

Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

2015 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2015

Fort Collins, CO

Notes: Rick Henderson

Attendees: Dan Brauch (President), Bobby Compton (Vice President), Rick Henderson (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Gerrity (Past President), Tyler Firkus (UW student sub-unit President), Alex Townsend (CSU student sub-unit President), chapter committee members, and chapter members.

Dan Brauch (President) - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. The Chapter has 232 active members thereby needing 47 present to meet quorum (1/5th). Sixty five members were present so quorum was met. Diana Miller agreed to serve as parliamentarian.

Guest Address (Travis Neebling, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Division American Fisheries Society) – Travis provided an overview of the Western Division and its role in communicating with National AFS, other Divisions, and Chapters. He discussed the structure of the Western Division, current officers (which include two CO/WY Chapter members), and their responsibility in addressing regional issues. The primary roles of the Division are to organize the annual Western Division meeting along with the host Chapter, improve membership benefits, provide student scholarships and travel grants (student, professional, international), organize student colloquium, and offset costs of professional certifications. In 2015, the combined Oregon Chapter/Western Division/National Meeting will be in Portland, Oregon August 16th to 20th.

State of the Chapter (Dan Brauch) – The Chapter is in great shape financially. With approximately 190 annual meeting registrants and \$8,000 in sponsorship income, the chapter should see a meeting profit of \$5,000-\$7,000. Chapter participation has been great, as there is at least one member on each committee. The student sub-units have been active with helping out with the meeting. A special thanks to the Continuing Education committee for organizing a great session with approximately 50 registrants. The Chapter provided travel grants for Christina Barrineau and Zach Underwood (Congrats) to attend the Western Division Meeting in Portland.

Secretary/Treasurer Report (Rick Henderson) – Rick presented a summary of chapter finances for fiscal year 2014, which ended on July 31, 2014. The chapter end of Fiscal Year funds totaled \$69,234, with \$38,360 in checking, \$12,136 in savings, and \$18,738 in the Western Division Investment Fund. To date, the savings account total remains the same and the investment fund has increased to \$19,671. Rick also gave an update on the projected end of fiscal year 2015 budget which included ~\$40,000 in expected expenses with an estimated ending balance of ~\$68,000. President travel funds to the WD mid-year meeting were \$724 and approximately \$4,500 will be spent to send two Chapter members to the Western Division meeting in Portland (this included Vice President Bobby Compton).

2016 Annual Meeting (Bobby Compton) – The meeting will honor the 50th anniversary of the Colorado/Wyoming Chapter. The Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie, Wyoming. This is the same location as the 2014 meeting and is scheduled for March 1st to 3rd. The meeting will begin with continuing education on Tuesday, general sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, and a banquet on Thursday evening.

Bobby discussed the FY 2016 budget and noted that expenses have increased since 2014 due to new agreements between the Hilton and University of Wyoming. Income from the meeting is expected to be \$33,000 assuming 140 registrants. Annual expenses are estimated at \$39,000 resulting in the use of \$6,000 from savings.

Student Sub-unit Reports

- **University of Wyoming (Tyler Firkus)** – The UW sub-unit currently has an annual budget of approximately \$2000. They are looking to improve revenue through T-shirt sales. They provided a scholarship for an undergraduate (Sarah McCollum) to attend the meeting. They have had lots of great speakers, attended student colloquium to practice talks and meet other students, participated in redd counts, and participated in a fishing trip to Wheatland reservoir. In addition, the expanding membership and created a three year plan for the sub-unit.
- **Colorado State University (Alex Townsend)** – Membership is up in the CSU sub-unit, they have an annual budget of ~\$2000, and they invested \$2500 in the Western Division endowment fund. Funding from sponsors and endowment. They sponsored the 30th College Lake fishing derby, an ice fishing clinic with CPW, collaborated

with other student groups to provide field experience to 5th graders, conducted a resume building workshop, boating clinic, resume workshop, and job fair. Taxes are in good working order.

- **Colorado Mesa University (Mike Partlow for Tyler Hutchinson)** – The CMU sub-unit has sixty students on its list serve and a budget of \$200. They have hosted talks this year about Alaska Fisheries, climate change, the Gunnison river fishery, and an upcoming talk with the biology club on summer jobs and research opportunities. In addition, they have participated in a fish sampling demonstration and Grand Valley canal salvage.

President's Highlights on Committee Chair Reports (Dan Brauch)

- **Archive** – Greg Anderson has been busy with the Archive Committee this year. With the help of Layna Jones of the Pinedale WGFD office, chapter photos were scanned for archiving. Greg is continuing this work, so please get photos to Greg for archiving. Greg provided historic Chapter meeting proceedings to the Colorado Mesa University library to support the new student sub-unit. Also, the contract for archive services at the DC Booth Archives was renewed for four years.
- **Program** - Laura, Jason, and Christina did a great job putting together the program this year. It was the first year that we tried online submission to help streamline creation of the program. Let Jason know if you have any input to how online submission worked or if you have any suggestions for changes for next year.

Unfinished business

- **2015 Travel Grants (Dan Brauch)** – Travel grants were awarded to Christina Barrineau (professional) and Zach Underwood (student) to attend the 2015 Western Division/National AFS meeting. So a big thanks to Christina, Zach, and Bobby Compton for representing our Chapter this year.

Announcement of New Secretary/Treasurer (Rick Henderson) A sincere thanks was given to the two great candidates that stepped up and were willing to participate as chapter officers. Kevin Gelwicks was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer for the fiscal year 2016.

New Business

- **Proposed Bylaw Changes (Paul Gerrity)** – The Chapter Executive Committee has been working for several years on recommended changes to the Bylaws. These proposed changes were sent to the membership prior to the meeting and Paul provided a presentation on the changes to the membership. In summary, the changes focused on 1) clarifying the definition of Active Society Members, Chapter Voting Members, and Student Affiliate Members in relation to who can vote on Chapters business, 2) change the timing of the summer Angler newsletter from September/October to July/August to better coincide with fiscal year and ExCom officer changeover, and 3) the three Student sub-units would have a combined one voting member on the ExCom that would rotate among the sub-units.

Diana Miller motioned to approve the proposed changes and Jason Burkhardt seconded. Ann Widmer asked whether we will help student presidents pay for AFS dues which are \$20 annually. The topic was discussed but did not move forward. Tyler Firkus suggested it would be good to have the student representative in the same State as the meeting. The sub-units will follow up. Dave Zafft asked whether changing the newsletter date would affect members' ability to have 30 days to comment on the draft budget. The membership concluded that this should not be an issue as the budget committee makes recommendations and therefore the topic did not move forward. The motion was approved with one "No" and 57 "Yes".

- **Sport Fish Restoration Awards (Mike Stone)** – Mike is the President for the AFS Fish Administration Section. The Section annual honors great work on sport fish restoration around the country and Mike encouraged us to nominate professionals in Colorado and Wyoming. Awards are presented at State Commission meeting, guidelines are on the AFS website, and call for proposals are due June 15th.
- **Program Committee (Dan Brauch)** – The program committee asked for the memberships direction on the format for future meeting programs. Three options were presented and voted on with the results with the majority (40 votes) preferring that the meeting information/Schedule be printed (5 pages, up to \$200) and that the full program be provided on the website. The second choice (10 votes) was to print the entire schedule and abstracts (current system; \$1700) followed by electronic only programs (7 votes). The Program Committee will use the preferred format in 2016.

- **2015 Funding Requests**

- **Travel Grant Approval (Dan Brauch)** - The Executive Committee asked for approval to fund travel grants in 2016 to the Western Division meeting in Reno or National meeting in Kansas City for one student and one professional. Diana Miller motioned to approve the grants and Paul Gerrity seconded. Bobby Compton made a motion to amend the grant amount to \$1500 each and Ann Widmer seconded. The amendment passed with all “Yes” votes. The vote to approve the grants passed with all “Yes” votes.
- **Mentoring Committee (Steve Gale)** – The mentoring committee was interested in learning how to increase the number of mentee’s. They presented five options to the student sub-units for comments and two responded. The three recommended options were 1) cover mileage expenses for mentee’s (average \$140), 2) purchase two AFS books for each mentee (approximately \$120), and 3) cover registration costs to annual meeting (approximately \$200). As a result, they submitted a request for \$2000 annually to help fund mentee’s.
 - There was discussion on whether this was a one-time versus annual decision as well as the average number of miles driven in 2014 and how many field opportunities were provided. The UW sub-unit suggested that travel cost is the main issue.
 - Jason Burkhardt made a motion to provide \$2,000 to the mentoring committee and Eriek Hansen seconded. There was a procedural question on whether the Mentoring Committee or Secretary/Treasurer tracks funds. The answer was Secretary/Treasurer.
 - John Alves made a friendly amendment to provide the funds annually.
 - Mark Smith asked why a vote is needed instead of just including in the annual budget like funding for other committees.
 - Ann Widmer suggested another amendment was made to fund for one year only and was seconded by Jason Burckhardt.
 - A vote was taken on the friendly amendments, to fund for one year, and passed (51 “Yes”, 9 “No”).
 - A vote was taken on the original request as modified by the friendly amendment and passes (51 “YES”, 2 “No”).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.