

**Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

March 5, 2014

Laramie, WY

Notes: Bobby Compton

Attendees: Paul Gerrity (President), Dan Brauch (Vice President), Bobby Compton (Secretary/Treasurer), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Past President), Jessica Dugan (UW student sub-unit President), Jon Wardell (CSU student sub-unit President), chapter committee members, and chapter members

Paul Gerrity (President) - The meeting was called to order at 12:18 pm. With 43 current active chapter members present, it was determined that a quorum was not met. A second roll call count was initiated during the Fundraising Vision Committee Report and Voting portion of the meeting, and a quorum was met at that point because five additional members joined the meeting (48 members total). Diana Miller agreed to serve as parliamentarian.

Guest Address (Hilda Sexauer, President-Elect, Western Division American Fisheries Society) – Hilda updated the chapter on personnel changes within the American Fisheries Society. Doug Austen is the new Executive Director and wants to become engaged in all levels of the Society. Doug has a fisheries background and he recently initiated a conference call to reach out to membership. Additionally, Bob Hughes is the new President of the American Fisheries Society. Bob is a Western Division member and one of his goals is to get the Society more involved in advocacy. He would like to better understand when both Chapters and the Society should get involved in environmental issues. For example, the American Fisheries Society stance on the Pebble Mine in Alaska is currently in draft form. Hilda mentioned that the Western Division may sponsor a cutthroat trout taxonomy workshop in Portland, OR. The 2014 Western Division meeting will be held in Mazatlan in April; this is the first meeting the Mexican Chapter has hosted. They need assistance (monetary and participant) to make both the meeting and their chapter successful. The Western Division is sending 55 students and professionals to the meeting, and members from the CO/WY Chapter will be well represented at the meeting. Finally, the Western Division has funding opportunities for small projects; the application deadline is in early March.

State of the Chapter (Paul Gerrity) – The Chapter is in great shape financially and the current annual meeting has 167 registrants. Excess money will be discussed later in the Fundraising Vision Committee update. The Chapter provided travel grants for three people (J. Lepak, D. Miller, and M. Haworth) to attend the Western Division Meeting in Mazatlan. Chapter participation has been great, as there is at least one member on each committee. A new special committee has been established – Aquaculture. Lars Alsager, with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, is chairing and a volunteer from Colorado will hopefully co-chair the committee with Lars soon. There was a push to get the aquaculture community more involved with the Chapter, and this initiative has been successful as 22 aquaculture professionals attended the meeting. The student sub-units have been active with helping out with the meeting. Colorado Mesa University is starting a sub-unit and this topic will be discussed later in the business meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report (Bobby Compton) – Bobby presented a summary of chapter finances for fiscal year 2013, which ended on July 31, 2013. The chapter end of Fiscal Year funds totaled \$73,579, with \$45,247 in checking, \$12,134 in savings, and \$16,198 in the Western Division Investment Fund. To date, the savings account total remains the same and the investment fund has increased to \$18,154. Bobby also gave an update on the projected fiscal year 2014 budget. President travel funds (\$1,000) to the WD mid-year meeting were not used and remain in the budget and approximately \$8,000 will be spent to send four Chapter members to the Western Division meeting in Mazatlan (this included Vice President Dan Brauch). With 167 annual meeting registrants and approximately \$4,500 in sponsorship income, the chapter should see a meeting profit of \$5,000-\$7,000. The FY2014 final income was expected to be -\$5,751, but that negative figure should be lower due to meeting profits.

2015 Annual Meeting Location (Dan Brauch) – The Annual Meeting will be held at the Fort Collins Marriott; this is the same location as the 2013 meeting. The meeting is scheduled for February 24-26, and will follow the same schedule as the 2014 meeting with continuing education on Tuesday, the general sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, and a banquet on Thursday evening.

FY15 Proposed Budget (Dan Brauch) – Dan discussed the FY 2015 budget and noted that expenses have increased and the budget will reflect these increases. Food costs, 123signup fees, raffle costs for framing pictures, website domain registration, and tax preparation have been increased in the new budget. Based on 130 registrants for the 2015 meeting, approximately \$500 will be spent from savings for the FY 2015 budget (not including Excom discretionary spending or additional spending approved by the membership later in the Business Meeting).

Student Sub-unit Reports

- **University of Wyoming (Jessica Dugan)** – The UW sub-unit is doing well and has good attendance including undergraduates at meetings. The sub-unit is branching out to work with other student groups at UW as well as the CSU student sub-unit. They are selling t-shirts and are financially stable.
- **Colorado State University (Jon Wardell)** – The CSU sub-unit has three goals for the school year – 1) increase membership, 2) find new networks and participate with other student clubs, and 3) and standardize their foundation. The third goal includes printing new business cards and brochures, and updating the website. There will be new t-shirts in April. Their tax problems (no taxes filed in previous years and numerous tax ID numbers on file) have been fixed. Membership has increased by 63%, including increased gender diversity. The sub-unit is doing more non-fish activities and wants to establish contacts with public agencies and private landowners for volunteer work. They are working with the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery and a new live animal display with native fishes will be completed by the sub-unit, establishing a foundation for future growth.
- **Colorado Mesa University (Mike Partlow)** - This is a new student group that is in the process of establishing an official AFS student sub-unit advised by Dr. Eriek Hansen. The sub-unit will be called the Fish and Wildlife Club. The goals of the sub-unit are to provide educational opportunities for students interested in fish and wildlife by networking with professionals, gaining experience, and participating in service projects. Travis Francis (USFWS), John Woodling (sculpin were the subject matter), and Mike Poris (CPW Information Officer) have given talks, while Dr. Bruce Baurle (CMU biology professor) will give a talk about fisheries in Alaska in the future. The group has also toured the endangered fish hatchery in Grand Junction and the Zoological Quest's Nature Center in Fruita. They thanked the chapter for the \$300 start-up money.

President's Highlights on Committee Chair Reports (Paul Gerrity)

- **Archive** –The archive committee continues to collect chapter photos and with this report, makes a call out to chapter membership to forward any photos to the committee they would like to include in the archives. A photo management system/software program to scan the collection continues to be researched. The committee provides copies of current and past chapter proceedings to the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University libraries as well as current and past copies of the chapter newsletter "The Angler" to the University of Wyoming. Committee activities were slow this year as time could not be made to give the proper attention to projects within the committee. At this time, I would like to ask the membership if they are interested in helping serve on this committee, if so please contact Greg Anderson.
- **Program** - The program committee would like to go to electronic abstract submission beginning in 2015 for the annual meeting. Some options have already been looked into and we are confident that financially feasible options exist. Website Committee Chair Kevin Gelwicks and chapter members Jason Burckhardt and Travis Neebling will work with the program committee to make online abstract submission possible for 2015. The Excom plans to incorporate online abstract submission costs into future fiscal year budgets.

Unfinished business

- **Fundraising Vision Committee recommendations and chapter vote (Paul Gerrity)** At the 2013 Business Meeting, the chapter discussed the extra money in the various bank accounts and how to better distribute the money. The chapter made \$26,000 in 2012-2013 and now has approximately \$18,000 in the Western Division Investment account, \$40,000 in checking, and \$12,000 in savings. The Fundraising Vision Committee (a special committee made up of Mark Smith, Ann Widmer, and Pam Sponholtz) was formed to provide recommendations for chapter and future Excoms on how to prioritize and utilize chapter funds when there is substantial surplus. This committee sent out a survey so chapter members could vote on fund dispersal, and they received 66 responses. There were seven voting options and the top three were selected for chapter discussion. The top three choices were 1) funding small grants, proposals pitched at annual business meeting (22% of votes), 2) travel grants for Western Division and Parent Society meetings (23% of votes), and 3) free continuing education workshops (20% of votes). Because we already fund small grants, it was recommended that the chapter advertise

better to make applicants aware of the available resources. This recommendation will be incorporated. As for the travel grants, Paul Gerrity suggested that the chapter vote annually at the business meeting on a defined travel grant amount that will be awarded, and this amount can change annually based on income and account balances. Several questions and comments surfaced – should the proposed amount be presented before the business meeting, should we send the best paper award recipients to the next meeting of their choice, and does the chapter need to vote on this. After discussion, it was decided that the Excom will recommend annually the amount and number of travel grants and then will be proposed at the business meeting for chapter approval. Like this year's application process for travel to Mazatlan, the Excom will send out an announcement with application requirements and then will select the award recipients. Recipients will be able to choose either the Western Division or Parent Society meeting, and must present a paper at the meeting. Kurt Davies made a motion to fund \$3,000 for next year's travel grants, \$1,500 each for student and professional travel. Mike Stone seconded the motion and was unanimously passed by a show of hands by members present. Finally, the topic of free continuing education was discussed. Paul Gerrity suggested that the Chapter provide up to \$1,500 annually to cover the costs of continuing education courses, and if the costs exceed \$1,500, registrants will cover the remaining costs. Like the travel grants, a decision to fund the continuing education courses for the coming year will be recommended annually by Excom at the business meeting for chapter approval. Jason Burckhardt motioned to set aside \$1,500 for the continuing education course for the 2015 annual meeting. This amount will go towards costs of running course. If the course costs are exceeded, participants will cover remaining expenses. During discussion, it was recommended that this amount only subsidize the continuing education course and the course may not be free if costs exceed \$1,500. The word "subsidize" was added as an amendment to read "to set aside \$1,500 to subsidize the continuing education course....". Jason Burckhardt motioned this addition as a friendly amendment. The motion was seconded by Rick Henderson and was unanimously passed by a show of hands by members present.

- **Announcement of New Secretary/Treasurer (Bobby Compton)** A sincere thanks was given to the two great candidates that stepped up and were willing to participate as chapter officers. Rick Henderson was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer for the fiscal year 2015.
- **New Business**
 - Paul introduced Lars Alsager, the chair of the newly formed Aquaculture Committee. Lars noted that 22 aquaculture professionals attended the meeting and he continues to work on participation commitment. He also solicited for a Colorado co-chair for better communication between the two states and new ideas for the committee.
 - Jon Wardell, CSU sub-unit president, introduced a funding request for their aquarium display program. They currently have several tanks in operation (sportfish, native fish, aquatic/terrestrial, amphibians, and endangered fishes) at the Wagar Building on campus and will soon install one tank at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. These tanks are used for education, fish identification, and ichthyology teaching needs. They had originally asked \$800 for an entire tank set-up, but now are requesting \$1,500. The additional money will be used to pay for custom wood canopies. Diana Miller motioned to fund the CSU sub-unit in the amount of \$1,000. Mike Snigg seconded the motion. During discussion, Darrel Snyder moved to amend the funding request to the full \$1,500. Beth Bear seconded the amended motion and was unanimously passed by a show of hands by members present.
 - Lusha Trunstad, on behalf of the University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute, introduced a funding request for their "Wyoming's Stream Macroinvertebrates" field guide. Lusha is an invertebrate biologist and is working to put together the first aquatic invertebrate identification guide that will target anyone interested in aquatic ecosystems (public, educators, managers, anglers). This 4x6" pocket guide will cover the major stream insect groups, 70 taxa with their different stages, lifecycles, habitats, interesting notes, and fly patterns, maps for each drainage in the state, and hatching phenology. This guide will have stitch binding and will also be available online. They are asking for \$1,000 to offset printing costs. Darrel Snyder motioned to fund the Biodiversity Institute \$1,000, Frank Rahel seconded the motion and was unanimously passed by a show of hands by members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.