

**Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

December 1, 2016

Grand Junction, Colorado

Notes: Eric Fetherman

Joint Meeting of CO/WY and Utah AFS Chapters Executive Committees

Attendees: Rick Henderson (CO), Cassie Mellon (UT), Gary Thiede (UT), Jerrad Goodell (UT), Eriek Hansen (CO), Kristina Morben (CMU), Ben Brown (UT), Kevin Gelwicks (WY), Dan Kowalski (CO), Dan Brauch (CO), Bobby Compton (CO), and Brian Engelbert (UT)

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm and a quorum was established.

Attendees introduced themselves, where they were from, and explained their roles in their respective chapters. The meeting agenda was approved.

Discussion of 2017 Annual Meeting

Ben Brown and Rick Henderson have been coordinating with the Doubletree Hotel to finalize plans for the upcoming meetings. Recent coordination has included the inclusion of breakfast for people staying at the hotel, banquet plans, and meeting rooms and set up. Everyone was given a current copy of the Schedule at a Glance to look over prior to the tour of the hotel.

Eriek Hansen asked about the numbers of folks that were likely to attend the meeting. Cassie Mellon said that the Utah chapter meetings usually have around 100 attendees plus or minus 10%. Rick Henderson and Bobby Compton thought that there would probably be fewer CO/WY attendees than last year due to the meeting location, but mentioned that the base budget factored in 120 attendees from the two states. This brought the total expected number of attendees to 220 to 250.

Potential topics for the plenary session were brought up by Rick. Potential topics included genetics, PIT tags, a theme revolving around the upper Colorado River and the recovery efforts taking place there, a hatchery theme, and boreal toads. CO/WY seemed more interested in a PIT tag theme, and Utah folks suggested that Peter McKinnon (BioMark) might be a good speaker since he has a lot of experience with all kinds of PIT tags in fish as well as terrestrial applications. Another theme, "Crossing Borders" was suggested, which could incorporate talks from many of the other proposed topics.

Tour of the Doubletree to prepare for the 2017 Annual Meeting

All attendees of the joint meeting of the Executive Committees took a tour of the Doubletree.

Breakfast will be offered to all attendees staying at the hotel, and will be served in the Kokopelli and Aspen Rooms. The number of people staying in a room will not affect anybody's ability to attend breakfast (up to four people per room). Coupons will be included with the hotel room keys for the correct number of guests in each room. Attendees not staying at the Doubletree will

be able to join for breakfast for \$10. The number of folks from Grand Junction and the surrounding areas that will not be staying at the hotel will be obtained from the online registration and provided to the hotel prior to the meeting.

Registration will be held just outside of the hotel restaurant before entering the main hallway for the meeting rooms. There will be one registration table for the CO/WY Chapter and one registration table for the Utah Chapter.

The silent auction items will be held and displayed in the Colorado and Mesa rooms. These rooms will be locked during the hours in which the items are not on display. Hotel staff will be able to open the rooms when ready.

The welcome social will be held in the Horizon and Monument half of the Grand Ballroom. A mix of tall and short cocktail tables will be provided for both standing and sitting options.

The plenary session of the meeting will use the entire Grand Ballroom and will be set up classroom style so that attendees have a table in front of them. All tables will face the screen to the west of the room. Following the plenary session, a wall divider will be used to split the room in half for the concurrent sessions. A second screen, stage, and sound system will be brought in during the break to get the second half of the room set up for the sessions. Breaks will be held in the hallway outside the Grand Ballroom.

The location of the continuing education sessions will be determined once final number of attendees for each session is known.

Discussion of 2017 Annual Meeting Continued

Joining on the phone: Boyd Wright (CO), Matt Kondratieff (CO), Christina Barrineau (WY), and Bryan Maitland (UW)

A discussion was started regarding the continuing education sessions. Dan Kowalski and Diana Miller had discussed trying to match the continuing education sessions with the theme of the meeting. Utah was interested in having another catostomid identification course if Kevin Bestgen was willing to put one on again. Rick said that Bestgen was on board, but that he still needed to talk to Kevin Thompson to see if he would be interested in doing this again as well. However, Kevin Gelwicks suggested that since this class had just been taught the year before, that maybe it would be better to have this as an outside course that all three states could participate in later in the year. Most of the attendees agreed.

Dan Kowalski mentioned other topics that could be of interest for the continuing education sessions, including a fisheries data management class taught by Andrew Treble with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, a PIT tag class, and potentially an eDNA class. After some discussion, attendees thought that given the number of potential participants and the desire to keep class sizes smaller, it might be a good idea to offer at least two, if not three continuing education courses. Dan will work with Utah to set up and find people to teach all three of the potential courses; however he is also open to suggestions by the membership if there are other ideas for courses. Because this is more courses than usual, and the classes may have larger attendance,

Kevin Gelwicks asked if there was enough money in the budget to cover three continuing education courses. CO/WY has \$1500.00 to use for continuing education. Gary and Cassie thought that Utah would be able to chip in the same amount to make it so that all three courses could be offered. Depending on the number of participants in each course, courses could be held in three sections of the Grand Ballroom, each of which holds up to 75 people, or in the breakfast rooms which come equipped with AV.

There was a discussion of whether half day or full day sessions should be offered for continuing education. Rick pointed out that Monday was a holiday, and it was unlikely that attendees would travel to Grand Junction until Tuesday morning. Cassie agreed that a Tuesday morning session would likely have low attendance with regard to Utah attendees. The group consensus was to offer half day sessions starting around 12 or 1 pm on Tuesday so that all those interested in attending could make it on time.

Rick asked to return to the topic of the plenary session before moving on. Eriek Hansen suggested calling the plenary session and meeting theme “Crossing Borders” or “Crossing Barriers”, which could include PIT tag work among other interesting studies occurring in multiple states. Using this theme, there should be plenty of talks that could qualify and fill the plenary session. Christina Barrineau asked who would be in charge of finding speakers for the plenary session. It was decided that Rick and Cassie would work together to find speakers for the plenary session and that the speakers would submit their abstracts as per usual by the submission deadline for Christina to include in the program.

Committee Reports

Program Committee (Christina Barrineau):

The date for abstract submission has been set for Friday, January 13, 2016. Abstract submission is live so people can start submitting abstracts. The link to the submission page was included in the November 2016 issue of The Angler. The abstract submission page allows the submitter to select which chapter they are from. The option to be judged is also on the site, and is included for both CO/WY and Utah attendees. Abstracts will be sent to select members of the Executive Committee for editing by February 6, 2016. The final edited program is planned to be posted on the website by February 13, 2016. The hand out at the meeting will include only titles, times, presenters, and other basics. The online version of the program will be available for print or reference by attendees, and will include full abstracts.

In addition to the typical sessions, there will be a “Share your Experiences” section of informational talks, which will be in the typical 20 minute talk format to fit into the concurrent sessions design. Utah likes the format typically used for the CO/WY AFS meetings, so the program committee will stick with the same format for this meeting as well. To ensure a full program, Christina asked that folks from Colorado help solicit submissions from fellow Colorado members since there is not a Colorado representative on the Program Committee.

The idea of having student moderators was brought up by Rick. Bobby mentioned that we often have more student volunteers than needed for the volunteer positions we have, so having a moderator option can increase student volunteer participation. Eriek mentioned that once that

became an option last year, many students switched their volunteer time to a moderator position, especially graduate students. Dan Brauch said the format from last year, where a moderator introduced the student moderator at the beginning of a session, and then the moderator and student moderator switched off introducing speakers in that session, worked well. The decision was made to keep student moderators. Eriek and Christina will work together to find students and pair them with moderators prior to finalization of the program.

The topic of student volunteers and registration costs was brought up by both states. Utah's students typically pay only \$20 for registration, but are expected to volunteer. They are not reimbursed for their volunteer time. CO/WY students typically pay \$80 for registration, but half the option for a half reimbursement (4 hours volunteer time) or full reimbursement (8 hours volunteer time). No decision was made as to how to deal with student registration costs and volunteer hours at this time.

Fundraising Committee (Matt Kondratieff):

Matt and Paul Gerrity have a list of 17 donors from CO/WY to send letters to for annual meeting donations. Other ideas for donors can be sent to Matt and Paul. Rick suggested that the committee talk to Sherman Hebein or Lori Martin to see if there are donors on the west slope that would donate since they are in closer proximity to the meeting location. Paul has been coordinating with Utah to make sure that the list of donors for both states is unique, and donors are not being contacted twice. However, despite having separate donors, donations will be shared equally between the two chapters. The donation letters are ready to be sent out, so a link to where donors could donate online by credit card would be useful prior to sending these out. Kevin Gelwicks said he could set up the donor portion of 123Signup within the next week or so.

There is some difference in how sponsors are recognized between the chapters. Utah donors usually only get displayed in the program. CO/WY donors put sponsors in the program, and if the donation qualifies for the higher levels, donors sponsor half or a whole break at the meeting, and have their name displayed on a poster during the break. We will stick with the CO/WY way of recognizing donors, and Bobby Compton will handle making donor recognition posters for the breaks.

Kevin Gelwicks congratulated the Fundraising Committee for the banner year of donations for the 2016 Annual Meeting. Matt mentioned that the meeting went so well that people were asking to donate again right after the meeting last year.

Gifts:

Ben Brown has been working on finding gifts for meeting attendees and presenters. He is thinking the gift will be either a bag or coffee mug with the name and date of the meeting. Ben and Erin Sobel work together to purchase gifts, sticking within the \$1,000 typically budgeted for gifts by CO/WY.

Kristina Morben (CMU president) asked how things work with regard to selling student subunit gear at the meeting. Bobby mentioned that CO and WY student subunits usually sell their own gear at the meeting unless there was a plan to print and sell joint meeting t-shirts and glasses to be sold by all student subunits. At this point, there is not a plan to do so, but Eriek will work

with all four student subunits to see if this is an option they want to pursue. Utah students do not typically sell their gear at the annual meeting.

Raffle Committee (Boyd Wright):

Boyd Wright has been working with Paul in Utah to figure out specifics for the raffle and live and silent auction items. Each chapter typically kicks in \$1,500 for seed money for the raffle. Although it was thought that \$3,000 total may be possible to make back during the raffle, it was probably a little high for the joint meeting. Boyd and Paul will start with \$1,500 of seed money, but try to keep spending on the low end, if possible. Eric will write a check to Boyd for the seed money since this cannot come out of the money currently located in the raffle account.

When a raffle is held in Colorado, we are beholden to the laws that govern games of chance. This includes having a Game Master and a valid and up-to-date raffle license. Boyd will be acting as Game Master for this year's raffle, and will renew the raffle license before the meeting. In addition, if the total value of items in the raffle exceeds \$1,000, we need to produce printed tickets for each item, which have specific things that need to be on the ticket in order for it to be valid. Boyd will be handing this as well. All raffle expenditures and proceeds need to be funneled through the CO/WY raffle bank account. This account can be used for certain things, for example, meeting expenditures, but not others, for example, reimbursements to students or Utah. One potential solution is to pay for some of the meeting costs from the raffle account, and then have Utah or CO/WY reimburse the other chapter for any expenditure that had not been balanced. Another option could be to have live and silent auction money go directly to Utah accounts awhile the raffle money comes to the CO/WY account, and work things out after the meeting. The chapter Secretary/Treasurers will work together to figure this out.

Ben asked if CO/WY could sell raffle tickets using credit cards. CO/WY has always taken cash for the raffle. Utah uses Square to run credit cards for the raffle, auctions, and registration at the meeting. The device fits into a phone and runs through an app that can be set up for a specific account. The total processing charge is 2.65%, and receipts are e-mailed upon use. Eric and Gary will work together to set this up to allow credit card sales of raffle tickets, as well as live and silent auction items.

Rick thought it might be a good idea for each student subunit to come up with an item that could be raffled and have the proceeds go directly to the subunit. Everyone liked the idea, but weren't sure how that would work with the raffle account (reimbursement) or gaming laws. A better idea would be to have this item sold during the live or silent auction. Subunits will come up with an item to donate to the auction.

Photo Contest (Boyd Wright):

CO/WY hosts a photo contest every year. The top three photos get enlarged, matted, framed, and sold during the silent auction. Boyd asked if Utah would be interested in participating in the photo contest, and both Ben and Cassie thought that they would. Utah will let Boyd know when the next edition of their chapter newsletter is going out to the membership so that Boyd can add a pitch for the photo contest in their newsletter.

Student Social (Kristina Morben, CMU Student Subunit President):

The venue for the student social, Sulizio Field where the Grand Junction Rockies play baseball, has been booked, and Eric worked with Kristina to pay the deposit to hold the date. The social will run from 5 pm to 10 pm, and is located a couple miles down the road from the Doubletree. Kristina suggested that the students of Colorado Mesa have a shuttle that could potentially take people to and from the social. The Doubletree also has a shuttle, but it only holds 12 people at a time, so it could take some time to get everyone to the social if this is the only option. Kristina will be working on a solution for the shuttling needs.

The social will be held in the hospitality suite which will be set up for 120 people. Some asked if this was going to be enough given the estimate of over 200 meeting attendees. Bobby thought that the capacity of The Depot in Laramie wasn't more than 120, so he thought this should be enough. Kevin checked the registration stats from 2016 and found out that 118 people had signed up to attend the student social out of the total 200 attendees. To potentially increase attendance, Rick suggested that the registration site have the terms "Student Hosted Social" to make it clear that all are invited to attend the social, not just students.

Catered food still needs to be figured out, but cannot be done until January when the "Approved Caterer" list for the venue is updated. The two top options for catering are currently Roosters, which has good wings, and Rib City. Food for 150, especially since this will be dinner for the Utah folks, was thought to be a good start. There are lots of west slope breweries that may be able to donate beer, including Palisade, Encanta Creek, and Upslope. Wineries may also be able to donate wine. Ben Felt and Lori Martin will help with alcohol requests since the student subunit is not allowed to ask for or accept alcohol donations. Music will be Pandora.

Rick asked if there were going to be student mentoring presentations or a job fair at the student social again. Dan Brauch suggested that it would be good to get the word out for this before the meeting since there were not as many professionals at last year's job fair. Kevin mentioned that Wyoming has generally hired all of their technicians by the end of February which is why Wyoming participation in the job fair is often lower. Kristina and Eriek will work on figuring out if a job fair is desired by the other student subunits.

Kristina also suggested a mentor-mentee pairing of students and professionals at one of the socials. Students would be paired with a professional for part of the evening to allow people to break out of their shells and meet other professionals that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to. This is something that could be included on the registration for the social at which this would take place (e.g., do you want to be a mentor; do you want a mentor). It was also suggested that student could be paired with professionals while entering the social to prevent having to coordinate a specific time and location for mentors and mentees to meet. Eriek and Kristina will work out the details regarding mentoring at the socials before the next ExCom call.

Student Liaison (Eriek Hansen):

Eriek is thinking that we will have around 35 students from CO/WY and 25 students from Utah, for a total of 60 students at the meeting. He is going to try to get a mix of students from both chapters at all volunteer events and locations. However, he is not sure if he will be able to make the requirement of 4 and 8 hours for the CO/WY student reimbursement requirements. Rick

advised that he try to get close, and we can figure out a revised reimbursement schedule based on the number of student volunteers. There was a question of whether CO/WY would switch to Utah's model of having a lower registration but requiring all students to volunteer. No decision was made at this time.

Registration:

The ExCom is still trying to figure out the fee structure for registration. Fees will likely remain the same, but student fees need to be discussed. The two chapters will have separate sites for registration, so fees do not need to match. Kevin expressed concern that CO/WY members could potentially register for the meeting through the Utah website since their registration fees will likely be cheaper. Gary and Eric will compare member lists, registrations, etc. to ensure that members registered with the correct chapter.

Awards (Brian Englebert):

Brian asked when CO/WY typically presents their awards, and whether or not the two chapters would like to do a joint presentation of awards at the banquet. It was thought that presenting awards for both chapters at the banquet could be long. It was decided that each chapter will present chapter specific awards to the members during their business meeting. The banquet awards presentation would consist only of the Lifetime Achievement Award and each chapter's Leaky Boot Award. Christina pointed out that awards for best paper and poster will also need to be done at the banquet since talks that could qualify for these awards continue after the business meeting.

Utah awards \$150 AFS bucks, money provided by the chapter as a reimbursement to an award recipient who purchases something from the AFS store to all award recipients. It was decided that CO/WY will award the same amount this year. All award recipients will also receive a plaque.

Brian also mentioned that Utah typically has a rotating slideshow of pictures that is shown during breaks, before sessions begin, etc. Photos submitted for the photo contest to Boyd could be used for this purpose. In addition, members from both chapters can submit pictures to Brian to be included in the slideshow.

Schedule Future Joint ExCom Conference Calls

Executive Committees from both the CO/WY and Utah chapters will join conference calls for continuing meeting plans on January 12, 2017 and February 6, 2017. Both calls will occur at 2 pm. Rick will handle setting up the conference call in numbers.

The Joint of CO/WY and Utah AFS Chapters Executive Committees was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

CO/WY Executive Committee Meeting

Attendees: Rick Henderson, Kevin Gelwicks, Eric Fetherman, Bobby Compton, and Kristina Morben

Joining on the phone: Boyd Wright, Adam Hansen, and Bryan Maitland

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 pm and a quorum was established.

The meeting agenda was approved. Because the meeting started later than expected, an agenda items concerning the student subunits or folks on the phone were moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Student Subunit Reports

Colorado Mesa University (Kristina Morben):

The CMU student subunit has 45 members, with 13 members that are currently actively involved in subunit activities. The subunit hosted several speakers throughout the semester. Activities in which the student subunit was involved in included assisting with a canal salvage for native fish in Grand Junction, assisting with the International Fly Fishing Film Tour, having a float in the parade (which tied for first place), and hosting a fishing game in conjunction with Cabela's at the annual carnival. The subunit also hosted a panel with 20 professionals that came and talked with students about job opportunities in fish and wildlife and the career paths available. About 60 people attended the panel discussion.

This spring the student subunit will be helping students take a Hunter Safety course for first-time hunters. Several speakers are scheduled for the semester, including Rick Henderson and Tony Apa. A wild game feast and raffle, known as Beast Feast, will be held by the student subunit in the spring to help raise money. Lori Martin will be hosting a fishing clinic for the subunit in April. In May, the student subunit will help with the Outdoor Wilderness Lab (OWL) program on the Grand Mesa.

University of Wyoming (Bryan Maitland):

Bryan Maitland submitted the following report on the University of Wyoming student subunit's recent activities to the ExCom prior to the meeting and discussed the specifics during the meeting:

The University of Wyoming Student Subunit has had an exciting fall 2016 semester! We held our first meeting of the semester over a BBQ in a local Laramie Park. Elections for new officers were held, and folks were able to share fun summer stories.

Our October meeting was comprised of short presentations by graduate students in the aquatic sciences. Students described their current research at UW, and some stories on what got them to where they are today (along with some tips for undergrads making their way).

By and large, November was our most exciting month of the semester, with the two big ticket items being a Tiger Muskie sampling field-trip to North Crow Reservoir with WDGF and a joint fundraiser with The Wildlife Society – BeastFeast 2016: Surf n' Turf edition!

The field trip was a great day in the field, indeed. See a collage of photos from the event below. With both of our AFS faculty advisors (Drs. Annika Walters and Frank Rahel) and a WDFW employee, we processed gill nets, backpack electrofished the shoreline, and hook and line sampled for stocked Tiger Muskie. While we did not collect any Tigers, folks were able to gain valuable experience using common fisheries management techniques.



AFS UW subunit undergraduate, graduate, and faculty advisors and WDFW staff sampling for Tiger Muskie at North Crow Reservoir, Dec. 10, 2016. Clockwise from top-left: Professor Annika Walters electrofishing with two undergraduates; WDFW staffer John Fennell and past UW AFS president Rich Walker show undergrads how to pull gill nets, and get some boat time; Professor Annika Walters and current UW AFS president Bryan Maitland show undergrads how to pick fish from gillnets; group shot. **All photographs courtesy Professor Frank Rahel.**

That same evening, we held our Nov. monthly meeting where [Jimena Goucher-Benavides](#) (of Professor Katie Wagner's Evolutionary Biology Lab) gave us a talk regarding her research on fishes of Lake Tanganyika. Jimena wanted to [share her awesome video of this past's years field work](#). Jimena also wanted to share a link to a media outreach project (Level Pro) that highlights the work of Dr. Wagner and her collaborators in Kigoma, Lake Tanganyika. [Into the Rift](#) is a beautiful website with a series of photos and videos featuring scientists doing field work in the Lake.

Finally, as mentioned above, Beast Feast 2016 was a tremendous success! It is TWS's annual community fundraiser, and we teamed up with them (in preparation for the joint AFS/TWS meeting in Reno 2019) to raise awareness and bolster funds. In addition to bringing together ordinarily disparate groups of Paradise denizens together over sweet and savory wild

game and fish dishes, we collectively raised ~\$1,200 dollars! These monies will directly support activities of TWS and AFS that endeavor to prepare students for careers in wildlife & fisheries professions. A special thanks goes out to all who prepared fishy dishes!!! Apparently a grouse dish won best in show, but I'll tell you all we represented the slimy side of the world very well!

We will be holding our final meeting of the semester tonight, where I am excited to say we will be featuring [Professor Katie Wagner](#) giving us a talk on the "Pelagic fishes on Lake Tanganyika: what we know and where we're going". It will be a great follow-up to last month's meeting where Jimena told us all about the Lake's littoral fish diversity. We will also be discussing our activities for next semester. Which, to name a few, include a fossil hunting trip here in Wyoming, an early semester meeting/talk with Rick Henderson, and another joint activity/trip to be done in concert with the wildlife society. We do also plan to get an ice fishing trip on the books – which will certainly entail a TWS/AFS competition.

Colorado State University:

The Colorado State University student subunit provided the following update which was shared at the meeting by Rick Henderson:

Colorado State Universities American Fisheries Society is having another exciting year. As always we are hold bi-weekly meeting featuring talks from fisheries professionals. Professionals who spoken at our meetings this semester include, April Kraft of CPW, Matt Kondratieff of CPW, Chris Carroll of USFS, Chris Smith of USFWS, Cody Tyler of CPW and Caitlin Peterson of the University of Wyoming. This spring, we are starting an exciting project on College Lake here in Fort Collins headed up by our Vice-President Brendon Sucher. We plan to remove half of the Northern Pike in the lake, which have notoriously low condition factor, in hopes of growing bigger fish. This should please anglers at our annual fishing derby fundraiser held each spring at the lake. We are also planning to help CPW run ice fishing clinics this winter. If anyone would like to present at our meetings or would like us to get involved in a project with them feel free to reach out at AFSCSU@gmail.com.

Student Subunit Discussion:

Kevin asked if we had provided the student subunits with the approved \$500 annual contribution from the CO/WY chapter. Eric will follow up with getting this annual contribution to the student subunits before the Annual Meeting.

Rick asked if there were any thoughts regarding the Annual Meeting that the student subunits would like to bring up to the ExCom. Bryan mentioned that students were confused last year by the way that the posters were judged during the meeting. Although there was a poster session, it seemed that the judging occurred independently of the session such that student were not judged on their ability to present a poster, but their ability to put a poster together. Bobby confirmed that in recent years, poster judges often judge the posters as they get time throughout the meeting rather than specifically during the poster session. The ExCom will discuss the judging concerns with Mandi to see if the posters can be judged both on the information presented in the poster and by the person presenting the poster during the poster session.

Students were asked their preference for registration costs and volunteer reimbursements. Both student subunits presidents thought the current structure of paying the full \$80 and volunteering to reduce this price created an incentive for students to volunteer at the meeting. It was thought

that there would be fewer student volunteers if the registration cost was lower and not reimbursed. The suggestions of the students will be strongly considered when setting the student registration costs for the 2017 Annual Meeting. In addition, the CO/WY bylaws state that the student subunit presidents get their registration paid for by the chapter. Both subunit presidents were informed of this.

Approval of August ExCom Meeting Minutes

All of the ExCom member had a chance to read and make corrections to the August ExCom meeting minutes prior to the winter ExCom meeting. Bobby moved to approve the August ExCom Meeting Minutes. Kevin seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports from Committees Joining by Phone

Membership Committee (Boyd Wright):

Boyd provided the ExCom with the following report for the membership committee:

Membership Totals and Trends

Starting in October 2015, the Membership Committee began a more deliberate effort to track trends in membership for the Chapter by periodically requesting a member list from the parent society and summarizing trends in membership data. Unfortunately, as far as we are aware, catalogued and summarized membership data prior to 2015 are unavailable in the Chapter's electronic files. If anyone is aware of this type of data existing, the Membership Committee would appreciate access to it. Nonetheless, we now have three data points to track trends in membership: October 2015, January 2016, and December 2016. Membership data across this time frame are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2 below. Similar to evaluating fish populations, we do not look too deeply into two years of trend data, and we expect this dataset to become more enlightening as we compile membership trend data in future years.

Total membership increased from 197 members in October 2015 to 225 in January 2016, and is back down to 200 members in December of 2016 (Table 1). Between January 2016 and December 2016, membership decreased across all membership types, with the exception of "Lifetime Members" which remained constant, as would be expected, and "Young Professionals," which increased. We expect that membership will once again increase considerably in early 2017 as expired memberships are renewed to facilitate member discounts for toward registration fees for the upcoming Annual Meeting. We will again compile membership data in January or February of 2017 to facilitate better comparison. An additional caveat is that the December 2016 data was based on a query of the membership directory available on fisheries.org, as opposed to receiving a member list from the parent society, as was the case for the previous two dates. Members have the option to be excluded from the membership directory under their "online preferences," so it is possible is that the December 2016 totals reported are biased low. A membership list was requested from the parent society in mid-November, but still has not been received.

Colorado has consistently accounted for roughly 70% of total chapter membership. The chapter also routinely has registered members from other states (table 2), but these numbers are highly variable and the members are excluded from total membership counts because any National

AFS member can sign up as a CO/WY Chapter member free of charge by simply checking a box on their national AFS membership registration.

Table 1. Membership totals for each member type from October 2015 through December 2016. In an effort to standardize the available data, these totals are reported for members that listed Colorado or Wyoming mailing address on their National AFS membership.

Member Type	Oct-15	Jan-16	16-Dec
Lifetime	18	18	18
Regular	116	128	107
Retired	11	11	13
Student	30	43	31
Young Professional	22	25	31
Total Members	197	225	200

Table 2. Chapter membership break-down by state from October 2015 through December 2016.

State	Oct-15	Jan-16	16-Dec
CO	137	156	140
WY	60	69	60
AK	1		
AZ	3		
CA	2		
FL	1		
KS	1	1	
MT	3	2	2
NV		1	1
OR	1	1	1
UT	1	1	1
VA	1	2	
WA		2	2
TOTAL	211	235	207

Plans for 2017 Annual Meeting

We are planning to resurrect the membership booth at the 2017 Annual Meeting. We finally were able to acquire all of the membership booth materials from Wyoming and will plan to go through those materials and update as needed prior to the annual meeting.

Bobby thought that one of the benefits to having the booth is that consultants and other folks that are new to AFS and the CO/WY chapter can learn about AFS and the benefits to joining the society. Rick mentioned that the national chapter just released a video on what AFS can do for you and suggested that this might be a good video to have playing at the booth.

At a recent Western Division AFS ExCom meeting, Rick discussed membership with other Western Division chapter presidents. For the CO/WY chapter, up to 80% of the chapter members were also members at the national level. This is high compared to other states where as low as 20% of the members are also members at the national level.

Raffle Committee:

Rick offered to help delegate some of the responsibilities that Boyd had taken on for running a raffle in the state of Colorado and for two chapters. Boyd thanked Rick for his offer, but said that everything was under control. Adam Lieferman and Dan Brauch will be helping Boyd acquire items for the raffle. Boyd is comfortable with being the Game Master for the raffle. Boyd is in support of selling raffle tickets via credit card as long as all of the details have been worked out to make it so that proceeds go to the raffle account. Eric will work with Utah to ensure that everything is in order using Square for credit card purchases prior to the meeting.

Newsletter (Adam Hansen):

Adam provided an update for the newsletter committee. The November issue of The Angler had been sent to the membership the day before the ExCom meeting and included the first call for papers, awards, raffle items, and other details of the meeting. Anna and Adam will switch off being the primary contact for The Angler every two issues.

The summer issue of The Angler, which usually includes a recap of the Annual Meeting, has been hard to get submissions for in recent years. Most of the time, folks asked to submit items for this issue are in the field and have little time to pull together their submissions by the deadline. Additionally, items may be harder to track down for this issue since it is released four to five months after the Annual Meeting. Eric asked if it would be possible to release an April/May issue of The Angler that provides the recap of the meeting. That way it has more relevance, being closer to the meeting, and people are not yet in the field and will have time to put together their submissions. The July issue, being the primary issue for releasing the budget to the membership (following the bylaws), would still be released as a smaller issue similar to that sent out to the membership in November, but include only The Vent and the budget. Additional items, such as fun stories about projects from the membership and pictures from the ExCom retreat could also be included in this issue. Adam and the ExCom agreed that this might be a good thing to try in 2017. This will be brought up to the membership during the business meeting to see if there are any objections.

Secretary/Treasurer Report (Eric Fetherman)

Eric Fetherman ran through the budget as it stands currently. A few reimbursement checks have been written, as well as enrolling the chapter in the parent society insurance, but little else has changed in the checking account since Eric took over in August 2016. In September 2016, Eric moved \$11,000 out of the savings account, maintaining \$1,300 in that account, and added that money to the Western Division AFS Investment Fund. This money will gain more interest in the Investment Fund, and can still be easily accessed if needed at a later date.

Bobby and Kevin reminded Eric that the chapter contributes \$500 annually to the Western Division AFS Annual Meeting. In addition, the chapter provides an annual contribution of \$500

to each of the student subunits. Eric will make sure these contributions have been made by the Annual Meeting budget update. The ExCom also voted to cover hotel and breakfast for Bobby and Kevin for out-of-state travel to the winter ExCom meeting.

Looking forward, it appears that the Annual Meeting is on budget, if not ahead of the budget projections, especially for things like AV, hotel rooms, meeting rooms, etc. The most difficult thing yet to figure out is food/breaks with Utah since their food needs to be included as part of the meeting. However, after running through the potential meals that Utah will need, only one meal is not accounted for. Rick will work with Cassie to finalize the plans for food.

With regards to registration, the price structure has been the same for the past several years. Although registration doesn't usually cover the cost of the meeting, the raffle and auction often help supplement the majority of the costs. Keeping registration costs low was one of the top five things the chapter membership mentioned they would like to continue to have given the current budget projections. Therefore, registration costs for the 2017 Annual Meeting will probably stay the same as they were for the 2016 meeting.

Chapter Taxes Update (Kevin Gelwicks)

Somebody submitted our taxes (Form 990-N, e-postcard) in July, but Kevin is not sure who filed. We can file this e-postcard if our gross receipts are not greater than \$50,000. When we pay to have our taxes done, we provide the tax person with our receipts and information from our accounts, and they double check that this is the case. They then file the e-postcard for us. H&R Block will do this for \$100, significantly cheaper than what has been paid for these services in the past. This is who we will plan to use for taxes in the future. In the mean time, Kevin will check with the parent society to see if they were the ones who filed our taxes for us. We will need to keep an eye on this in the future to make sure that everything is being done correctly. Bobby suggested that the procedures manual be updated to reflect the current tax filing procedures. Rick will incorporate this as part of his updates in the procedures manual.

Committee Reports Continued

Archive Committee:

Greg Anderson is set to retire soon, and will no longer be the head of this committee after this coming meeting. As such, Lori Martin has volunteered to take over as chapter archivist.

Awards Committee:

The first call for award nominations was just released in the November issue of The Angler. Because the awards will likely be joint awards for the two chapters, it will be important to have both chapter's logos on the award certificates. The ExCom will remind Jason of this prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Mentoring Committee:

The following update for the mentoring committee was provided to the ExCom prior to the meeting and read by Rick at the meeting:

There were 9 pairings of Mentors/Mentees at the start of the 2016 Mentoring Program, only 7 pairings have been active. The Mentees have been having some great experiences, as some of them told in the last edition of the Angler. We had more Mentee applicants in 2016 than we did Mentors for them. This was the most interest shown in the program by students since its inception. So far we have only reimbursed 2016 Mentees a total of \$183.32. Calls for Mentors and Mentees for the 2017 season will go out at the beginning of the year.

Travel Grants to 2017 WD/National AFS Annual Meetings

Bobby made up travel grant announcements and these were included in the November issue of The Angler. He also plans to send an e-mail to the student subunits and professors to get the word out for these grants. Bobby will work with Boyd to send out the announcements to the membership a couple different times before the application deadline of January 31, 2017. This application deadline was set to give plenty of time to review the applications and award the grants prior to needing to plan travel to the meetings. The Western Division Annual Meeting is in Missoula, MT in late May, and the National AFS Meeting is in Tampa, FL in August.

CO/WY 2018 Annual Meeting

The CO/WY 2018 meeting will be held the week of February 26, 2018. The University of Wyoming hotel and conference center is available, and an initial quote has been acquired by Kevin for this space. A deposit may be needed soon to hold the dates. Kevin will work with Eric to get this deposit, if and when needed. The contract process has changed some since Bobby planned the 2016 Annual Meeting, so a close eye should be kept on what is or is not included in the contract. Bobby suggested that some of the Wyoming members in Laramie, including Beth, Steve and Bobby, could go over with Kevin to do a walk through and double check everything before a contract is signed. Rick mentioned that there is also a contact with the parent society who reviews contracts for chapter meetings and is very helpful at finding issues with the contract, if any. Kevin will work with these folks to finalize the contract for this meeting.

Kevin asked for the budget process how many rooms are typically budgeted as student complementary rooms. Four rooms are generally set aside for this purpose. Given the increase in student attendees, two more rooms may need to be added. This decision will be made as we get closer to the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Bobby moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Kevin seconded. All were in favor. **The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20 pm.**