

**Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society  
2016 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

**March 3, 2016**

**Laramie, Wyoming**

**Notes:** Kevin Gelwicks

**Attendees:** Bobby Compton (President), Rick Henderson (Vice President), Kevin Gelwicks (Secretary/Treasurer), Dan Brauch (Past-President), Richard Walker (UW student sub-unit President), Estevan Vigil (CSU student sub-unit President), Kelsi Antonelli (CMU student sub-unit President), chapter committee members, and chapter members.

**Bobby Compton (President)** – Bobby called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. As of February 5, 2016, the Chapter consisted of 233 members. It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting so business could be conducted. At least 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the membership (47 members) is considered a quorum and 69 members were present. Dirk Miller agreed to be parliamentarian and no additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

**Guest Address (Travis Neebling, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Division American Fisheries Society)** – Travis updated the chapter on Western Division (WD) activities. Currently, WD is focusing on giving back to its members. The Portland Parent Society Meeting, hosted by the Western Division in 2015 was a huge success. The Division awarded \$17,000 in travel grants for AFS members to attend the meeting and are planning to do so again in 2016. Travel grants to the 2016 WD meeting in Reno, NV total \$16,000 and were awarded to professionals, young professional and international members. Small grants are also available and the WD can also reimburse members for the cost of professional certification. They are also dedicating \$11,000 in funding for student travel grants to Reno and have allocated funds for the WD Student Colloquium to be held in Lander, WY.

In other business, Lori Martin is heading up the new Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee. This committee was created as a result of combining two previous WD committees, the Environmental Concerns and Policy Review committees. This effort was initiated to improve communication, effectiveness, and efficiency within and between the Division and Chapters, when addressing environmental issues and policies that may influence fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

The CO/WY Chapter continues to be active at the WD level. Members who have recently stepped up include Hilda Sexauer, current Past President of WD, Tracy Wendt as the newsletter editor, and Jason Burckhardt as the WD representative to the Parent Society Certification Board of Appeals Committee.

**State of the Chapter Address (Bobby Compton)** – Simply said, the Chapter is doing great. The meeting has been a success with nearly 207 registrants attending, highlighted by 16 retirees. Attendees over the last few years range from the traditional agency and university ranks, but we are also seeing more participation from non-profit, NGO, and habitat restoration ranks. Bobby thanked everyone for their willingness to take time out of busy schedules and participate in CO/WY AFS.

In addition to high turnout at annual meetings, the Chapter has had financial success recently. We have invested money primarily into continuing education courses, travel grants, and the mentoring committee. Participation in these three categories is mixed. The three Continuing Education courses were well attended this year with 25, 40, and 48 registrants. That is money well spent. As for the travel scholarships, we only had 2 applicants each for the student and professional categories. This doesn't reflect the Chapter's interest in providing money to meeting travel.

The Mentoring Committee has also had mixed results with their program. They had 17 mentor applications, but only 5 mentee applications. For the current application period, there are 11 mentors and 0 mentee applications. Bobby encouraged students to enroll in the mentor program and more students and professionals to apply for travel grants. If this doesn't happen, in the coming years we will have to re-evaluate these programs and decide if this is where we want to continue to invest Chapter money.

In closing, Bobby thanked everyone for their participation in the organization and for attending the meeting.

**Secretary-Treasurer Report (Kevin Gelwicks)** – Kevin presented a summary of Chapter finances for FY 2015, which ended on July 31, 2015. The end of FY15 funds totaled \$71,255, with \$37,982 in checking, \$12,137 in savings, \$475 in the raffle account and \$18,598 in the Western Division Investment Fund. To date, the savings account total

remains the same and the investment fund has decreased slightly. Kevin also gave an update on the projected end of FY 2016 budget which included \$41,398 in expected expenses with an estimated ending balance of \$67,585. President travel funds to the WD mid-year meeting were \$602 and approximately \$4,500 will be spent to send two Chapter members to the Western Division meeting in Reno including Vice President Rick Henderson.

**Preliminary Address Regarding 2018 Meeting (Kevin Gelwicks)** – Kevin suggested that the 2018 Annual Meeting be held in Laramie at the Hilton Garden Inn. No objections were made to this suggestion.

**Update on 2017 Meeting (Rick Henderson)** – Rick is planning on the 2017 meeting to be a joint meeting with the Utah Chapter of AFS. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Grand Junction, CO on the third week of February. There were some concerns voiced that not as many students from CSU and UW would be able to attend. It turns out that graduate student attendance will likely remain high, but it may be more difficult for undergraduate students to attend. Attendance by Wyoming Game and Fish employees may be more difficult than a Fort Collins meeting.

Rick also updated the membership on the FY 2017 budget. Income from the annual meeting is expected to be \$26,000. Annual expenses are expected to be \$33,000, resulting in the use of \$7,000 from savings. There were question raised about how expenses will be split with the Utah Chapter. Utah has a budget that pays for lodging and food for their people and details not really clear yet on how expenses and profits will be split.

#### **President's Highlights of Committee Chair Reports (Bobby Compton)**

- **Archive** – The Archive Committee, chaired by Greg Anderson, files and organizes the records of the chapter as outlined in the Procedure Manual and provides Chapter Meeting Proceedings to Colorado Mesa University, Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming libraries. A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee was formed by President Bobby Compton. The Archive Committee was a part of the Celebration Committee. The Archive Committee researched and fulfilled requests from EXCOM, Chapter members and Student Sub-units for historical information. Many retired members and both the Parent Society and Western Division were contacted for historical information and documentation pertaining to the Chapter. At this year's meeting, the committee provided a power point presentation and photo album celebrating our Chapter history and a photo and artifact display celebrating "The History of Fisheries Management in Wyoming."
- **Awards** – The Awards Committee, chaired by Jason Burckhardt, received nominations for the Max Award of Merit and the Award of Excellence. No nominations for Outstanding Mentor or Leaky Boot were received. Two "Max" Awards and an Award of Excellence will be presented at the banquet.
- **Continuing Education** – Continuing Education Committee members Diana Miller and Dan Kowalski reported that three continuing education courses were provided this year. One session with two courses focused on Native Catostomids, the other focused on Communications in Science. Both sessions were well attended. The continuing education committee would appreciate any feedback you have regarding this year's courses as well as future courses.
- **Endowment** – Endowment Committee Chairman Eric Gardunio has been focused on looking into the feasibility of creating a new endowment at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) to support fisheries students in their newly formed Sub-unit. This includes working with Dr. Eriek Hansen and CMU staff within the Scholarship Administration Department to determine the requirements and logistics of setting up an endowment similar to the two endowments that the Chapter has funded at Colorado State University (CSU) and University of Wyoming (UW). Additionally, the Committee has been reviewing the history of the CSU and UW endowments to determine how they were initially funded to inform funding options for establishing the CMU Endowment if we decide to pursue it. The committee will prepare a proposal that outlines the options for creating a CMU Endowment to be reviewed by the CO/WY EXCOM to determine if this endowment is something that we want to pursue. Currently the CSU and UW endowments have over \$30,000 each and are paying out yearly scholarships at each school between \$1,200 and \$1,500 annually, depending on how the funds perform each year.
- **Fundraising** – The Fundraising Committee consisting of Paul Gerrity and Matt Kondratieff were able to raise a total of \$10,250 for the meeting. They thank all who donated to the meeting.

- **Mentoring** – Mentoring Committee Chairman Steve Gale reported that we are currently in the 3rd enrollment cycle for the Mentoring Program. We have had two full years now - in 2014 we were able to match 5 Mentees with Mentors. In 2015, we were again able to pair 5 Mentees with Mentors. These matches have been productive as you might have heard at the student social last night. We have not received any Mentee Applications for 2016 yet, but we are hopeful they will start to roll in. However, our number of Mentor Applications decreased from 17 in 2015 to 11 in 2016. We are hoping to again offer a stipend for Mentees in 2016, but reduced from the amount offered in 2016. This program has value, but its future depends on participation.
- **Newsletter** – Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs Eric Fetherman and Anna Senecal were able to successfully produce three editions of The Angler this last year. The summer edition was hard to get out on time this year, coming out almost a month later than intended. This issue is often difficult due to the nature of field season. Generally, we set the deadline for submissions based on our ability to bring all of the submissions together after they have come in. It can be difficult for us to find time to track down submissions or work on the newsletter beyond these deadlines. We ask that people try to stick to the deadlines we set, if possible. If it is not possible to meet these deadlines, we ask that people please let us know when we might expect their submission so that we can plan our time accordingly. We know that field season can be a busy time of year for all, and appreciate everyone helping us out with producing a timely and informative summer edition. Thank you to everyone for their contributions and their continued support of The Angler!
- **Program** – Program Committee Co-Chairs Jason Burckhardt and Christina Barrineau report that this was the second year of on-line abstract submissions. This process is greatly improved over email submissions and they are looking into opportunities to further refine the process. Our abstracts have not been edited for content but formatting has been changed to be consistent throughout the document. The Program Committee is interested in receiving feedback on how to improve this process. If we wish to edit abstracts in the future it will require more assistance and a longer lead time.

#### Student Subunit Reports

- **Colorado Mesa (Kelsi Antonelli)** – The spring semester started slow with lots of snow cancelling the ice fishing trip. There are currently 60 members in the joint fish and wildlife club. The club has had monthly meetings with presentations by Lori Martin from CPW and a mammalogist who talked about pika. They will be having a meeting in a couple months with a student panel who will help show students how to get involved. Service projects are planned, including backyard habitat development and Heritage Days assistance to Lori Martin. The club is looking at future fundraising efforts. The club currently has about \$1000 and will be spending money on a fly fishing symposium. The club has also developed a new logo.
- **Colorado State (Estevan Vigil)** – The CSU Student Subunit currently has 41 dues paying members and \$2,000 in their checking account. The Subunit has developed bylaws in the past year and they have been forwarded to the Parent Society for approval. The subunit has been doing ice fishing clinics with CPW and members attended a river restoration workshop last year. They will be doing a Chipotle fundraiser next week in Fort Collins to help raise money for the student colloquium.
- **Wyoming (Rich Walker)** – The UW Student Subunit has had monthly meetings over the past school year. Currently there are about 40 students in the Subunit with about 15 at each meeting. Bobby Compton and Kevin Gelwicks spoke at meeting during the fall semester, they had a bowling party, and Tom Annear spoke at a meeting in February. They have about \$1000 in their account right now. They are still conducting redd counts with Steve Gale but numbers in Spring Creek are dwindling and they may need to find a new project to participate in. They may begin monitoring Iowa Darter in Huck Finn pond in Laramie. They are also training undergraduates in macroinvertebrate identification.

The UW Student Subunit has also been very busy planning the Western Division Student Colloquium to be held in Lander. Students from MSU, Arizona, CSU, and CMU all plan on attending. Fundraising is underway to help with expenses. Through selling mugs and tshirts at CO/WY AFS and selling mugs at Coal Creek tap they have raised \$2,500 thus far. They need \$1,500 more. The Colloquium will be held in Lander at The Nature Conservancy and the theme will be “Running on Empty: Increasing Demands on Freshwater Resources in the Face of a Changing Climate.” They will have a mentor/mentee mixer one night and professionals and students are welcome. Day 1 will consist of workshops, including a CV and writing improvement workshop taught by

Harold Bergman. Day 2 will include a talk by Tom Annear on Instream Flow, and a field component with USGS personnel. The last night they plan on aquatic theme trivia at the Lander Brewery.

#### **Unfinished business**

- **2015 Travel Grants (Bobby Compton)** – The Professional Travel Grant was awarded to Kevin Thompson to attend the Western Division Meeting in Reno, NV. The Student Travel Grant was split between Estevan Vigil and Lindsey Ciepela to attend the Western Division Meeting in Reno, NV.

**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. Eric Fetherman was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer for fiscal year 2017.

#### **New Business**

##### **○ 2016 Funding Requests**

##### **○ Mussels of Wyoming (Lusha Tronstad and Phil Mathias)**

Lusha and Phil are putting together a Field Guide to the Bivalves of Wyoming. The guide consists of 36 pages which focus on nine species of native mussels, plus introduced and invasive species. The booklet will be printed on waterproof paper for field use. They are asking for \$1,000 to help with printing costs. The UW Berry Biodiversity Center will be contributing as well with layout and design. They plan to produce about 1,000 copies which will be distributed free to schools and offered to others at a nominal cost.

Ryan Fitzpatrick motioned to approve the grant and Paul Gerrity seconded. There was no discussion and the vote to approve the grants passed with all “yes” votes.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm.**

