

American Fisheries Society

Governing Board Winter Conference Call

Tue, Jan 9, 2018 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST

Governing Board Members Present:

Steve McMullin, Jesse Trushenski, Scott Bonar, Brian Murphy, Craig Bonds, Solomon David, Syma Ebbin, Mark Fincel, Cynthia Jones, Rebecca Krogman, Tom Lang, Steve Lochman, Chris Millard, Brian Missildine, Chris Myrick, Wes Neal, Dana Postlewait, Mark Pyron, Randy Schultz, Esteban Soto, Wendylee Stott, Andrew Todd, Jackie Watson, Lynn Waterhouse, Doug Austen (non-voting), John Boreman (non-voting)

Emerging Leaders:

Dan Dawaulter, Patrick O'Rourke, Dan Weaver

AFS Staff:

Lauren Maza, Aaron Lerner, Beth Beard, Martha Wilson, Shawn Johnston, Jasmine Sewell, Eva Przygodzki, Katrina Dunn

Minutes of Call

1. **Call to order** at 1:35 EST by McMullin
2. **Quorum established** by Boreman
3. **Agenda reviewed** with no additional items
4. **Minutes from Tampa GB meetings** (regular and incoming). Moved for acceptance by Boreman; McMullin noted approval by unanimous consent
5. Review of agenda and plans for **San Juan GB meeting**. Austen reviewed the current draft agenda for the San Juan Mid-Year Governing Board meeting. There were no additional and a final agenda will be sent about one week prior to the meeting
6. **Governing Board Reporting Tool** was reviewed in preparation for San Juan
 - a. Eva/Jesse to briefly review anticipated timeline for opening up GBRT to GB members (early to mid-February) for full trial exercise in preparation for PR meeting.
7. **Membership update** -
 - A. Przygodzki reported that over 3,000 renewals were on the book with 270 new members. Three emails had been sent and a print invoice will be mailed in the near future. Membership staff have reported receiving no complaints about the dues increase. Interest in the chapter

- B. Dues Incentive Program was expressed by 10 chapters but a handful ended up fully participating. Governing Board members suggested that many chapters aren't aware of the program and that AFS should more regularly remind them of the opportunity.
8. Update on **Wiley Publisher** transition.
 - A. Lerner requested that Governing Board members test the journal access and send any problems found to him for referral to Wiley. and identification of issues to be addressed (Aaron and Doug)
 - B. Editor in Chief solicitation process is open through end of January. To date, four applications have been submitted.
 - C. Books program will be the subject of discussion in Puerto Rico. This will include exploring strategies for obtaining new titles, direction of program, alternative formats (e.g. e-readers) and other issues.
 - D. Special Projects – The AFS efforts to develop a “Grey literature Clearinghouse” is moving forward through submission of a proposal to the Multistate Grant Program of the USFWS through AFWA. A proposal will be run through the AFWA Science Committee. Similarly, a proposal for Multistate Grant Funds to support the revision of the Standard Protocols (Bonar et al.) book is being received by the AFWA Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee.
 9. Update on **AFS meeting support activities** (Johnston and Cassidy) –
 - A. AFS unit web sites are being reviewed to identify those that are essentially dead (not updated in over a year). Divisions and Sections are asked to review all sites within their area of responsibility. (Attachment A)
 - B. Johnston reported the support for AFS unit meetings has resulted in 19 completed contracts for Unit meeting activities. GB members recommended that AFS create a document that outlines all AFS meeting services so that new unit leaders can easily find the options, tools and contracted services available to them. This may include such services and access to Confex for abstract management, meeting registration tools, financial management support, meeting app access and other support options.
 10. **Puerto Rico Donations** (Katrina) – A call for donations to support the AFS Puerto Rico chapter has been sent to all AFS members (Attachment B). Additional notifications will be sent through social media, the AFS e-newsletter and other means. The option of people donating clothing and other items to Puerto Rico was explored by Austen through calls to Red Cross and the United Methodist Committee on Relief but the response was that they would greatly prefer cash donations and the infrastructure for receiving and delivering clothing items was not currently in place.
 11. **Policy** (D. Winters) - Restore America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is one of the three policy priorities of AFS but it is unclear when bill language and co-sponsors will be obtained. AFS will closely monitor the status and prepare to fully engage the society in support of passage.
 12. **Round robin of activities**

- A. AFS staff – Various updates were briefly presented on webinars (L. Maza), Hutton (L. Maza), and the hosting by AFS of the Diversity Joint Venture web site (Beard)
- B. 2nd Vice President Elections heads up – the delay in printing the February issue of Fisheries has led to subsequent delays in the election schedule. Once the publication date is firmed up a new election schedule will be developed.
- C. The 2019 Northeastern Division Meeting may be held in conjunction with the New York Chapter meeting.
- D. AFS Bioengineering Section is updating their web site
- E. AFS Fish Health Section reported on the 8th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health in September 2-6, 2018, on Prince Edward Island <https://isaah2018.com/>
- E. AFS Fish Culture Section noted the upcoming Aquaculture America Conference in Las Vegas
- F. AFS Physiology Section noted the 13th International Congress on the Biology of Fishes (<http://fishphysiology.org/?p=5927>) set for July 15-19, 2018, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- G. AFS Genetic Section noted their website move to the AFS multisite option. The section is also working on a coast wide genetics workshop.
- H. AFS Fish Habitat Section reported a new social media coordinator.

13. **Meeting was adjourned** on or about 3:30 EST

Attachment A

Unit Web Sites – Check-up on AFS Web Presence

Recently (within the past few months), AFS staff went through all of the websites linked to the official AFS page and unlinked any websites that were hacked and/or hadn't been updated or managed within the past year and a half.

Chapters -

Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Potomac, Mexico, and Mid-Canada

If any of these chapters have a functioning unit site or page we can link please let us know.

Student subunits -

If you have a student subunit such as the University of Central Arkansas or University of Alaska – Fairbanks (Juneau Campus) and you don't have an official unit website we can also link any of your social media pages to your unit such as a Facebook page or Instagram account.

Sections -

For the Science Communication Section or the Imperiled Aquatic Species Section please let us know if you have anything we can link.

Currently the Socioeconomics, Bioengineering, and Fish Information and Technology section have stale sites, please let us know what we can do to help fix that.

Attachment B

Puerto Rico Fundraising

We've raised \$3,126 as of today. We'll plan to do at least two direct messages to the membership (in January and February). We're going to do more messaging on Twitter and Facebook. Staff will also work with Wes Porak to draft a message for him to send out to Chapter/Division leadership.



Helping Colleagues in Puerto Rico

Since late September, we've convened various leaders of the [American Fisheries Society \(AFS\)](#) and its Units and Divisions to discuss how we can best aid those who have been impacted personally or professionally by recent natural disasters. The devastation experienced throughout the southern United States coupled with the upcoming [Southern Division of AFS \(SDAFS\) Spring 2018](#) Meeting planned for San Juan, Puerto Rico, was a timely and obvious call to action for AFS.

After much discussion, we have identified the following as ways we can support our colleagues in Puerto Rico. We will be [kicking-off an effort to raise funds](#) to support at least 15 colleagues in Puerto Rico to receive up to \$750.00 USD in travel grants to attend the Southern Division of AFS Spring 2018 Meeting. We plan to cover: meeting registration, hotel accommodations, travel, and provide a per diem for those attendees. Secondly, during the meeting we will be working with the Puerto Rico Chapter of AFS and the [San Juan Bay Estuary Program](#) to organize service day activities.

We need the help of our community to raise the funds to successfully aid our friends in Puerto Rico. Your donations will contribute towards an overall goal of \$16,000 to support travel support for 15 colleagues to have the opportunity to engage, participate, and learn with the greater AFS and SDAFS community, and to support the service day activities.

We hope we can count on the generosity of our community to help our colleagues in need.

Visit [AFS Gives Back: Helping Puerto Rico](#) for more information and to [make a donation](#) in support of this effort. Donations can be made online. For alternate ways to make a donation contact kdunn@fisheries.org.

Thank you and Happy Holidays

American Fisheries Society

[425 Barlow Place, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814-219](#)
<https://fisheries.org/donate>

There's still time to make a donation to support AFS and qualify for a tax deduction in 2017. [Donate before December 31, 2017.](#)

IRS Tax Category: 501(c)(3)

Legal Name: American Fisheries Society, Inc.

Address: [425 Barlow Place, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814](#)

Tax ID#: 54-0683803

For more information about [supporting the American Fisheries Society](#), contact kdunn@fisheries.org.

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