

**AFS Management Committee Call**  
**16 June 2015**  
**1 pm EDT**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants:**

MC Members: Donna Parrish, Ron Essig, Joe Margraf, Bob Hughes, Dave Coughlan, Steve McMullin, Laura Wildman, Kristen Ferry, Hilda Sexauer, Jesse Trushenski, Vince Travnichek, Margaret Murphy

AFS Staff: Dan Cassidy, Shawn Johnston, Denise Spencer, Jasmine Sewell, Beth Beard, Aaron Lerner, Beverly Pike

Guests: Andy Loftus, Eric Knudsen, Chuck Coutant, John Boreman, and Gwen White

Meeting called to order by President Donna Parrish at 1:05

**1. Approve agenda (Parrish)**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**2. Approval of minutes from 19 May call (Parrish)**

- Correction to minutes from the May 19 call; Jesse Trushenski did not make the motion (she did not participate on the call)
- Motion: Approve the minutes as amended (made by Bob Hughes and seconded )
- Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**3. Communications Strategic Plan Committee Update (Gwen White)**

- Gwen White described the work completed to date and the approach for Communications Planning activities over the next six months.
- The PCG Communication report will be made available for broad AFS membership input prior to the August Governing Board meeting.
- Taking into account this input, the Governing Board will determine which actions merit further consideration, based on a prioritization of activities and related resource requirements.
- The Governing Board and the Management Committee will review the PCG report on the July management call.
- In Portland, Oregon, listening sessions will be held during the meeting to obtain feedback from AFS Members.

- In September Gwen will summarize the member online responses, staff analysis, and Governing Board review.
- In October, and at the Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting, we will discuss what immediate actions can be taken in regards to the PCG report.

#### **4. Development Committee Presentation (Chuck Coutant)**

- Chair Coutant was asked to present an overview of the Development Committee's work since the Management Committee did not receive the materials in time for the call.
- The Committee seeks guidance on its report and the continuing role of the Committee going forward.
- Parrish proposed that Coutant deliver his presentation on a special Management Committee call to be held June 30th so the Management Committee is better prepared to review the Committee's recommendations.
- Coutant noted the Committee is in favor of having a Development Person on salary at the AFS office by the end of the year.
- This development person will be an investment over the first few years and there needs to be adequate measures for monitoring achievement against goals.
- Coutant expects the development program to be a living document regularly revisited by the Board.

#### **5. Report from International Fisheries Section (Hughes)**

- Four motions were brought forward by Bob Hughes, on behalf of the International Fisheries Section:
  1. The IFS, together with the AFS Membership Committee, move that the rates charged for all levels of membership in AFS; Regular, Young Professional, Student, Retired and Life, be the same regardless of nationality or country of residence.
  2. The IFS moves that the differential in membership rates for Developing Countries in Membership I and Membership II be eliminated and that the Membership I level prevail. Table E in the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) for the current year should be used to determine a country's economic status and that only the categories "Lower Middle Income" and "Lower Income" be eligible for the reduced membership rate accorded Developing Countries.
  3. The IFS moves that registration fees charged to regular and young professional AFS members from Developing Countries attending an AFS Annual Meeting should be the same as fees charged to AFS retired and young professional members attending that same meeting. Further, registration fees charged to student AFS members and non-members from Developing Countries attending an AFS Annual Meeting should remain the same as fees charged to AFS student members and non-members attending that same meeting.
  4. IFS moves that AFS restore oversight and management of the Developing Countries Fund (aka, International Memberships Fund) to the International

Fisheries Section (IFS) for use in providing AFS memberships and assisting travel to Society annual meetings by delegates from developing countries.

**Discussion of the motions:**

- One of the bases for the motions is to remove the dues discrepancy because Taylor and Francis now sends out Fisheries at no cost to the American Fisheries Society so we shouldn't make international members pay more.
- A clause in the motions stating dues should be the same whether you're in North America or not, regardless of nationality.
- The first three motions were withdrawn for further work on the wording; Bob Hughes will work with the Constitutional Consultants in re-drafting them.
- Motion: AFS restore oversight and management of the Developing Countries Fund (aka, International Memberships Fund) to the International Fisheries Section (IFS) for use in providing AFS memberships and assisting travel to Society annual meetings by delegates from developing countries (made by Hughes and seconded).
- Motion passed by unanimous consent.

**6. Proposed Revisions of AFS Committees (Margraf)**

- The cleanup of language in the AFS Rules related to Standing Committees will be ready for review by July 21st
- Before we accept the changes to the procedures manual we need adjust the organization of the awards and the committees: meaning removing or combining committees if need be.
- The Meeting Oversight Committee name will be changed to Meeting Evaluation Committee.
- There will be a proposal to move the Publications Committee to the Awards Committee, and remove the Raffle Committee and the Time and Place Committee.
- John Boreman made the comment that the Constitutional Consultants are also working on changes to the standing committees in the AFS Rules and Procedures, based on a charge given to them last winter. Also, when committees are split, removed, combined, or renamed their duties that are still relevant need to be tracked; for example, the duties of the Time and Place Committee, when it is dissolved, will be shared by the Management Committee and AFS staff.

**7. AFS Fellows Program Committee (Parrish)**

- There was considerable discussion about the relationship between the Fellows Program and the AFS Certification program. Some committee members felt that the two should be linked, which would give more credence to the certification program, and that Fellows should be required to have certification. Others felt that the two should not be linked: the Fellows program is a honorary program recognizing exemplary service to the

Society and the profession; the Certification program represents surpassing the basic standards for a fisheries professional.

- Motion: Establish an AFS Fellows Program (made by Hughes and seconded).
- Motion passed (7 in favor, 3 opposed).

#### **8. AFS Office Updates**

Due to time constraints, updates by the AFS staff were not given.

#### **9. President's Report (Parrish)**

Donna Parrish shared arrangements for Portland are looking very good and there will be vouchers available for light rail transfers once people arrive in Portland. She also stated that an automated reporting system for capturing Unit reports and information will not be available for the August Board meeting. Staff will work on possibly having one ready in early 2016.

#### **10. New business**

- Following up to Doug Austen's letter to the Management Committee, Shawn Johnston reported on the proposed 2019 joint annual meeting with The Wildlife Society (TWS) in Reno, NV. He outlined the many positive considerations for selecting Reno as the meeting site, including a favorable budget, numerous concessions, rebates from the CVB, and superb hotel and meeting facilities. Meeting dates in discussion are September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The Committee discussed factors for selecting one date over another, including the federal government budget cycle ending September 30<sup>th</sup> and conflicts with the Columbus Day holiday.
- Since Doug Austen would like a clear message on AFS's preference for meeting dates to share with TWS, there was no opposition for having the meeting during the first week of October.

#### **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:33pm.