



Michigan Chapter, American Fisheries Society

2019 Business Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2019 Treetops
Resort, Gaylord, MI

Update on American Fisheries Society – Steve McMullin

- Steve noted that we are celebrating the first joint meeting of our chapters in Michigan and this year the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society are also having their first joint meeting in Reno, NV. Hope to see some of you there!
 - Steve asked ExComm prior to meeting about the percentage of Michigan Chapter membership that are also members of AFS and it's about 50-60%. While that's good, he hopes that others will recognize the benefits of AFS membership. Membership provides free access to 7 research journals. Dues were raised last year for the first time in a long time, but they're tracking 8-10% higher on membership numbers this year so far.
 - Current President asked to pass on a few of her priorities for this year:
 - Try to develop a whole curriculum of “soft skills” continuing education courses to address gaps in needed skills for fisheries professionals to be more effective in their jobs. Hoping the writing course will become one of these courses.
 - Working with editorial board to make sure we have procedures and norms in place that guarantee a fair and predictable process.
 - Continuing emphasis on diversity and inclusion that began during Steve's term as President.
 - Big emphasis on communication and making what we do more relevant to people outside of the fisheries field. We need appreciate, engaged, and supportive public to help us make the case that healthy and thriving fisheries are in everyone's best interest. Many of us focus on the economic value of fish, but they also feed a lot of the world, are important part of the cultural identity of many Native American tribes, economically important to communities through both commercial and recreational fisheries. What we do is important to the public in their everyday lives.
 - If there are any questions or issues that you would like us to address, please tell me and I can share that with the other officers.
 - Mark Tonello commented that in recent months he has detected a change in the advocacy part of AFS. Steve commented that they try to walk a fine line with policy issues and stress the use of good science in policy. For example, the Waters of the US definition has been a focus recently.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 4:33pm by Justin Chiotti
 - Copies of agenda, 2018 Minutes, Sec/Treas report were available for members.
- Quorum confirmed. 43 current members in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve by Dan Traynor, second by Mark Tonello. Motion passed.

Approval of 2018 Minutes

- Motion to approve 2018 minutes made and seconded. Motion passed.

President's Remarks

- Justin noted that, as Robin mentioned last year, one thing that comes up is how many students are applying for awards and grants. We have two new subunit co-chairs and we have mentioned this to them during our ExComm calls, but we don't get many students applying for these awards. Bring these to the student's attention if you are in a position to do so!
- Thank you to all of the committee chairs for all of their work throughout the year, especially the Executive Committee. Thank you to Jan, Robin, Emily, Dana for all of their work and the calls throughout the year as well as more recently

Secretary - Treasurer's Report

- Handout of report provided. No issues with financials this year.

Committee Reports

- Auditing (Dave Caroffino)
 - Justin read some lines from Dave's audit report for 2018
 - Audit was completed and all records were in order
 - Two recommendations:
 - Beneficial to develop a simple form for reimbursement (to be reviewed later in meeting)
 - Important to have liquid assets, but we have significant liquid assets. Encouraging ExComm to revisit annual dues amounts, chapter spending plan.
 - Justin noted that this excess money came up last year as well. It's on the agenda later to put some excess funds into some sort of an investment, whether it be a CD or further investment with the parent organization
- Awards (Dana Castle)
 - 5 nominations for Leonard Award
 - 4 for Grayling
 - Combined all nominations to consider for these two awards, we have struggled to get nominations for the Grayling Award the last four years. Committee is suggesting rewriting the description so it is more clear.
 - Sticking with Google Forms for nominations
- Centrarchid (Heather Dawson)
 - No report
- Communications (Heather Hettinger, Justin Chiotti-webmaster, Doug Workman-listserv)
 - Heather – Copies of newsletter provided. Much smaller than in past, which is intentional. People are more interested in posting things on Facebook page and sending them out through the listserv in the last couple years. We will use the newsletter for reports from officers, contact information, so it's a more formal and smaller document. Let Heather know if you want something posted on the Facebook page or post it yourself!
 - Justin – have been running website the last few years, let me know if there is anything you think should be changed or updated
 - No report on listserv

- Continuing Education (Dan Traynor)
 - Last year held two workshops, try to hold at least 3 on average.
 - R workshop – January 20-21 in Traverse City. 22 participants, 12 students. Held it on the weekend to increase student participation, but it made it more inconvenient for others to attend with work schedules, etc. In future we will stick to work week unless it's specifically for students.
 - Started offering \$150 award at this workshop for the top applicant for the free student seats. Winner was Carrie Coy.
 - ID of Nongame Fish ID at LSSU
 - Student travel award winner was Cheyenne Schlafley
 - Every student who has applied for free registration has received it. Low numbers of people applying, so even if you do the application quickly you have a good chance of getting it. Two of three travel grants in the last year had only one applicant.
 - 2019/Upcoming courses
 - Writing Technical Documents workshop – high participation
 - Aquatic Macroinvertebrate workshop – registration already full or close to full. Being held April 4, 5 at LSSU
 - Habitat management workshop – in Gaylord at University Center, taught by habitat management staff. Flyer coming out soon.
 - Smith-Root EF workshop and Freshwater mussel sampling workshop are in works
 - Ed Roseman suggested contacting Dave Zanatta about the mussel course because he has a grant that requires him to instruct a course anyway.
 - Members typically suggest workshop ideas and we try to make them happen. Let Dan or Stacey know if you have something in mind.
- Fenske Award (Jessica Mistak)
 - Jessica gave background on the Fenske Award and the purpose of the award. Up to 25 students a year are recognized and there is one fisheries and one wildlife award winner. This year, 25 students from 16 universities, 8 states, 1 Canadian province. Wildlife Award winner is Melissa Starking and she is at the state conference this year.
 - Jessica thanked all of those involved in this award and who continue to provide support.
- Membership (Brad Utrup)
 - Brad has been working on streamlining the membership process
 - Currently at 330 total members (3 year grace window on this number). Lost 25 people who hadn't paid in 3 years this year, but overall membership is up.
 - Brad reviewed the Google Form that he has developed. Captures the same info as the paper form and Brad will get an email as soon as someone fills out the form, it goes into a Google Sheets file. Emily and Brad would talk monthly to make sure everyone who has applied has paid dues.
 - Questions?
 - When you register through the parent society, the President receives a list regularly of new members
 - Jessica Mistak noted that the Society is trying to make sure that everyone is a member of AFS and then can choose to be a member of the state chapter or units, so this goes against what the Society is trying to do.

- Brad stated that this only makes it easier on the processing end, it doesn't make it easier than it already is for members to choose to only join the Michigan Chapter.
 - PayPal option comes up when you hit submit. Can still pay via check if you want to.
 - Brad noted that when people leave after 3 years, we don't really do anything but we could start sending a quick email as a reminder just in case.
 - Jessica asked if it was possible to put a paragraph on the Membership page that encourages members to become a full society member as well as the chapter member and lists the benefits of full membership. Could also list the dues, since especially for students they are pretty low. That way we are doing a little education on the benefits of the Society membership. Justin and Brad agreed that ExComm would do this.
- Nominating Committee (Robin DeBruyne) and Past Presidents Committee (Robin DeBruyne)
 - This year, Robin followed up those individuals she had contacted the previous year. Sara Thomas agreed to serve and we had 59 votes (which is above the minimum for a quorum) so she is our new President-Elect!
 - If you're interested or know someone interested, let the ExComm know!
- Program Committee (Jan-Michael Hessenauer)
 - Great attendance, more than we expected! We thought about 150, but we are nearly at 200. Projections show that we should roughly break even on the meeting.
 - Thank you to the sponsors that supported the meeting! These include Northcentral Division of the Wildlife Society, Ruffed Grouse Society, Fisheries Division, Wildlife Division, Consumer's Energy.
 - Any feedback on the meeting can be sent to Jan.
 - Justin thanked Jan and Robin for being representatives of the fisheries group for the planning committee
- Resolutions (Kevin Donner)
 - No report
- Rivers and Streams (Chris Eilers)
 - No report
- Student Concerns (Tim Hawley - MSU and Conner Johnson - LSSU)
 - Two new members and new chairs, Justin introduced them. Conner thanked everyone for helping with the raffle and putting it together. Thanked us all for letting them use the raffle as a fundraiser, the ability to have free student seats, etc. – it's great to be able to interact with other professionals and meet them in person. Connections have been great and can't thank the chapter enough.
 - LSSU Subunit – no additional report
 - MSU Subunit - Tim thanked the chapter for support on the raffle and everything else.
 - Justin thanked Tim and Conner for getting on the ExComm calls every month.
- Walleye Committee (Seth Herbst)
 - MDNR is drafted inland walleye management plan that he will share when it is available for review. Troy Zorn leading work on movement of walleye in Bays de Noc.
 - Cory Kovacs noted that the Esocids Committee is not on the agenda. He serves for the Escocids Technical Committee and it has been an outstanding

- opportunity to interact with states and provinces that serve. They meet jointly with walleye and centrarchid committees as well.
- Update on Walleye Technical Committee from Seth, there will be a joint technical committee in Webster, SD on July 16-18th. Students can get a travel grant for this, so if you would like to share a cool research project you can find info on the travel grant on our website.
 - 2020 AFS Meeting in Columbus – Cory is on the Planning Committee to do an Escocids Symposium there. Will be reaching out to encourage people to submit presentations/abstracts for that meeting.
 - Justin asked if there are other NCD Committees that aren't on our website?
 - Catfish
 - Jessica Mistak suggested we add the Esocids Committee
 - Cory said that there is typically a chapter representative on the committees. There are more on the list on the Society page and you could pull more in if there is interest. Justin suggested that Jan consider this for the next year.
 - Jessica said that NCD has several Technical Committees, some actively seek out members from chapters and some don't. Might be worth finding out who from the chapter is interested in being on these committees or recruiting someone to be on them so we're part of that effort.
 - 2022 – the 5th international Percid Symposium is being arranged/planned in Czechoslovakia
 - Water Quality (Doug Bradley) – no report
 - Presentation/Poster Awards

Old Business

- Awards Presentations – Dana
 - Dana thanked Emily for help with the award plaques.
 - Hazzard Award
 - Two nominees. There was a tie.
 - Courtney Higgins – nominated by Heather Dawson
 - Ryan Andrews – Nominated by Dan Hayes
 - Grayling Award – Mike Jones
 - Leonard Award – Kelley Smith
 - Kelley noted to the students to enjoy it while they can, and that time goes by fast. Thanked the chapter for this award, never imagined that this far out of his career that he would receive an award.
 - Chapter Student Travel Grant Award (for Midwest Conference) – Alan Mock
 - Workshop Travel Grant Award – Ben Vasquez
- Election – President Elect Results
 - Sara Thomas elected as the President-Elect
- Sponsorship of Catfish 2020 - \$500
 - Voted on sponsoring at least year's meeting. Just a reminder that we did sponsor this symposium. We will be acknowledged on the website, at the meeting, and during the proceedings
- Sponsorship of MSU F&W Graduate Organization Research Symposium - \$250
 - Justin read an email from Jean Adams thanking the chapter on behalf of the Graduate Student Organization.

Installation of New President

Jan-Michael Hessenauer (HessenauerJ1@michigan.gov)

Installation of New President-Elect

Sara Creque Thomas (thomass35@michigan.gov)

New Business – Justin handed the meeting over to Jan

- Awards Presentations
 - Award of Appreciation given to Past President Robin Debruyne
- Plan of work for coming year (Jan-Michael Hessenauer)
 - Jan said he wanted to work on engaging the members and informing them of the benefits of the Society. He wouldn't be here today without being a member of Michigan AFS, he found his current job through the listserv. Would really appreciate hearing from any members on ideas or suggestions.
- Announcement of committee appointments and opportunities - Justin
 - Student Concerns Committee
 - Tim Hawley and Conner Johnson
 - Walleye Technical Committee Chair
 - Seth is stepping down as the chair, Ed Roseman will take over
 - Rivers and Streams Committee Chair
 - Chris Eilers noted that the committee wasn't very active and nominated Nate Winkler as the new chair
 - Nate said he appreciates the opportunity, was born in the UP, grew up around Traverse City, currently a biologist for Conservation Resource Alliance and works on watersheds in lower Michigan. Right now, he is working on Boardman River dam project. Happy to serve as chair.
 - Centrarchid Committee Chair (Vacant)
 - Contact Jan if interested in serving in this role
 - Others?
- 150th AFS Celebration in Columbus, OH
 - Gary Whelan sent an email to the all chapter Presidents because AFS wants to make this a memorable meeting and asked them to form an Exhibit Committee. All state chapters should form a committee chaired by an ExComm member; each chapter should strive to have a display/exhibit for the chapter at the meeting.
 - Robin has volunteered to be the chair of the committee and has received emails from others willing to participate.
 - Gary represents NCD on Planning Committee for 150th Anniversary. They have asked all states, provinces, and international sections to develop an exhibit about the history of their fisheries or their unit to display at the meeting. So far, 11 of 13 of the chapters/units in NCD are on board. There will also be a full edition of Fisheries strictly devoted to the anniversary next year, but each issue will also be focused on the anniversary. Would like to acknowledge fisheries pioneers and are looking for people to write articles for Fisheries about them.
 - Justin noted that we must choose one of three options: story of chapter, overall story or historical event in fisheries science, or a blend of the two. One thing that ExComm considered using some of the excess funds for is to develop an exhibit for this anniversary meeting that could then be used for other purposes in the future.
 - We don't know what the cost of this would be but are thinking less than \$2,500.
 - Justin asked Gary what he has seen from other chapters that he's liked so far. Gary said he hasn't seen much so far, but a number are

thinking of electronic displays such as videos. One idea was to move the existing old railcar in South Dakota to Columbus but it was decided that wasn't a good idea. Could be a poster, could be an exhibit. Needs to be portable but could be electronic which would provide longevity for the chapter.

- Justin talked to Sec/Treas of NY Chapter and they've created a history of NY fisheries video that they are planning to use as part of their exhibit.
- Goal here is not to come up with what the exhibit is, but how much is membership willing to allow us to spend?
- Jessica Mistak moved to allow the committee to spend up to \$2,500 to develop an exhibit that can be used for years to come. Second by Gary Whelan.
 - Motion passed.
- Billy Keiper, Heather Hettinger, and Dana Castle volunteered to join the committee. Anyone else interested, let Robin know!
- Robin noted for the membership to watch for displays they like in other meetings, museums, anywhere that would be a possible idea for this display.
- MIAFS Reimbursement Form
 - Emily reviewed the new reimbursement form and asked for comments. No comments.
- AFS HQ Mutual Fund
 - Jan brought up past discussions about what we want to do with excess funds. We want to keep some funds in liquid form to use each year, but the Society has investment accounts and we could do 1 year CDs that mature at the time of year that we need them for the annual meeting. Want to open up to membership to discuss options for this excess funds.
 - Jessica Mistak said that Dan Cassidy at AFS has extensive financial background and that we should reach out to him about this initially. Ask questions to him and then weigh them against the options at local banks in terms of what can be easily accessed, etc.
 - Aaron suggested considering money market accounts rather than CDs because then it is locked down for a specific amount of time.
 - Sara Thomas noted that we have much better return on our existing investment account in comparison to our savings account.
 - Justin said that the NY Sec/Treas said that the AFS investments are very liquid and a great approach.
 - Heather Hettinger said to talk to Drew Holloway at NCD level because NCD just went through this process with the investment process. It's very quick to get money out of investment account, takes maybe 2 weeks.
 - Jan – other thoughts? What is the appropriate amount to invest? \$2,000? \$4,000?
 - Gary said he thinks we can be more aggressive. We could easily move \$10,000 over without a concern and then make quite a bit of money back on that. When he was Sec/Treas 14 years ago, we had a \$6 balance.
 - Troy agreed that we should move a significant amount rather than waiting until next year and missing a whole year of investment income.

- Jessica Mistak moved that the ExComm look at the average operating expenses for last 5 years and make a decision on how much to invest based on that, using an aggressive approach, especially if the money is liquid and to maintain the one year's operating expenses in liquid cash in the account. The ExComm can then invest the funds once they have evaluated this.
 - Second by Gary Whelan
 - Discussion: Robin asked if we needed to make sure that ExComm has ability to invest the money in the wording of the motion. General agreement that we did.
 - Motion passed
- Comments on next year's meeting?
 - Justin was approached by Wisconsin about a future joint meeting
 - Any comments on this meeting so far?
- Other Business?
 - Dana Castle – proposed to think about changing wording of Grayling Award. Part of selection criteria states that we should focus on a current GL issue.
 - New wording will be sent out to the membership via email.
 - Jessica suggested that we handle this over email because we can do business that way too. Grayling Award hasn't been awarded that many times so maybe we need to do more than a simple wording change. Will work on this and then share over email for the members to improve.
 - Dana suggested a new award: get wording from her
 - Suggested sending this wording out and approving via email as well.

Adjournment

Robin motioned to adjourn, Brad seconded, Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM