

Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2017
Grand Junction, CO

Notes: Eric Fetherman

Attendees: Rick Henderson (President), Kevin Gelwicks (Vice President), Eric Fetherman (Secretary/Treasurer), Bobby Compton (Past-President), Bryan Maitland (UW student sub-unit President), Giulio del Piccalo (CSU student sub-unit President), Kristina Morben (CMU student sub-unit President), chapter committee members, and chapter members.

Rick Henderson (President) – Rick called the meeting to order at 11:33 am. As of February 5, 2017, the Chapter consisted of 265 members. At least 1/5th of the membership (53 members) is considered a quorum and 56 members were present. It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting so business could be conducted. Travis Neebling agreed to be parliamentarian. No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

State of the Chapter Address (Rick Henderson) – Rick thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules and supporting a joint meeting with the Utah Chapter of AFS. There were nearly 260 attendees at the meeting with 160 coming from the CO/WY Chapter and 100 coming from the Utah Chapter. Around 80 presentations and 20 posters were presented by the two chapters. The Utah ExCom and members were great to work with and provided many new ideas that we can incorporate into future meetings and chapter business. Rick hoped that everyone enjoyed the meeting and getting a chance to interact with members from Utah.

During last year's business meeting, members commented that a meeting in Grand Junction could make it difficult for Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) employees to attend, and that the University of Wyoming (UW) and Colorado State University (CSU) would likely have few undergraduate attending. A big thanks WGFD for supporting their employee attendance, and to Chris Myrick and Annika Walters for encouraging graduate and undergraduate attendance at the meeting (14 undergraduates attended from CSU and UW; a total of 22 undergraduates attended overall). In addition, we continued to see more participation from non-profit, NGO, and habitat restoration ranks, as well as an increase in west slope biologists this year.

The Chapter has had financial success recently. We continued to invest funds into continuing education courses, travel grants, and the mentoring committee. The two Continuing Education courses were well attended this year with 60 and 75 registrants for the PIT tag and eDNA courses, respectively. Big thanks to Dan Kowalski for putting together some great and well-attended courses. For the travel scholarships, we had five student and three professional applicants, and a travel grant was awarded to one person in each category. The Mentoring Committee also had a great year with seven mentor/mentee pairings; thanks to Steve and Lori for all of their efforts. Rick encouraged students to take advantage of this program and enroll by April 1st. The Chapter did not receive any small grant applications this year and the ExCom will be discussing ways to improve this process.

In closing, Rick thanked the Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Student Chapter for hosting a great social/dinner and everyone for their participation in the organization and for attending the meeting. Thanks for all of the work all of our committee members have put in to both the meeting and the chapter as a whole.

Secretary/Treasurer Report (Eric Fetherman) – Eric presented a summary of the chapter finances for FY 2016, which ended on July 31, 2016. The end of FY16 funds totaled \$78,373, with \$43,085 in checking, \$12,138 in savings, \$469 in the raffle account, and \$22,655 in the Western Division Investment Fund. The ExCom decided to move \$11,000 from the savings account to the Western Division Investment Fund in the fall of 2016 to benefit from the interest accrued in the Investment Fund. To date, as a result, the savings account has \$1,138 remaining, and the Western Division Investment Fund increased to \$35,115. A minimum of \$1,000 will be maintained in the savings account in the future. Eric also gave an update on the projected end of FY 2017 budget which included

\$39,821 in expected expenses and an estimated ending balance of \$91,281. Overall FY-17 net is expected to be a loss of \$3,041.

Preliminary Address Regarding 2019 Meeting (Eric Fetherman) – Eric suggested that the 2019 Annual Meeting be held in Fort Collins. Options include the Marriott and the Hilton, and potentially could include parts of the meeting being held on the CSU campus and new on-campus stadium. No objections were made to this suggestion.

Update on 2018 Meeting (Kevin Gelwicks) – The 2018 annual meeting will be held in Laramie, WY February 27th – March 1st, 2018. Kevin is looking for suggestions for themes and/or plenary sessions, and other ideas to incorporate into the meeting. Please contact Kevin with ideas.

Kevin also presented an update on the predicted budget outcome for FY18. The annual meeting income for the 2018 meeting is estimated to be \$33,530, whereas total expenses are estimated at \$40,080, for a net loss of about \$6,000. Kevin's budget included continuing to offer free Continuing Education course (\$1,500), and maintaining a similar budget for the awards committee (\$100), mentoring committee (\$2,000), archive committee (\$100), membership committee (\$50), website fees (\$125), and the registration committee (\$150).

The proposed budget also included a proposed increase in chapter-approved expenses from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for travel grants. Notes from the 2014 business meeting suggested that membership could increase travel grant opportunities if the funding was available, and that direction from the ExCom could be given at the annual business meeting to propose such an increase. Given the interest in the travel grants in 2017, Kevin proposed an increase of \$1,500 to the travel grant budget. These funds could either be used to award a third travel grant for \$1,500 or two smaller travel grants of \$750 each, depending on interest. Dan Brauch made a motion that we increase travel grant funds to provide up to \$4,500 annually for students and professionals. Lori Martin seconded the motion. Bobby Compton pointed out that we won't necessarily spend the entire approved amount every year. The amount is based on receipts received from the award recipients which are often less than the grant. The motion was passed unanimously by the membership.

President's Highlights of Committee Chair Reports (Rick Henderson) – Rick pointed out that this meeting would not have been possible without the excellent work of all of the volunteers and committees who took time out of their busy schedules to help. Overall, 800 hours of volunteer time were put in by the various committees for this meeting. Rick specifically thanked those folks from WGFD that could not be at the meeting for their help in putting everything together, including Erin Sobel who worked with Ben Brown from Utah on the registration gifts, Anna Senecal for working with Adam Hansen on the newsletter, and Christina Barrineau and Laura Burckhardt for working with Jason Burckhardt to put together a great program for the meeting.

Committee Highlights:

- **Archive** – The Archive Committee 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. The Archive Committee was a part of last year's 50th Celebration Committee and wrote an article summarizing the 2016 chapter meeting. The committee also researched information for this year's 2017 joint chapter meeting and fulfilled requests from the ExCom for historical information. Chapter member Lori Martin joined the committee. Lori has had past experience with our chapter archives during her terms as a chapter ExCom member, as well as with the Western Division archive records. This will be Greg Anderson's final year as chair of the Archives Committee, but he will remain on the committee as a member.
- **Awards** – The Awards Committee, chaired by Jason Burckhardt, received nominations for the Max Award of Merit, Outstanding Mentor, and the Leaky Boot Award. No nominations were submitted for the Award of Excellence. Two "Max" Awards, an Outstanding Mentor Award, and a Leaky Boot Award will be presented at the banquet.
- **Continuing Education** – Continuing Education Committee Co-Leader Dan Kowalski reported that two continuing education courses were provided this year. One session focused on Environmental DNA, and the other focused on

Advances in PIT Tag Technology. Both sessions were well attended, with 75 attendees in the eDNA course, and 60 attendees in the PIT tag course. The continuing education committee would appreciate any feedback you have regarding this year's courses as well as future courses.

- **Endowment** – The UW and CSU Endowments are both well funded and should continue funding scholarships into the future. The UW Endowment funds the Ron Remmick AFS Memorial Scholarship, and currently has \$32,000 in the endowment and funds a \$1,200 scholarship annually. The CO/WY AFS Endowment at CSU took a small financial hit in 2016, but still has \$27,700 in the endowment fund, and is projected to fund a \$1,100 scholarship in 2017. Dr. Eriek Hansen and Eric Gardunio have been looking into funding opportunities for creating a new endowment at CMU. This includes working with 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 CO/WY Chapter has funded at CSU and UW.

- **Fundraising** – The Fundraising Committee, consisting of Paul Gerrity and Matt Kondratieff, were able to raise a total of \$9,500 for the meeting. Thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 5 Smooth Stones River Restoration, North State Environmental, Colorado BLM, SWCA Environmental Consultants, GEI Consultants, U.S. Forest Service Region 2, Barr Engineering, Wyoming BLM, and Skretting USA for donating this year!

- **Mentoring** - The Mentoring Committee received 11 Mentor Applications (4 in CO and 7 in WY) for the 2017 program. These Mentors are offering up some great opportunities for prospective Mentee applicants. Interested students need to submit their application by April 1. Applications can be found on our Chapter website. The 2016 program went very well. 2016 started off with 9 Mentor/Mentee pairings and 7 were active throughout the year. Mentee's gained invaluable experience with their Mentors, and we heard about some of those great experiences at the student social. Since the program's inception in 2014 we have paired up 17 Mentee's with Mentors. Some of these relationships have lasted beyond just the one year they were enrolled in the program. It is the Mentoring Committee's belief that as long as Chapter members volunteer their time to be Mentors, and there is continued interest from students, that this is a valuable Chapter program.

- **Newsletter** – Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs Anna Senecal and Adam Hansen were able to successfully produce three editions of The Angler last year. The membership has been extremely receptive to requests for timely submissions. This generally makes Committee Chairs' lives easy and provides for a better product. So thank you all for your continued support and content contributions! Please know that suggestions for improvement are always welcomed.

- **Program** – Program Committee Co-Chairs Christina Barrineau, Laura Burckhardt, and Jason Burckhardt report that this was the third year of on-line abstract submissions. They want to thank everyone who provided suggestions last year on ways to improve the process. Two additions were 1) everyone submitting an abstract received a confirmation email, and 2) new fields were included on the abstract submission form that allowed for the facilitation of program planning. The Program Committee is interested in continuing to receive feedback on how to improve this process. They really appreciate the folks from both chapters who stepped up and helped review/edit the program this year. Regardless, they have since learned that the final program has a few misspelled names, for which they apologize.

Student Subunit Reports

Colorado Mesa University (Kristina Morben) – The CMU has been focusing on growing the subunit this year. Currently, the fish and wildlife club has 20 active members, and 150 people signed up as members. Recruitment opportunities were focused on the homecoming festival in which the subunit had a float in the parade. The subunit also hosted a job fair at which 21 professionals, including those from the BLM, CPW, and the bird conservatory, presented information on how to get a career in fish and wildlife, and the job opportunities available for students. CMU continues to work with Trout Unlimited, selling tickets for TU film tours, and working with students to

increase interest in fly fishing. By focusing on fundraising, the CMU subunit has been able to significantly increase the amount of money they currently have in their account. Lastly, Kristina thanked the membership for letting CMU host the student-hosted social, and for the great attendance at the social.

Colorado State University (Giulio Del Piccolo) – The CSU student subunit currently has 80 active members, 20 of which were able to make it to the meeting this year. Members get together to listen to talks from graduate students and professionals, and the subunit is currently looking for speakers that are interested in coming and presenting their current work to the student subunit. Free pizza is provided. This year, the student subunit initiated a study on College Lake that will be looking at the pike population and potentially changing the stunted growth that has been observed in that population in recent years. The annual spring fishing derby on College Lake is coming up in April. Currently, the subunit's account has about \$2,700. In addition, the subunit will be contributing \$1,000 to the Western Division endowment fund, as well as contributing to the Louis Swift scholarship through CSU.

University of Wyoming (Bryan Maitland) – The UW Student Subunit has had an exciting year. Currently, there are about 50 student members in the Subunit with ~15-20 attending each monthly meeting. We have ~\$2,000 in the bank, and have been working on member recruitment and fundraising for upcoming activities.

Following a barbeque at the September 2016 meeting, their October meeting was comprised of short presentations by graduate students ranging from Pacific Lamprey movements to regulatory guidelines for fisheries management in Wyoming. The subunit also organized two talks on the fishes of Lake Tanganyika, put on a Tiger Muskie sampling field trip to North Crow Reservoir with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and held a joint fundraiser with The Wildlife Society – Beast Feast 2016: Surf n' Turf edition.

The Beast Feast was a tremendous success! This event is the annual community fundraiser for the Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the subunit partnered with them to raise funds for both organizations. The great part about this event was that, in addition to bringing together ordinarily disparate groups of Laramie Residents over good food and conservation-related conversation, they raised ~\$1,200 dollars! They also received kudos from both Darren Miller (Vice-president of TWS) and Bob Lanka (Central Mountains & Plains Representative of TWS; WGFD) for getting joint AFS/TWS activities going as they look forward to the joint National Meeting of AFS and TWS in Reno in 2019.

Finally, the subunit was very happy to bring five undergraduates to the meeting who had some great experiences. Students are looking forward to the spring speakers and activities – especially the upcoming fossil hunting trip to Fossil Buttes!

Unfinished business

2017 Travel Grants (Rick Henderson) – The Professional Travel Grant was awarded to Matt Kondratieff and the Student Travel Grant was awarded to Tyler Swarr. Both will be attending the Western Division Meeting in Missoula, Montana. Congratulations to this year's travel grant recipients!

Announcement of New Secretary/Treasurer (Rick Henderson) – It happens every so often that a candidate steps up to the Secretary/Treasurer's plate unopposed, probably because no one wants to run against them! We are pleased to announce that Jason Burckhardt is our incoming Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations Jason!

Awards (Rick Henderson) – Greg Anderson has been a member of both the Membership and Archive Committees since 2001. Greg will be retiring this coming year. Rick presented Greg with an award to honor his service to the chapter over the past 16 years. Bobby Compton was recognized for his outstanding service to the chapter for the past four years that he has served on the ExCom, and was presented the Past-President Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.