

# AFS Management Committee Call Minutes

November 18, 2014

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm EST

1. Meeting called to order by President Parrish at 1:00 pm EST.

## Participants:

MC Members: Donna Parrish, Ron Essig, Steve McMullin, Robert Hughes, Kristen Ferry, Vince Travnichek, Dave Coughlan, Hilda Sexauer, Mark Porath, Jesse Trushenski, Laura Wildman, Joe Margraf, Jessica Mistak, John Boreman

AFS staff: Doug Austen, Shawn Johnston, Sarah Gilbert Fox, Denise Spencer, Beverly Pike, Aaron Lerner, Jasmine Sewell, Eva Przygodski, Juanita Flick, Tom Bigford

Emerging Leaders: Justin Davis, Cari Ann-Hayer, Steve Midway

Not attending: Bob Hughes, Margret Murphy, Patrick Cooney

2. Approval of Agenda – no comments and approval by consent.
3. Approval of Minutes from October 21st Meeting. Travnichek moved, Porath seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
4. Report of Special Education Committee--Ron Essig for Steve McMullin. Completed second revision of list of schools on website in October. McMullin still drafting the Employee survey manuscript. The resulting article might be in *Fisheries* or published as an ebook.
5. Executive Director Report – Doug Austen

Membership Discount Proposal – Prior to the MC call, Austen provided a memo (dated November 17, 2014) to the MC members describing the background and rationale for a proposed \$40 reduction in dues for new AFS members in 2015. The proposal originated in the AFS Membership Committee. Austen reviewed the memo. This review included the process established in the AFS Constitution and Procedures for full approval of a dues modification. Following the review of the memo the following key discussion points were raised:

- Several minor potential modifications to the original proposal were discussed including starting dates, eligibility, and period of time offered.
- It was suggested that to bring lapsed members back into the fold we should explore reduced rates for lapsed members
- Revitalization of an older “Member get a Member” campaign and emulating a recent offering by the Entomological Society was discussion. This would encourage members to convince other individuals to join AFS with reasonable prizes being offered through a lottery process to those who obtained new members. This was supported and it was agreed that this is something that staff can do without MC approval.
- Mistak suggested that we also need to be concerned about retention of members once recruited to membership

- Automatic renewals –Wildman suggested setting up automatic renewals whereby a members’ credit card would automatically renew with their consent. Parrish commented that some individuals don’t like the option of automatic renewals. Przygodski raised various pros and cons of managing credit cards, such as credit card frauds, credit card expirations and credit card changes. iMIS could try to renew and PayPal could reject the payment. Staff will further explore these options and report back at a future MC meeting.
- Mistak-if this motion gets support it could be interesting to track if there’s more retention now with new members than before. Porath stated that the inability to do quality tracking limits us. There has been a decline in graduate students renewing even with the young professional discount. Porath stated that there is a discussion within the AFS Fisheries Management Section about the possible need to increase the period of the Young Professional category for several more years. This issue may be brought to the MC in the future.
- From the original draft motion the following changes were accepted: Limiting the proposed discount to new members only, changing the start date to “on or about January 1, 2015”, and to extend the length of the offering to two months.
- Motion to offer a reduced rate for 1<sup>st</sup> year of membership as a trial in 2015. Trushenski moved, Essig seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter AFS Fiscal Review

- Financial statements for September, investment report and a summary memo were provided to MC members prior to the call. Austen provided a brief overview of the summary memo and stated that by all measures, the Society is strong fiscally. Liabilities are low. We experienced a minor positive change in net assets and AFS continues to see positive cash position.
- Austen clarified that even though the September report showed \$180,000 in profit from Quebec, the number is inaccurate due to incomplete billing and it will be another month before we know our real profit from Quebec City meeting.
- In the next week or so AFS will take part in the closing on the Grosvenor property. AFS will receive \$450,000 in payment in compensation for the value of our space in the Sullivan building.

### 6. President’s Report - Donna Parrish

- Portland Annual Meeting is developing nicely. The call is out for symposium proposals.
- Parrish is finalizing a few remaining committee chairs but expects those to be completed soon.

### 7. New Business

- Trushenski raised the issue of AFS members (MC members, Officers and others) potentially over-taxing staff by contacting them directly to address problems and respond to requests as opposed to going through the Executive Director. Austen responded that he supported AFS members contacting staff and working with them directly to address their needs. If a request is excessively burdensome or otherwise outside of their area of responsibility, the staff is empowered to work with Austen to address workload issues or find alternative means of

responding to the member request. It was agreed that an open working relationship is appreciated and that we can address potentially excessive demands on a case-by-case basis.

8. Motion to adjourn. Margraf moved, Essig seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.