

17 March 2014 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, Mike Stone. Guests: Jim Bowker, Tom Bigford, Eva Przygodzki, Aaron Lerner.

Margraf moved (Stone seconded) to accept the 17 February minutes as written. Motion approved.

The Executive Director's report focused on membership and financial statement issues.

Eva Przygodzki delivered a membership power point presentation indicating that Society membership fluctuated between 8000 and 9000 from 1998 to 2008, but in the past 5 years it has fluctuated between 7000 and 8000 members. Membership increases the years that we have large meetings (2011), but we do a poor job of retaining those new members. Only 63% of regular member dues are available for Society operations because of Unit rebates and costs to produce and mail Fisheries. The new membership software has several possibilities for tracking, retaining, and recruiting members, and the online member dues and profile updates are highly used. Suggestions for member recruitment and retention included contacting non-members who author manuscripts and purchase books, targeting lapsed/past members, sending periodic letters to new members, sending frequent renewal reminders, developing an automatic annual dues payment system, developing promotional materials for Unit and other fisheries meetings, making a major effort to recruit Canadian/Canadien members in Quebec City, working with a re-energized Membership Committee on a major recruitment/retention effort. Other ideas are certainly welcome.

Doug reported that the Society had about \$150K greater assets in January 2014 than in January 2013. Revenues declined between those two periods by about \$100K (mostly as a result in declines in member dues) and expenses increased by about \$24K; however the Society's investment account increased by approximately \$400K. Doug is working on a longer-term (multi-year) financial overview that will be presented at the Quebec City annual meeting if not before.

The website flaws are being corrected, and additional materials are being added to it. A website development course will be offered at the Society annual meeting in Quebec City.

Margraf moved (Boreman seconded) that the Society hold a joint AFS/TWS annual meeting in Tampa in 2017 given **subsequent approval by the Governing Board**. It was noted that the Society Officers had already invited the TWS to consider this option and that the TWS Governing Board had approved that offer at its 2014 annual meeting in Denver. **See attached materials**. Many additional details on

program, continuing education courses, plenary speakers, business meetings, cost and revenue sharing, abstract entry, registration, etc. will need to be worked assuming the Governing Board approves the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Lang moved (Margraf seconded) to approve the revised bylaws of the Fisheries Information and Technology Section. The motion passed without dissent.

Bowker (representing Trushenski) noted that the HaMR draft should be sent to the HaMR Steering Committee around mid-April, and that the revised draft should be delivered to the Management Committee in May.

Murphy stated that the draft Society Strategic Plan should receive its final comments/revisions this week and be available for Management Committee review in April.

Margraf indicated that the Constitutional Revision Committee will begin its deliberations again next week.

Essig provided an update on the Fisheries Education Committee, which revised its list of schools with fisheries programs and re-posted it on the Education Section website at <http://www.fisheriessociety.org/education/links.htm>. On its 25 March call, progress on the *Fisheries* article will be discussed as will decisions to start work on matching up employer course expectations with fisheries school course offerings.

Hughes expected to send the USEPA Watershed Assessment letter this week or next, and he has begun revising the Mining Policy document in response to member comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM ET.