



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

Location: Red Lion Hotel, Redding CA

Date: 4/12/2024

Time: 1-3pm

Call-in: NA

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Verification of Quorum (Mollie Ogaz) –
 - 3 elected officers and 3 standing committee chairs
 - Elected officers: Miranda Tilcock, Mollie Ogaz, Christina Parker, Tommy Agosta
 - Standing committee chairs: Kathleen Berridge, Kelly Souza, Kim Luke, Matea Djokic, Wayne Lifton, Matthew Young, JT Casby, Amanda Casby, Cynthia LeDoux Bloom, Jim Hobbs
 - Student sub-units: Matea Djokic, James Whelan, Alex Ginez
3. Agenda Review (Miranda)
4. Officer Updates
 - President's Report (Miranda)
 - Assist the Chapter in executing a successful Cal-Neva Annual Meeting
 - Help grow membership
 - Social media followers have increased, especially instagram
 - We have a part-time paid social media person which has been effective so far
 - Plan more events and opportunities
 - Going into the first non-meeting year, it is really important we plan events, not just in the Sacramento area, but around the state

- o Do more projects that support the mission of AFS
 - Letter to the Governor for State employee ability to attend conferences
- Secretary (Mollie Ogaz)
 - o Current membership: 317
 - o Election results: Kim Luke as President-Elect, Parisa Hurley as Secretary
 - o Reminder that our biggest membership registration occurs in the months before the annual meeting to get reduced registration costs- as a chapter we need to be sure to offer exciting events with enough incentive to keep membership numbers high without the annual meeting
- Treasurer (Tommy Agosta)
 - o Chapter Finances

	February 24, 2023	March 20, 2024
Checking Account	\$52,840.88	\$23,991.83
Savings Account	\$48,789.01	\$48,794.23
Investment Account	\$165,658.31	\$189,118.80
Total	\$267,288.20	\$261,904.86

- Chapter operating at a slight to moderate loss.
- Annual meeting expected to break even or perhaps turn a small profit
- Annual budget projects a loss for the year. Projected balance of \$210k by end of year.
- 24K gain from investment account helping to keep balance up. However we are hoping not to dip into those funds.
- o Treasurer's Suggestions
 - Improve training for incoming treasurer.
 - Develop a better receipt filing system. File on the google drive?
 - Begin using accounting software (quickbooks, techsoup, etc.)
 - Switch CPAs. To the CPA used by Western Division.

- Have annual meeting with CPA. Recommend both treasurer and incoming president attend the meeting and review chapter SOPs
 - Update Treasurer's SOP/survival guide. Last update 2014.
- President-Elect (Christina Parker)
 - AFS member/ExComm member since 2013- 10 annual meetings
 - Get involved!

5. Committee Updates

- Time and Place (Kelly Souza)
 - Stepping down following the meeting, her pitch for the next chair:
 - Benefits
 - Site visits are fun
 - Resume building
 - It's rewarding
 - Reduced registration costs for meetings
 - Choose your favorite foods
 - Contact Kelly with any questions!
- Continuing Education (Cynthia LeDoux Bloom)
 - Since Covid, Field learning and workshop CE events have increased
 - Able to offer 3 field (31 participants) and 2 workshop (9 participants) this year!
 - Variety of different participants- largely academia, federal agencies, state agencies, and the private sector
- Conservation (Gary Sprague)
 - Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)
 - Cal-Neva continued a multi-year effort to pass this federal bill. We again sent letters requesting support of the bill to the California Congressional delegation.
 - The bill did pass out of the U.S. House of Representatives in July of 2022. However, in the U.S. Senate it did not make it to the Senate floor. There

was an effort to include the bill in the federal budget, but that was unsuccessful.

- Passage of this bill would provide an estimated \$55 million to California and \$24 million to Nevada, annually. The money would be used to implement wildlife conservation strategies, conservation education, and recreation projects.
- This legislation remains a priority for AFS Headquarters for 2023. Reintroduction of this bill will be challenging.
- o In addition to RAWA, conservation issues AFS will be working on in 2023 include:
 - Waters of the U.S.
 - Pebble Mine
 - Snake River Dam Removal
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
- o Activities identified for Cal-Neva in 2023
 - RAWA
 - Potential conservation actions in Putah Creek.
- o Gary Sprague will be resigning from the Cal-Neva Conservation Committee this summer. I (Gary) want to thank all of the Cal-Neva members for their input and support of the Conservation Committee, and the Cal-Neva Chapter.
- Communications (Kathleen Berridge)
 - o Increased social media presence
 - Instagram @calneva.afs
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - o Website management
 - o Constant Contact communications
 - o Offered a paid social media position; Welcome Lily!
- Bylaws and Nominations (vacant)
 - o Ramona finished off her 7 year term, her closing thoughts:

Nominations - Step up! Benefits for officers

- AFS dues paid
 - Chapter meeting registration
 - President - Society and Western Division meetings (2024 Hawaii) registration, travel and expenses. Leadership training opportunities
 - Make friends and make a difference for our students, our profession and our fishery resources!
- Grants (Shawn Acuña)
 - Travel Grants
 - 2023 Semi-Annual
 - Indo-Pacific Fish Conference
 - Auckland, New Zealand
 - Kelly Hannan
 - 2024 Travel Grant
 - Jiashu Chen
 - Erin Redding
 - Small Grants
 - 2023
 - Bridging the gap: Steelhead ocean foraging ecology and the link to thiamine deficiency complex.
 - Abigail Ward, UC Davis
 - Using fish to study the trophic food chain of artificial wetlands in the Arcata Marsh, CA.
 - Lily Olmo, Cal Poly Humboldt
 - Merchandise (Kim Luke and Matea Djokic)
 - Made the conference logo
 - New hats for spawning run participants and extras available for sale!
 - Helping student subunits set up Zazzle stores for subunit merch
 - Sales ongoing through this conference and working through current stock

- o T-shirts, sweatshirts and other merchandise available through new Zazzle Link
- Exhibits/Fundraising (Andrew Hampton)- not present
- Finance (Wayne Lifton)
 - o ●Provided support for financial matters
 - o ●Expenditures
 - o ●Budget Review
 - o ●Investment Review
 - o ●Work on Financing of Grant Funding Approach
 - o ●How much to set aside?
 - o ●How much in stocks?
 - o ●How much in secure deposits?
- Policy and Resolutions (Vacant)
- Chapter Historian (Jim Hobbs)
- Awards (Zach Bess)
 - o 4 total award recipients in 2024
 - o 1 Conservation Achievement Award
 - o 3 Special Contribution Awards
 - o Please continue to nominate your colleagues for CAL-NEVA AFS awards.
 - Descriptions are on the chapter website
- Outreach and Diversity (Vacant)
- Native Fishes (vacant)

6. General Topics of Conversation

- Funds used for the welcome event instead of a gift item at the conference
 - i. This was very well received by membership
 - ii. Well attended
 - iii. High networking value- smaller, casual event
- Best Student Presentation- motion to name it the Tom Keegan Award (Laurie, Western Division), Chris seconded
 - i. Chapter voted and motion is approved

- Business Meeting next year w/o Annual Meeting
 - i. Banquet type event for awards and the business meeting?
 - ii. Cheaper venue could allow the addition of a hybrid component
- In general, lots of discussion of the continuation of networking events and events we as a chapter can offer in the off year to maintain/increase membership, generate revenue for the chapter, maintain engagement, as well as offer cool opportunities to our members

7. Student Subunits

- Santa Cruz-Monterey Bay Area- not present
 - i. Diverse Voices in Fisheries Science seminar series has been very successful
- San Luis Obispo County- not present
- UC Irvine (Matea Djokic)
 - i. Hosted several social events (game nights, food outings, nature hikes)
 - ii. Attended two Marine Life Inventories at BBSC (citizen science/field work)
 - iii. Held tidepooling social/cleanup event which had great turnouts and high demand for a return event
 - iv. Held two research in fisheries panels in Fall 2023 (both with graduate students)
 - v. Huntington Beach Cleanup regularly through the quarter
 - vi. Increased outreach has led to large amounts of undergraduate members
 - vii. Designed new logo and planning strategies to better raise funds
- Humboldt Bay (James Whelan)
 - i. Major goal was to increase participation throughout the area
 - ii. Developed new logo from local artist, Jenny Ward
 - iii. Currently in development of merchandise sales program
 - iv. Hosted Mad River hatchery tour with CDFW
 - v. Brought 6 students to Redding 2024
 - vi. Currently in the process of elections for the next academic year!
- Sacramento-Davis (Alex Ginez)

- i. Big focus on getting more undergraduate involvement in our subunit this year
- ii. many Davis undergrads here this year!
- iii. Public outreach events on local fish communities
- iv. Center for Watershed Sciences DEI events
- v. UC Davis Picnic Day
- vi. Connecting students to research and job opportunities
- vii. In spring we will be pushing more opportunities for connecting students to fishy recreational activities (fish-printing, fishing derby)

8. Next meeting: May 16, 2024

ADJOURN