



Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

2020 Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI

- Call to order and determination of quorum
  - Called to order at 3:31 PM, there were 35 members present.
- Approval of agenda
  - Approved, all in favor.
- Approval of 2019 minutes
  - Approved, all in favor.
- President's remarks (Jan-Michael Hessenauer)
  - Jan thanked Sara Thomas for all of her work navigating the issues due to COVID-19 and last minute changes. He noted that the meeting had gone really well and that that committee chairs submitted a one-page report which were available in hard copy at the meeting and online, which will help speed up the meeting overall. Jan thanked everyone for all the work and training accomplished this year.
- Secretary-Treasurer's Report
  - Emily Martin (Secretary-Treasurer) was not present to review the financials and other items under this report were covered elsewhere.
- Committee Reports
  - **Auditing (Dave Caroffino)**
    - Dave submitted a report to ExComm that all was in order for the annual audit
  - **Awards (Dana Castle)**
    - Dana noted that changes were probably coming and that there has been some feedback that will drive those changes. Award presentations are later in the agenda.
  - **Centrarchid**
    - This committee chair position has been vacant, but Matt Diana is interested in serving as the chair. There was no opposition from membership.
  - **Communications (Heather Hettinger, Justin Chiotti, Doug Workman)**
    - Heather stated that the NCD funding model is changing for the Midwest meeting and we are receiving more now. There is a directive from AFS to use money to help members attend meetings through travel grants and

scholarships. She will be staying on as a communication rep to AFS. Let Heather know if you need anything posted on Facebook.

- **Continuing Education (Dan Traynor)**
  - There is a mussel workshop planned for May. Dan thanked Stacey for her help with organizing workshops.
- **Fenske Award (Jessica Mistak)**
  - No report (Jessica was not present)
- **Membership (Brad Utrup)**
  - New online form is working well for keeping track of membership
- **Nominating Committee and Past-Presidents Committee (Justin Chiotti)**
  - Doug Larson has been nominated as the President-Elect this year. 49 members voted for Doug and he is now officially President-Elect.
- **Program Committee (Sara Thomas)**
  - There were 122 attendees registered before the issues surrounding COVID-19 occurred resulting in cancellation of travel for some. There were a total of 99 attendees representing 23 organizations.
- **Resolutions (Kevin Donner)**
  - No report
- **Rivers and Streams (Nate Winkler)**
  - Nate is looking for committee membership to get more involved, he will be sending an email out.
- **Student Concerns - (Jessica Diaz, MSU and Conner Johnson, LSSU)**
  - Thanked the other members for job postings that are shared and for all of the other opportunities through MIAFS.
- **Walleye Committee (Ed Roseman)**
  - Nothing new, please pay attention to abstract deadlines in Ed's report
- **Water Quality (Doug Bradley)**
  - No report
- **Presentation/Poster Awards (Mark Tonello)**
  - Mark thanked all of the volunteer judges as more judges means less work for the group. There needs to be a more diverse pool of judges as it is primarily male DNR employees. Mark will continue in his judging coordination role.
- **Escocids – Joint Escocid-Walleye-Centrarchid meeting in July, Addie Dutton is the new Michigan Representation. There is a symposium planned for the 2020 AFS meeting.**
- Old Business
  - MI AFS chapter funds, investment options (Jan-Michael Hessenauer)
    - Jan stated that he wanted to finish this before Sara took over and that we needed to make a plan. The decision was made that protecting the Michigan AFS money was the best path forward, not necessarily focusing on growing it. The money will be placed in a CD to gain some interest but it is also a low risk investment. Plan for the CD to mature near the annual meeting in the future so funds are available when needed. The amount to go into the CD is still to be determined.
  - Election – President Elect Results
    - Previously announced
- New Business

- Installation of new President
    - Sara Thomas was installed as the new president
  - Installation of new President-Elect
    - Doug Larson was installed as the new President-Elect
  - Awards Presentation – It was decided to hand out awards at dinner this year instead of during the meeting as there would be more attendees present
    - Award of Appreciation given to Past-President Justin Chiotti
  - Plan of work for coming year (Sara Thomas)
    - Sara said she plans to make sure all members are getting communication from the organization and that she wants to work on making sure the membership and listserv are up to date. She also stressed the importance of engagement of the student chapters as they benefit the most from working with professionals, so MIAFS wants to make sure they are taking advantage of opportunities. Sara would also like to work on creating an informal mentoring program to review student resumes, encourage continuing education focused on soft skills, and would love to see MIAFS earn the most active chapter award.
  - Identify issues with listserv and not all members getting emails
    - Sara is going to work on fixing this
  - Announcement of committee appointments and Opportunities
    - New Urban/Community Technical Committee through NCD – April 2019 newsletter. Any members who are interested in this committee can contact Sara.
  - 150<sup>th</sup> AFS Celebration in Columbus, OH
    - MI Chapter display updates(Robin Debruyne) – the current plan is to have a monitor showing a PowerPoint, Billy Keiper (former Sec-Treasurer) is gathering historical photos. The vertical banners (history/education/students) will be used and there was discussion about a live take or fish mounts at the booth as well.
  - New award and current award descriptions
    - There is a new award called the Cisco Award that focuses on recognizing an individual who has fostered inclusion and diversity in the fisheries field
  - Comments on next year’s meeting?
    - Sara would like to send a membership wide survey to determine what makes members attend. The survey will help with planning, gathering info, and helping us make the chapter better overall. If you have suggestions for a survey question(s) please contact Sara.
  - Other Business
    - No further business presented
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- Adjourn – 4:15 PM