



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

Location: Zoom Meeting
Date: September 16th, 2021
Time: 6:00 – 7:48
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: Eva Bush, Jose Setka, Matthew Young, Nicole Kwan
 - Standing committee chairs: Cynthia LeDoux Bloom, Kathleen Berridge, Gary Sprague, Kelly Souza, Wayne Lifton, Christina Parker, Ramona Swenson, Andrew Hampton
 - Student sub-units: Kat Dale, Kim Luke
 - Potential UCI student sub-unit: Matea Djokic, Beth Herrmann, Matthew Walsh
3. Agenda Review (Matt and ExComm)
4. Focused Discussion/New and On-Going Business
 - UCI Student Sub-Unit
 - UC Irvine students are interested in forming a new student sub-unit to increase exposure of fisheries as a career option, given UCI has no specific fisheries, watershed, or marine science degrees
 - Currently they have bylaws written but are waiting for the university to approve their group and for the supporting professor to finish renewing their AFS membership dues

- Matt asked what the Chapter could do to help and Beth shared that one of the goals of the sub-unit would be to connect students with scientists active in the field by building a networking and mentorship opportunities
- Early Career Professional mentoring program
 - The goal is to expand the Western Division mentoring program
 - Current interest has been minimal – there were dozens of mentors but only 6 interested mentees
 - The Division is looking to expand the program and get more people involved
 - The Cal-Neva Chapter could expand our own mentorship program or join the Division in their program expansion
 - Ramona thinks that if the Division program has more momentum, joining theirs might be beneficial and will give students more geographic options
 - Cynthia agrees with Ramona and thinks we could do both, potentially turning a Chapter mentorship program into a more field/hands on focused program
 - Also shared that SRF created field trip opportunities during their annual meetings for mentors and mentees to meet
 - Esther had previously expressed interest in attending future meetings about this program and Matt will attend as well to see how the Chapter can be incorporated
- Annual meeting planning
 - Eva read through the meeting planning documents Rob and Ramona had sent her
 - Discussion of meeting format – in-person only/virtual only/hybrid?
 - Kathleen sent out a poll to membership and received 13 responses with a fairly even split between in-person and hybrid and no votes for virtual
 - Nicole shared that she voted for a hybrid meeting so there was flexibility to adjust depending on the COVID-19 situation and that she didn't feel

the virtual component needed to be as formal and all-encompassing as it was for the 2021 meeting

- Matt shared that many of the other chapters are considering a hybrid model with recorded talks
 - Eva attended a conference that included pre-recorded talks with a dedicated hour moderated QA session and at BDSC they got feedback that pre recording talks was preferred by many presenters
 - Ramona cautioned that the Chapter should be mindful of the energy and time we have in this volunteer group
 - Kelly added that Metro Media could broadcast out the live talks, if desired – past cost may have been quoted around \$5,000 – 7,000
 - Kathleen mentioned that Lake Natoma Inn’s (LNI) COVID protocols might also impact how the conference could be run/if people would want to attend
 - Kelly mentioned that LNI is expecting the revenue of people in-person and a virtual offer might be desirable to even those who would have attended in person
 - Cynthia added at the SRF virtual meeting members were disappointed in lack of networking opportunities
 - Jose mentioned that it would be okay for the Chapter to break even or take a small loss on this meeting, if necessary
 - Circled back at the end of the meeting to this topic and highlighted the fact that the Chapter could facilitate comfort in an in-person event by requiring exposure mitigation measures
 - Ramona suggested maybe just make a small virtual offering such as a virtual plenary talk and discussion panel but not recording all the talks
- **Action:** Eva will prepare a meeting for interested ExComm members to discuss this in finer detail
 - **Action:** Matt will send Eva budgeting spreadsheets from past meetings

5. Officer Updates

- Secretary (Nicole Kwan)
 - Did not receive a membership update from this month and is not sure why
 - There are still some outstanding edits needed for the August notes and Nicole is working on finalizing these
- Treasurer (Jose Setka)
 - Account balances:
 - Bank of America Checking Balance as of 9/15/2021: \$115,175.60
 - Bank of America Savings Balance as of 9/15/2021: \$38,783.49
 - Merrill Lynch Balance as of 9/15/2021: \$140,627.14
 - Total: \$294586.23 (decrease of \$1,383.64 over July 2021)
 - Working on final IEP close-out as IEP's plan is to have 2022 be the last in-person conference at a non-state location
 - Kelly added that we still need the no-cost contract for this coming year but it will no longer be needed after that as IEP will not rely on Cal Neva's services
- President (Matt Young)
 - WDAFS updates:
 - Retreat for Division ExComm will be virtual and is being rescheduled so Matt will likely be able to attend (Eva will not need to substitute)
 - Working on finalizing the Spokane Meeting MOU
 - CDFW is soliciting donations for their science symposium
 - In the past the Chapter has donated for refreshments and they have requested \$250 to cover the symposium's coffee costs this year
 - Ramona added that in the past she has dropped off fliers and added notes like "your coffee is sponsored by Cal-Neva"
 - No one in the Chapter objected to this donation plan so Matt will move forward with the donation
 - Baltimore meeting is coming up
 - Virtual and in-person available

- The meeting will include a historical exhibit but Rob, Jim, and Claire feel they do not have the time to pull together the Cal-Neva exhibit
 - No one else in the Chapter expressed interest in taking this over so there will not be a Chapter booth at the meeting
- Past President (Dave Lentz) – not present
 - Matt shared that Dave has started planning meetings to update the Chapter's Strategic Plan and is also pulling together end-of-year committee reports
- President-Elect (Eva Bush)
 - Updates covered in Annual Meeting discussion topic above

6. Committee Updates

- Time and Place (Kelly Souza)
 - Kelly sent RFP results which include 3 hotels to choose from in Los Angeles and believes the Redondo might be the best option if we had to go with one of the 3 provided
 - Kelly suggested she could have Helms Brisco search again to include more options outside of just LA as well as less expensive options (those provided were expensive and include high parking fees). Kelly believes that the new Helms Brisco representative for our RFP did not fully understand the needs of the Chapter and this can be communicated to them
 - Nicole agreed the 3 provided were not the most ideal and added that parking fees could be an impediment to students
 - Cynthia mentioned that there had been a couple great meetings in the past in San Diego and Long Beach
 - Multiple members agreed that Redondo would be the best option if we had to go with one of the 3
 - Kelly will ask them to re-run the RFP based on the ExComm's discussion
- Continuing Education (Cynthia LeDoux Bloom)
 - Cynthia is new to this position and is planning a survey in hopes that education types/topics can be driven by those who are interested in engaging

- Idea for monthly meetings focused on different topics highlighting short discussions on how experts got where they are and what they do
 - Could plan/share throughout the year
 - Have consultants sit in on these panels to increase exposure of consulting as a fisheries career option
 - Use SCMBAS seminar session as a template
- Interest in bridging student learning and networking between California and international locations, as there is a lot of interest from others in getting involved in the integrated science that happens in the Delta
- Conservation (Gary Sprague)
 - Western Division Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee has been working on sharing the Snake River White Paper in condensed versions through various journal avenues
 - Recovering Americas Wildlife Act was heard by Congress but then went on recess and nothing more has happened with it yet
- Communications (Kathleen Berridge)
 - Newsletter recently went out through Constant Contact
 - Kathleen has been updating the website with meeting minutes and changes in officers and committee chairs
 - If you notice any areas that need to be edited, please let Kathleen know
- Bylaws and Nominations (Ramona Swenson)
 - Ramona has been working with the Strategic Planning Committee and preparing for the upcoming officer election
 - Let Ramona know of any potential nominees for President
 - Shared that she can serve as a resource for bylaws for the UCI student sub-unit, if they are interested
- Grants (Shawn Acuña) – not present
- Merchandise (Chris Parker)

- Shared again that merchandise and meeting supplies from Reno are all now in the AFS storage unit
- Exhibits/Fundraising (Andrew Hampton) – no update
- Finance (Wayne Lifton)
 - Wayne still plans to catch up with Jose soon to discuss potential investment strategies to address inflation
- Policy and Resolutions (Sheena Holley) – not present
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs) – not present
- Awards (Zach Bess) – not present
 - Matt shared that Zach is working on special awards for Stephanie and Lisa and is also helping with the Strategic Plan
- 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)
 - First meeting of the fall quarter is coming up
 - Preparing for elections in the fall
 - Working on increasing membership
 - **Action**: send Jose an email with address and who to make the sub-unit check out to
- Davis/Sacramento (Kim Luke)
 - First meeting coming up on Thursday: meeting at a park with pizza, 6 planned attendees so far
 - Trying to recruit more students by presenting at an upcoming orientation event
 - Finally became registered as a UC Davis student club
 - Andrew Rypel is the sub-unit sponsor
- Humboldt (Taylor Zenobia) – not present
 - Nicole shared that the sub-unit is ready to accept their check and Nicole will forward the details sent by Taylor to Jose

- The sub-unit's main goal this year will be mobilizing students to attend the Folsom meeting this February
8. Next meeting: October 21st, 2021

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