



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

Location: Zoom Meeting  
Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Time: 6:00 – 8:19  
Call-in: See Zoom Invitation

### Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Verification of Quorum (Nicole Kwan) – 6:05
  - 3 elected officers and 3 standing committee chairs
    - Elected officers: Dave Lentz, Matt Young, Jose Setka, Nicole Kwan, Rob Titus
    - Standing committee chairs: Jim Hobbs, Kelly Souza, Wayne Lifton, Christina Parker, Lisa Thompson, Gary Sprague, Ramona Swenson, Shawn Acuña, Zach Bess
    - Student sub-units: Taylor Zenobia, Kat Dale
    - Incoming officer: Eva Bush
3. Agenda Review (Dave and ExComm)
4. Focused Discussion/New and On-Going Business
  - Alameda Creek Sportfishing regulations – ACA request
    - Ted Frink (past conservation subcommittee chair) brought this to our attention as something the Chapter may want to support and Dave circulated the letter via email to the ExComm
    - In summary: The Fish and Game Commission tightened fishing regulations (shorter season, barbless hooks, no harvest) for *O. mykiss* affecting Alameda Creek tributaries upstream of reservoirs and three of its reservoirs. The Alameda Creek Alliance was unaware of the FGC's fishing regulation proposals and felt

they should have been included in the process that resulted in the new regulations. CDFW did a lot of public outreach, and the regulations simplification has been going on for years but did not contact the alliance directly. The SFPUC, landowner of the waters affected, prohibits public access to these waters so there is no effect of the new regulations unless SFPUC changes or is forced to change (litigation) the access situation.

- Jose suggested that we may not know enough about the fish population to have a discussion about what type of fishing regulations should exist there and a better understanding of the population would be the first place to study
- Rob clarified that the reservoir/upper watershed fish are not listed; the lower anadromous reaches are included under the Central Coast Steelhead ESU; suggested that we could write back to the alliance but that we do not really have a stake in this
- Dave asked for a recommendation on how the Chapter should address this. Rob recommended that Dave give Ted a call to communicate the Chapter's thoughts on inconsistencies in the draft letter, but to not join in on the letter or write one of our own. Ted can then relay this to the alliance
  - Rob suggested the regulation changes are unlikely to have a negative impact on the population but suggested that monitoring could help. Matt agreed
  - Gary agreed that a call to Ted would be a good way to address the Chapter's response
- **Action:** Dave will run planned response by Rob, Gary, and Matt before responding to Ted
- NMFS/CDFW Coastal Monitoring invitation-only workshop request
  - Charlette Ambrose (NMFS) reached out about this virtual workshop (series of events from late April – May) and their desire to include some sort of social event. They expressed that they really enjoyed the Spatial Chat venue from the

Chapter's annual meeting and was wondering if we could help facilitate a similar social event for their workshop

- Matt is waiting to hear back on whether they expect to exceed the 25 person free account, if over 25 then we would need to re-up our subscription which Dave recently cancelled
- To facilitate use of our space, we would be needed to host, be in the space to keep it open, and help prepare the space
- Matt offered to be the one on the ground in the space, Nicole and Lisa added that creating the space is straightforward and would not take long
- ExComm discussed if we should facilitate this so we can have more exposure with the agencies or if we should encourage them that the platform is easy and to host this on their own; ExComm generally agreed that it was worthwhile to pursue helping them
- **Action:** Matt will reach out to NMFS and share that we can help and loop in Nicole and Lisa for any assistance needed removing conference content and preparing the space

## 5. Officer Updates

- Secretary (Nicole Kwan)
  - Recent membership update as of 4/10: 332 member up from 321 in March
    - Created a new spreadsheet to incorporate the 18 Life members which are commonly missing from the HQ updates
  - New listserv/Google group is up and running: ExComm members can use this new email to contact everyone instead of copying and pasting from old emails (which can lead to people being missed). Nicole will keep the group up-to-date while acting as Secretary
    - **Action:** Nicole will send out instructions on how to find individual emails through the Google Group
  - Election update: Eva Bush is the incoming President-elect and Jose will serve as Treasurer again

- ExComm voted to approve the meeting minutes from March
- Treasurer (Jose Setka)
  - Bank of America Checking Balance as of 4/22/2021: \$126,755.24
  - Bank of America Savings Balance as of 4/22/2021: \$38,781.86
  - Merrill Lynch Balance as of 4/22/2021: \$134,899.50
  - Total: \$300,436.60 (increase of \$2,838.77 over March 2021)
  - Notes:
    - Still have not received a final deposit for annual meeting from CVENT
      - Matt forwarded this to Jose today; there is a delayed release cycle but they reassured Matt that the portion that was attributed to our merchant account should have been released and will come in very soon
      - Matt also has an email out to the Idaho Chapter to get a check from them for the registration fees that were mis-routed to them
    - Only 2 outstanding invoices for the annual meeting totaling \$65
    - All of the conference awards have been sent out and most have cleared, only a couple still outstanding
    - Jose will be sending out charity donations this week
    - Taxes due May 17 and Jose is hoping to finish up his part this weekend or file an extension if needed
- President (Dave Lentz)
  - WDAFS update
    - Division is planning their conference which will be held May 10-14; includes sessions and film/photography festival
    - Awarded Past Division President, Dan Dauwalter, a lifetime AFS membership
    - Election is open until 4/30 to vote for Division officers
    - Society elections should open next month
  - WDAFS Snake River dams – Rep. Simpson (R-ID) proposal letter



- ExComm discussed Tenaya vs Lake Natoma
  - Tenaya cons: would need to be a shorter conference which would mean a reduction in information; would be expensive; lack of food options; potential travel restrictions or budget constraints from agencies could put revenue at risk, inaccessibility.
  - Lake Natomas pros: better to work with; could host a longer conference; giving back to them after they graciously let us off the hook with COVID-19 in 2020; more budget-friendly for AFS, professionals, students, and a reduction in registration costs that agencies would need to support.
  - ExComm is leaning towards hosting the conference at Lake Natoma instead of Tenaya
- IEP wants to know if the Chapter went to Lake Natoma if we would want to share a week. Also, unrelated to where the Chapter hosts its 2022 meeting, IEP would like to know if we can be their financial partner again
  - Nicole, Matt, and Ramona like the idea of separating the conferences instead of putting them on the same week
  - Jose does not think helping IEP with finances would be a tremendous amount of work but starting with a clear MOU (defining our fee of \$5,000) would be important. Matt added that having a clear pathway and timeframe for decoupling as IEP's "bank" should also be in the MOU.
  - Jim and Eva pointed out that without Cal-Neva, IEP probably could not continue to host in-person meetings
    - Eva provided some insight that implications associated with the passing of AB 5 make it such that IEP is unable to support these meetings
  - Rob suggested that maybe there could be a way to run the meeting and just absorb IEP instead of having them run their own but Ramona felt this might make it feel too Central Valley specific and Nicole thinks it may

alienate other fisheries professionals and students that are not integrated into IEP

- Kelly is concerned about the optics of holding onto agency proceeds long-term, having the Chapter profit from agency funding, not having a mechanism identified to return the funds, and the potential risk this puts on both the Chapter and IEP
  - Dave suggested we table the financial partnering discussion to a future meeting to keep on time, and after we have more information about whether holding agency proceeds potentially opens the chapter or society to unforeseen liability.
  - **Action:** Kelly will respond to IEP that we would like to have a chapter only conference so that we can focus on our memberships needs, and that we are still deliberating on being a financial partner. Kelly will also continue research on hosting the 2022 meeting at Lake Natoma instead of Tenaya
- Continuing Education (Stephanie Durkacz) – not present
    - See email for update on continuing education survey, which will remain open until 4/30
  - Conservation (Gary Sprague) – updates already covered
  - Communications (Lisa Thompson)
    - Newsletter and continuing education survey went out
    - Lisa now has permissions from HQ to update Past Meetings page on the website
      - Has posted information for 2018, 2020, and 2021
      - **Action:** Rob will send Lisa an update for the 2019 Meeting to add to the page
  - Bylaws and Nominations (Ramona Swenson)
    - Planning to work on the Strategic Plan with Dave
  - Grants (Shawn Acuña)
    - Small grants need 5 reviews or for ExComm sign off

- Matt and Shawn reviewed the recent proposals and agreed they were worthy of receiving grants
  - Shawn provided brief summaries of the proposals and suggested that we can fund both or allow more time for review
    - ExComm voted to award both projects the funding requested
  - Allotment is usually \$3,000 but we have \$1,000 carryover from last year which covers the \$3500 of requests submitted for this year
- Merchandise (Chris Parker)
  - Chris and Jose are preparing to send checks to charities
  - The two charities that responded to Chris expressed their gratitude for the donation
- Fundraising (Andrew Hampton) – not present
- Policy and Resolutions (Sheena Holley) – not present
- Finance (Wayne Lifton) – passing until next time
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs)
  - Jim is preparing for booth at the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and is soliciting ideas for the booth that could travel well
    - An idea before was to create a large otolith with 60 rings detailing parts of the Chapter's history
    - Ramona suggested highlighting what is unique about our Chapter, such as spanning diverse biomes
    - The Chapter has until June 15<sup>th</sup> to submit our idea
    - **Action:** Everyone with idea should share them via the ExComm listserv
- Awards (Zach Bess) – no updates
- Outreach and Diversity (Esther Tracy) – not present
- Native Fishes (Damon Goodman) – not present

## 7. Student Sub-Unit Updates

- Santa Cruz Monterey Bay Area (Kat Dale)



- Every other Wednesday evening they have been co-hosting (with Fisheries Collaborative Program) a “diverse voices in fisheries” event that includes a ~30 minute talk followed by moderated Q&A
  - Asked if we could be a flier for this event in the Newsletter
    - **Action:** Kat will send a flier to Lisa for distribution
  - Invited everyone to join; Ramona shared the links
- The sub-unit has also hosted: virtual happy hour, tidepooling day, journal clubs, beach cleanup – these have all amounted to about an event a week
- Kat has been nominated as student representative for the Western Division
- Humboldt (Taylor Zenobia)
  - The sub-unit recently hosted a racial equity presentation discussing implicit bias
  - Taylor shared an idea for a marine-focused speaker (their advisor) with Kat for the SCMBA speaker series
  - The sub-unit will host a tide pooling event 5/1 that will also be on Instagram live
  - The sub-unit has new merchandise that just came in
  - The sub-unit is getting ready for sub-unit elections
  - Taylor mentioned that their student sub-unit would appreciate having the annual meeting in Folsom rather than Yosemite because it will be easier to find inexpensive lodging
- UC Davis/Sacramento (Kim Luke and John Liu) – not present

8. Next meeting: May 20, 2021

**ADJOURN 8:19**