



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

Location: Zoom Meeting
Date: November 18th, 2021
Time: 6:00 – 7:57
Call-in: See Zoom Invitation

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Verification of Quorum (Nicole Kwan) – 6:04
 - 3 elected officers and 3 standing committee chairs
 - Elected officers: Matt Young, Eva Bush, Jose Setka, Nicole Kwan, Dave Lentz
 - Standing committee chairs: Wayne Lifton, Esther Tracy, Gary Sprague, Damon Goodman, Rob Titus, Zach Bess, Ramona Swenson, Kelly Souza, Cynthia Le Doux-Bloom
 - Student sub-units: Matea Djokic, Z Zenobia, Kat Dale
3. Agenda Review (Matt and ExComm)
4. Focused Discussion/New and On-Going Business
 - Rob attended Baltimore AFS National meeting
 - Had ~400 attendees, including many students – people were very happy to meet in person
 - COVID precautions were in place
 - Business meeting was very general with few status updates
 - Participated in student networking events
 - There were some issues with CVENT (late information, incorrect rooms listed, etc.)
 - Cal-Neva Annual Meeting

- CDFW employees received recent updated guidance that may limit attendance at in-person meetings; Matt and Eva polled ExComm to see what the different organizations represented by the ExComm are requiring
 - Everyone but CDFW said they can attend, but many with caveats
 - CDFW has limited attendance at virtual meetings to one per year
 - Rob shared that he thinks they could go to management for more clarification about the new guidance
 - Kelly wonders if the department might pull back on this guidance a little and encourages reaching out about mitigation measures that will allow attendance
 - Dave mentioned that the guidance specifically identified professional society meetings
 - Eva shared that DSC does not currently have restrictions on attending in-person meetings
 - Nicole shared that DWR was allowing in-person trainings and does not appear to have a problem with in-person meetings but is uncertain if it might change in the future
 - Jose shared the EBMUD is requiring vaccination or legitimate approved exemptions, otherwise staff will be fired
 - Some staff will be attending in-person ACWA conference in December
 - Damon expressed it might be hard to change state and federal policies but the Chapter should aim for an in-person gathering even if it needs to be smaller
- Eva feels strongly the Chapter should require vaccination for in-person attendance; Rob thinks this would help to get a potential work around on allowing attendance
- Eva suggested we might want to have a livestream component of the conference given this new information, for added flexibility

- **Action:** Per Kelly's suggestion, Eva will get in touch with Lake Natomas Inn about AV to make sure we would have that option
 - **Action:** Next Annual Meeting planning meeting will be December 18th at 6:00pm
- UC Irvine sub-unit bylaws & support
 - ExComm voted to approve the UCI sub-unit petition

5. Officer Updates

- Secretary (Nicole Kwan)
 - Working with Kelly Kotche to receive membership updates again
 - **Action:** Nicole will continue working on receiving membership updates
 - ExComm voted to approve the meeting minutes from October
 - Nicole has been making updates to the listserv and requested that if anyone would like any changes made to let her know, including if any other student sub-unit officers should be included
- Treasurer (Jose Setka)
 - Account summaries:
 - Bank of America Checking Balance as of 11/17/2021: \$109,770.38
 - Bank of America Savings Balance as of 11/17/2021: \$38,784.14
 - Merrill Lynch Balance as of 11/17/2021: \$142,601.85
 - Total: \$291,156.37 (decrease of \$1,321.87 over October 2021)
 - Wayne and Jose met with the Chapter's Merrill Lynch advisor to review the Chapter account and discuss any recommendations. As a result, they recommend transferring \$50,000 from the Chapter's banking accounts to the investment account. Three primary reasons are:
 - Much better growth in investment revenue
 - Counters impacts from inflation
 - Remaining bank account balance remains and covers a full year of operations assuming no income
 - ExComm voted to move \$50,000 from the banking account to the investment account

- **Action:** Jose will move \$50,000 from the Chapter banking account to the investment account
- President (Matt Young)
 - Annual retreat: Dec 4th 9-5pm; Ramona reserved a room adjacent to the Davis Community Pool in Community Park
 - **Action:** If anyone has concerns or needs accommodation to participate, please let Matt know
 - CDFW Science Symposium will now be virtual so the Chapter will not be making the coffee contribution discussed prior, however CDFW will continue to include the Chapter logo
 - Matt will be attending the Western Division retreat in the coming days and will provide a report in the future
 - AFS National Business Meeting unveiled the new logo
 - The Chapter may want to consider updating its logo once the new one is fully incorporated (since it includes the national logo)
- Past President (Dave Lentz)
 - Dave is busy finishing things up before his upcoming retirement, will be reaching out to committee chairs for updates soon
 - Strategic Plan review – would like to include this on the annual retreat agenda
 - Dave will be bringing special contributions awards to the annual retreat to hand out in-person
- President-Elect (Eva Bush)
 - Call for Abstracts went out through a Constant Contact message; other updates were covered above

6. Committee Updates

- Time and Place (Kelly Souza)
 - Results from RFP are in and the viable options are: Sonesta Redondo Beach or Hilton Long Beach

- Hilton is located a block from the Long Beach Aquarium, which could be a good opportunity for an event
 - Hilton has a \$10 parking fee, Sonesta is \$22
 - Hilton will waive room fees if we hit a food minimum, Sonesta has a sliding scale but would cost more for the room fees
- ExComm voted to move forward with the Hilton Long Beach as a potential 2023 annual meeting with dates in early March
- Continuing Education (Cynthia LeDoux Bloom)
 - Ideas for tours at annual meeting:
 - Nimbus Hatchery: should be able to get permissions for the interpretive center and hatchery
 - Steelhead/Sailor Bar: discussion/viewing of steelhead spawning – working with Rob Titus who shared that it might be hard to get access to the spawning building but he can reach out to Kevin Thomas and report back
 - Trying to potentially pull together a restoration project tour, maybe Ancil Hoffman
 - Feedback on courses:
 - Cynthia is leaning towards focusing on field trips rather than online courses
 - **Action:** Let Cynthia know if you have thoughts/feedback on field trips and/or course ideas for the annual meeting
 - Cynthia sent via email a mask idea for the conference and Kelly and Matt agreed it would be a good idea/purchase
 - Matt estimated potentially 150-200 attendees, though the Chapter meetings have gotten up to 400
 - Nicole asked whether we want to have any kind of mask standards; suggested providing cloth masks might keep people from wearing more protective masks

- The ExComm will discuss more later and include masking guidelines in the meeting details to set a standard
- Conservation (Gary Sprague)
 - Western Division Conservation Committee is about to submit the Snake River paper to Fish and Fisheries
- Communications (Kathleen Berridge) – not present
 - Cynthia shared that her and Kathleen already received 4 responses to the continuing education survey
- Bylaws and Nominations (Ramona Swenson)
 - Ramona found one nomination for Secretary – Mollie Ogaz
 - **Action**: Let Ramona know if you have any nominations for one more president and one more secretarial candidate
- Grants (Shawn Acuña) – not present
 - Matt is working with Shawn to figure out increasing grants and will discuss more at the retreat
- Merchandise (Chris Parker) – not present
- Exhibits/Fundraising (Andrew Hampton) – not present
- Finance (Wayne Lifton)
 - Covered in Jose's update
- Policy and Resolutions (Sheena Holley) – not present
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs) – not present
- Awards (Zach Bess)
 - Zach has awards for Stephanie and Lisa made
 - **Action**: Zach will work on mailing these to the recipients
 - Will wait to call for nominations for the 2022 Annual Meeting until more details are set and communicate with Eva soon
- Outreach and Diversity (Esther Tracy)
 - At the division DEI meeting they discussed the results of the recruitment poll:

- The Cal-Neva Chapter was one of the leaders in recruitment using its recommendation from ExComm + follow-up from Ramona strategy, as well as including Committee Chairs as voting members
- Something that might help is a place to track who has been a part of the ExComm and expressed interest in the past
- One thing that came up was the large commitment to be President and the team is working on coming up with plans and tools to assist the president and increase diversity
- For Western Division annual meeting the team is planning to create education for how to interrupt biased comments and actions in a way that is safe for everyone
- Baltimore meeting had affinity groups to be safe spaces for minority groups to interact (not a place to educate others)
 - **Action:** Esther will pass along details on Baltimore meeting affinity groups to the ExComm
- Native Fishes (Damon Goodman) – present but had to leave early

7. Student Sub-Unit Updates

- Santa Cruz Monterey Bay Area (Kat Dale)
 - Sub-unit just finished elections and will have a new ExComm soon
 - Emailed membership about Student Angle paper
 - Reserved space for the WDAFS Student Colloquium in San Jose at the Blue Oak Reserve
 - Working on putting together a tour at the Skinner Fish Facility as part of the colloquium
- Davis/Sacramento (Kim Luke) – not present
 - Matt shared Kim's email update:
 - Sub-unit was able to deposit our check into the AFS account
 - They held Carpe Carpio a few weeks ago but sadly no carp, though did get some green sunfish

- Will have social hour before the quarter ends
 - Planning to hold an abstract review/ pizza party the first week of Winter quarter
 - Sub-unit is interested in talking more about travel grants
 - Humboldt (Z Zenobia)
 - Unfortunately several people were unable to complete the Treasurer training to be a recognized student organization so they will need to wait until January to meet as a club again
 - Planning to send out a flier about the February meeting to put it on student's and professor's radar. Perhaps professors could offer extra credit for attendance.
 - Z asked if they could bring sub-unit merchandise to the annual meeting and Dave suggested making arrangements with Chris Parker
 - Irvine (Matea Djokic)
 - Now officially recognized by the university
 - Planning to recruit student at January tabling event
 - **Action:** Matt will send signed petition to Matea
 - Cal Poly is working towards a petition and student sub-unit status
8. Next meeting: Annual Retreat, December 4th in Davis, CA (with virtual attendance option)

ADJOURN 7:57