

21 October 2013 AFS Management Committee Minutes

Members (*italics = absent*): Bob Hughes, John Boreman, Donna Parrish, Ron Essig, Joe Margraf, Doug Austen, *Jessica Mistak*, Jim Armstrong, John Jackson, Vince Travnichek, Hilda Sexauer, Tom Lang, Margaret Murphy, Jesse Trushenski, Ken Kurzawski (proxy for *Mike Stone*).

Travnichek moved (Margraf seconded) approval of the 12 September 2013 Incoming Governing Board minutes. Approved without dissent.

Austen summarized several of his activities over the past month.

- Budget finalization is still awaiting final figures from the Little Rock meeting (estimated \$60K vs. projected \$130K), staff salary updates, and decisions regarding potential positions (policy/partnerships/grants, communications). A 5-y budget is being planned, as are ways to better link staff with AFS units. Boreman indicated that FITS and the ESAB should be involved in redesigning the AFS communications systems and staffing needs. Travnichek was concerned about the effect of new hires on the AFS budget, but Doug felt there were funds available from the past and current ED salary differentials. He added that he was unaware of funds for midyear meeting travel, but would check with Denise Spencer.
- The post-meeting registrant survey has not yet been conducted (Hughes will contact Lochman & Walsh to determine status).
- AFS needs to update its meeting manual (inputs from previous and future meeting committees are needed).
- The Quebec City budget is still not finalized. The goal remains to return a net profit of \$100K with 1500 registrants (vs. 1100 at Little Rock). The Little Rock budget apparently omitted some fees, taxes, and unplanned catering expenses. The draft Quebec City budget allocates \$300K for socials, \$127K for breaks. Margraf stated that our registration fees may be low compared with other societies, but that sponsorships/partnerships are critical for funding meetings. He emphasized that eliminating socials is not a good way to encourage interactions among attendees. Lang voiced concerns with some people being unable to travel to Canada and recommended budgeting for a lower number of registrants also. Parrish opposed charging an additional fee for a grand social, and recommended reduced-cost socials and breaks.
- During 28-31 October, Doug and the officers will be meeting with AFS staff to discuss operations, and federal and NGO scientists to discuss how to increase the AFS presence, potential actions and roles regarding fisheries issues in the USA federal government. The goal with the latter is to have AFS be viewed as the center of gravity on fisheries and aquatic ecology issues.
- AFS is being sub-contracted by Michigan State University to assist with the logistics of an FAO inland fisheries conference in Rome.
- Doug is collaborating in a large landscape conservation conference scheduled for Chicago 30 June-2 July 2014.

Murphy indicated that the Nominating Committee has several nominees for AFS 2nd VP.

Trushenki reported that the call for member comment on the draft AFS mining policy is scheduled to appear in the November Fisheries.

Margaf completed a third read/revision of the AFS Constitution and expects to send it to the rest of the Constitution Revision Committee in October.

Essig indicated that the Fisheries Education Review Committee is continuing work on listing schools with fishery programs and an employer survey.

Boreman stated that the notes from the 2013 governance retreat and the GB and MC minutes are finished and ready for submission to the 2012-2013 GB for review.

Hughes discussed plans for the midyear and annual meetings.

- The AFS midyear meeting will be held 29 January 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri at the end of the North Central Division/Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. The meeting/retreat will focus on AFS advocacy. The only reports requested from the units at that time will be motion reports—which must be submitted to the Constitutional Consultant and Management Committee well before 20 January.
- Current plans for the annual meeting (14-21 August 2014) in Quebec City include 1 plenary talk each morning, followed by awards Monday—Wednesday and the business meeting on Thursday.