

American Fisheries Society

Governing Board Summer Conference Call

Monday, June 25, 2018

Governing Board Members Present:

Steve McMullin, Joe Margraf, Scott Bonar, Jackie Watson, Dana Postlewait, Esteban Soto, Tom Lang, Steve Lochmann, Cynthia Jones, Steve Cooke, Solomon David, Rebecca Krogman, Lynn Waterhouse, April Croxton, Andrew Todd, Brian Misseldine, Symma Ebbins, Wes Neal, Chris Myrick, John Boreman (Constitutional Consultant, non-voting), Doug Austen (Executive Director, non-voting)

Emerging Leaders:

Sarah Turner

AFS Staff:

Lauren Maza

Minutes of Call

1. **Call to order** at 1:00 EST by McMullin
2. **Quorum established** by Boreman
3. **Agenda reviewed** with no additional items
4. **Minutes** from the March 7, 2018, meeting of the Governing Board in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Approved by unanimous consent
Austen reviewed a list of follow-up tasks for the Governing Board and staff (Attachment A)
5. **Constitutional Consultant Report** (Boreman) –
 - Mary Beth Loewen has accepted the role of Constitutional Consultant Apprentice. Tentative plan is that she will take over in June 2019.
 - Brief overview of other probable motions for consideration in Atlantic City which includes the possible approval of establishment of an Egypt Chapter. Discussion on this topic is summarized as follows:
 - a. By-laws have been submitted and approved by AFS staff and Constitutional Consultant. They will go to the Management Committee for initial endorsement and then to the Governing Board most likely at the Atlantic City meeting.
 - b. Question raised on why the chapter selected the Northeast Division. Nothing in the Rules or Constitution specifies a Division affiliation if the proposed Chapter is not within the geographic boundary of an existing Division. It was noted that the Mexico Chapter is affiliated with the Western Division and not the Southern Division.

- c. Steve Cooke (IFS) suggested that AFS create better mechanisms for accepting international chapters. Bonar agreed that better clarity would be helpful.
- d. Esteban Soto raised the question as to why the Egypt Chapter chose to become an official chapter and not simply AFS members. There were no NED representatives on the call to provide clarification on this issue. McMullin also raised the question of why a chapter. Another model is the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section. There could be an analogous model for the Middle East.
- e. It was recommended that more clarification on the process for international chapter development would be appropriate.

6. President/Officers reports

- A. McMcMullin - Attended and gave a plenary presentation at the Western Division meeting in Anchorage. Will be attending the Fisheries Society of the British Isles meeting this summer. A major area of work before the Atlantic City meeting will be to further explore annual meeting revenue sharing models and he hopes to have a proposal ready for discussion.
- B. Bonar – Announced that Steve Lochmann has accepted a position to chair the AFS 150th sesquicentennial planning. There will also be several Ohio Chapter leaders at the AFS Atlantic City meeting and continued discussions of 150th planning will take place. Lochmann described some event planning, particularly the option of moving a replica historic railway car from the National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, SC. Additional ideas for 150th celebration activities should be sent to Lochmann

7. Executive Director and AFS staff report

- a. Policy Update (Drue Winters)
 - i. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) – in conjunction with NWF and TWS, AFS hosted a briefing on RAWA in the Rayburn House Office Building. This event drew a packed room with additional people in the hallways. There are currently 71 House bill co-sponsors. A Senate bill continues to be explored but not currently submitted.
 - ii. Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) – HR200 (includes Modern Fish Act language) moved to the House Rules Committee for a vote and possibly to the House floor in coming weeks. Senate has no current MSA bill ready for any activity.
 - iii. Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) – A replacement rule was moved to Office of Management and Budget for review last month. Expect a draft bill to be published for public comment in August or shortly thereafter.
- b. Governing Board Reporting Tool (Eva Przygodzki) – GBRT has been live since May 30. All unit leaders have received passwords and access. Florida chapter has submitted a full report; 17 other reports are in progress.
- c. 2nd VP election status (Austen) – the full vote has been completed and results are awaiting review by the AFS Vote Auditors. It is expected that the candidates will be informed in early July.

- d. Atlantic City preparations - Austen reviewed key items anticipated to be addressed during the Management Committee and Governing Board meetings in Atlantic City. Attendees were encouraged to make hotel reservations early and sign for the Friday fishing trip opportunity
 - e. Reno planning – Development of joint sessions, committee and section collaboration and other joint AFS-TWS activities
 - f. Staff activities updates (Austen)
 - i. TAFS and NAJFM editor selections – Trent Sutton and Dan Isermann
 - ii. EIC's for TAFS, NAJFM, MACF and Fisheries
 - 1. Jeff Schaeffer – Fisheries magazine
 - 2. Deb Murie – Marine and Coastal Fisheries
 - 3. Dan Daugherty – North American Journal of Fisheries Management
 - 4. Derek Aday – Transactions of the American Fisheries Society
 - iii. A search continues for a **Fisheries** Managing Editor. This fall a search will begin for the Journals Production Assistant positions
8. **Additional business** – Steve Cooke noted a recent article in the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/food/wp/2018/05/24/scientists-say-fish-feel-pain-it-could-lead-to-major-changes-in-the-fishing-industry/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e985e8fdfe86). The European community, it was suggested, may be moving on policy issues related to this and North American fisheries professionals should be aware of such actions. AFS should carefully evaluate the science being used by those described in this article and elsewhere. Drue Winters, in a recent meeting with NOAA, indicated that there is interest in further exploration of this issue. Esteban Soto (Fish Health Section) does work with the Veterinary Society and there may be value in engaging them on this topic. This also may impact an animal welfare policy work. It was suggested that this issue should receive additional attention in the near future.
9. **Adjournment** at 2:05 p.m.

Attachment A – Tasks from Puerto Rico Governing Board Meeting

Tasks and Outputs from Governing Board meeting in San Juan, PR

Note that this table was recently created (6/18/2018) and tasks are being assigned. As a result it is incomplete and actions have not been pursued for many tasks.

Task or Charge	Lead	Status	Notes
Books Program			
Books – explore scanning and making available out-of-print titles	Lerner		
Establish pricing system for scanned out-of-print titles	Lerner		
Review book sales options such as Amazon	Lerner		
Governing Board (Sections, Divisions, Committees, etc.) identify possible book titles and topics	Charge to GB		Submission form or process needs to be developed.
Diversity			
Develop meetings code of conduct			Draft version being developed by Western Division
Include diversity training at AFS meetings			
Expand relevant sections of Unit Leaders Guide to address harassment and diversity issues.			
Provide childcare at meetings	Johnston	Completed	
Develop local welcoming committee to engage visitors, new member and non-members	Local Arrangements Committee		
Create an anonymous complaint system for reporting of offenses.			In place for AFS staff but none developed for membership at annual meetings.
Employ daytime networking options as alternatives to evening events with alcohol			

Annual Meetings			
Explore development of new model for annual meeting revenue sharing	McMullin	Concept paper shared with MC and Officers. Revisions being made	Planned for discussion and action at Atlantic City meeting.
Include late September dates in future meeting RFP's	Cassidy and Johnston	2022 RFP included September dates	No September options available?
Formalize through President committee charge the revised role of the Meetings Oversight Committee	McMullin and Austen	Language in charge finalized	
Committee Organization			
Establish committees before annual meeting (chairs designated and draft charges conveyed)	Trushenski and Austen		
Host committee leadership session at annual meeting			
Open committee member recruiting by May 1 of each year	Trushenski and Austen		