projected to cost \$450 million. \$200 million from PacifiCorp, and \$250 million from California Proposition 1. This includes a contingency fund of \$50 million.
 - In November 2020 an agreement identified another \$45 million in the event of cost over runs. This and any additional costs are to be split evenly three ways between PacifiCorp, Oregon, and California. PacifiCorps' portion (\$15m) would come from increased rates, Oregon's portion would come from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and California's portion would come from the California Natural Resources Agency through Proposition 68 (2018).
- Communications (Lisa Thompson)

- The next Cal-Neva e-newsletter is scheduled to go out in early April 2021. The following items are to be included:
 - 1. Chapter Meeting 2021 re-cap - Matt
 - 2. Student Award winners - Matt
 - 3. Reminder of where meeting attendees can go back and access the video presentations - Matt
 - 4. Thank-you to planning committee members – Matt? Dave?
 - 5. Thank-you to sponsors - LT
 - 6. President's message - Dave
 - 7. Election results - Nicole
 - 8. Save the date for 2022 Chapter annual meeting - Kelly
 - 9. Links to memorial posters for Cay and Larry - do we want to upload these to the Chapter website, and if yes, where? LT
 - 10. Travel award article – Kiana (I already have this item)
 - 11. Charities - Christina
 - 12. Continuing Education survey - Stephanie
- **Action:** Text, and a photo if relevant/possible, for each item should be sent to Lisa by the end of day on Saturday, April 3
- Bylaws and Nominations (Ramona Swenson)
 - Election in progress and will conclude March 19th. Winners will be announced via the Newsletter
- Grants (Shawn Acuña) – not present
- Merchandize (Chris Parker) – no update
- Policy and Resolutions (Sheena Holley) – not present
- Finance (Wayne Lifton) – no update
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs) – no update
- Awards (Zach Bess)
 - Zach is working with Jose to get the student award winner checks disbursed
- Outreach and Diversity (Esther Tracy) – not present

- Native Fishes (Damon Goodman) – not present
- Fundraising (Andrew Hampton) – not present

7. Student Sub-Unit Updates

- Santa Cruz Monterey Bay Area (Kat Dale) – not present
- UC Davis/Sacramento (Kim Luke and John Liu) – not present
- Humboldt (Taylor Zenobia)
 - The subunit took a break (COVID) over the fall semester but has resumed activity for the spring semester with monthly Zoom calls; advising members about job notices; approximately 10 members currently

8. Next meeting: April 22nd, 2021

ADJOURN TIME 8:10