

American Fisheries Society
Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting
Savannah, GA
February 2, 2015

GoToMeeting participants:

John Sweka – President, Fish Habitat Section
Vince Travnichek – President, North Central Division
Melissa Wuellner – President-elect, North Central Division
Andrew Carlson – Student Subsection of Education Section
Bill Franzin – President, International Fisheries Section
Doug Vaughan - Past-President, Marine Fisheries Section
Jack Imhof – Canadian Aquatic Res. Section
Jessica Mistak – Constitutional Consultant
John Cooper- President, Northeastern Division
Kristen Ferry – President-elect, Northeastern Division
Mark Shrimpton- President, Physiology Section
Jeff Olsen – President, Genetics Section
Craig Paukert – President, Education Section
Mike Stone - President, Fisheries Administrator Section
Ben Walther – President, Marine Fisheries Section
Tom Lang – President, Socio-Economics Section

In-Person Participants:

Donna Parrish - President
Ron Essig - President-Elect
Bob Hughes - Past President
Dennis Riecke - President, Southern Division
Dave Coughlan - Pres-Elect, Southern Division
Hilda Sexauer - President, Western Division
Jim Bowker - President - Elect, Western Division
Laura Wildman - President, Bioengineering
Marybeth Brey- President, Equal Opportunities
Abigail Archer - President, Estuaries Section
Jesse Trushenski - President, Fish Culture Section
Tom Bigford - President-elect, Fish Habitat Section
Thom Litts - President, Fish Information & Technology Section
Bryant Bowen - President, Georgia Chapter
Mark Porath - President, Fisheries Management Section
Pam Fuller - President, Introduced Fish Section
Margaret Murphy - President, Water Quality Section

Guests:

AFS Mid-Year Meeting, February 2, 2015, Savannah, GA

John Boreman, Constitutional Consultant in-training

Leonard Greenberger and Jeff Billington, Potomac Communications Group (PCG)

Emerging Leaders:

Cari-Ann Hayer

Steve Midway

AFS Staff present:

Doug Austen

Denise Spencer

Shawn Johnston

Dan Cassidy

Beverly Pike

Minutes of the Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting

1. Call to Order, review agenda, announcement of proxies, etc.
 - a) Parrish called to order the meeting at 9:02
 - b) No additions to agenda
 - c) Proxies – Bigford proxy for Douglas Vaughan
2. Approval of 2014 Incoming Governing Board (GB) Minutes: Moved by Bowker, Trushenski second. Corrections: Paukert noted that he was in attendance, Katie Bertrand should not be recorded as a proxy, and Paukert was nominated for Management Committee (MC). Motion passed by unanimous consent.
3. President's Report: Parrish provided a verbal report. Focus on communications and noted PCG presence.
4. President-elect's Plan of Work (POW): Essig provided a presentation and will send out a written document for the Governing Board to comment on. Essig reviewed the highlights of his proposed POW.
5. Executive Director's Report: Austen provided brief review of major events in previous months but referred the Governing Board to the series of Executive Director's Reports.
6. Constitutional Consultant's Report: Mistak reviewed the roles of the Constitutional Consultant.
 - a. Boreman and Mistak have been working on streamlining the Rules and Procedures to make the process more efficient. Examples are ESAB-FITS, Time and Place, and Meetings Oversight Committee mergers.
 - b. Need to clarify roles of GB and MC. There are a number of governance issues that need to be clarified. Desire is to transfer most of the regular business decision-making to the MC as opposed to requiring GB oversight of those management issues.
 - c. Porath comment – thanks to Mistak and Boreman on resolving issues such as the Young Professionals membership modification.

7. Session on AFS Communications led by Billington and Greenberger. This section of the GB meeting included a presentation of PCG's Research Report based upon the interviews of 29 AFS members and non-members. Subsequent to this report was an extended discussion and exercise to determine key messages. A full report of this work will be provided by PCG to the Communications Team (Parrish, Essig, McMullin, Gwen White, and Austen) and then shared with the GB.
8. In Camera Session (GB members only)
9. Section and Division updates
 - a. Northeastern Division (Cooper): NEAFWA relationship is being addressed through joint discussions with The Wildlife Society (TWS). Goal is to increase Society involvement in meeting location and theme selection. Will brief NEAFWA leaders at Providence, RI, meeting. This will impact locations in 2016 and 2017. Noted an updated NED website.
 - b. North Central Division (Travnichek): No real activity since Quebec City. Heavily involved in Midwest FWC in Indianapolis. Working on by-laws update. Also introduced Melissa Wuellner as President-elect of NCD.
 - c. Southern Division (Riecke): Just completed 23rd annual meeting of Southern Division since they separated from SEAFWA. 674 participants, raised \$62,000 in funds. 7 workshops, 9 technical committees, 66 posters, 298(?) presentations, passed resolution on off-road vehicle usage in streams. Riecke forwards a weekly email to 1,600 people. Email content is from other fisheries professionals and includes info on jobs, etc. To get email send note to Reicke. Dave Coughlan also reported on efforts of the SD on getting more students involved in technical committee meetings and work.
 - d. Western Division (Sexauer): Mid-year meeting successful. \$15,000 approved for student travel to Portland. Increased small grants program from \$5K to \$10K. Student scholarship fund increased from \$3K to \$5K. Also, provided funds for cutthroat trout workshop. 2016 meeting located in Reno. Plan of work includes promotion of advocacy on conservation issues.
 - e. Bioengineering Section (Wildman): Three sessions planned for Portland AFS meeting. Section is working on fish passage conference in Netherlands this summer. This conference will be at UMass in 2016. Held first webinar on fish passage as joint effort of American Society of Civil Engineers. Also working on fish passage database. New website completed. Currently soliciting nominations for distinguished service award for fish passage.
 - f. CARS (Imhof): Active on a variety of issues since Quebec City. Working on book project on current Canadian fish science issues. (Steve Cooke, Jack Imhof, etc.). Working on developing a policy team for Canadian issues. Working on KSM mine issues. Involved in CCFR meeting coordination. New program on Legends in Canadian Fisheries Science. Searching for vice-president of CARS. Working on by-laws reviews and update.
 - g. Education Section (Paukert): Quebec City business meeting approved Skinner Challenge. \$25K donated to Skinner. Also will match another \$25K to Skinner for a possible total of \$75K to Skinner. Undergraduate travel assistance award is being reviewed to ensure long term persistence of the program.
 - h. Student Subsection of Education Section
 - i. Recruitment and retention – reviewed travel assistance award with goal of differentiating undergrad travel award from Skinner award
 - ii. Working on "How-To" series of educational materials and have 9 documents completed. Topics include "How to defend your thesis"
 - iii. Social media big emphasis and have a coordinator at Penn State

- i. Equal Opportunities Section (Brey): Participated in NOAA's program at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Tom Bigford and Beverly Pike attended. Lonnie Gonsalves was one of the organizers. New web page to be released soon. Facebook page has 125 "likes" with many not AFS members. Working on series of articles in *Fisheries* on Native American fisheries issues. Been attempting to re-develop the Native Peoples Section but not getting sufficient response. Currently see the Native Peoples Section as more of a committee or subsection of Equal Opportunities Section
- j. Estuaries Section (Archer): Supported the 5th International Otolith Symposium. New web site launched in February. Celebrated 20th anniversary and will have much of the history on the web page. Working with Marine Fisheries Section on two sessions for Portland meeting as well as workshops.
- k. Fish Culture Section (Trushenski) – Likes the new unit reporting format. HaMAR initiative and themed issue on aquaculture in *Fisheries*. Social media has been good with increased number of Likes on Facebook. Been very aggressive in trying to obtain Likes. Also, new website has been helping to garner attention. Strongly suggests that people use Google analytics to evaluate web site usage.
- l. Fish Habitat Section (Bigford on behalf of John Sweka) – Partnering on four symposia in Portland, including a large NFHAP session.
- m. Fisheries Information and Technology Section (Litts) – Released FAMS. Working on merger of FITS and ESAB. Working with OFWIP.
- n. Fisheries Management Section (Porath): Three additions to report on Young Professional (YP) Committee. Working on changing definition from 3 to 5 years for eligibility. Developing survey to understand the transition from student to YP. Working on a trial YP exchange program with Fisheries Society of the British Isles.
- o. Genetics Section (Olsen) – Initiated Hall of Excellence (virtual hall on web site).
- p. International Fisheries (Franzin) – Working on WCFS in Busan, South Korea, where they will present the International Fisheries Science prize (\$5,000 plus medallion)
- q. Introduced Fish Section (Fuller): Working on session on large landscapes. Will be re-developing their web site. May establish new Facebook page. Need to conduct election for president-elect.
- r. Socio-economic Section (Tom Lang): Working on Steven Weithman award. Working on publication on Investigation and Monetary Evaluation of Fish Kills.
- s. Georgia Chapter – Finished the Southern Division meeting.
- t. Emerging Leaders (Hayer): Thanks for opportunity to be involved.

10. Other comments:

- a. Bigford – working on Policy Fellowship program – working on 3 policies on ESA to merge into one new statement. Working on new person for 2015. Would also like to continue with undergrad intern for additional work after positive experience at the Bethesda office.

11. New business:

- a. Reporting format for GB – Deployed for this mid-year meeting as a trial effort. Variety of comments were received on the format. For example, many fields were left blank and some suggested deleting those unused sections. Some had problems with files being corrupted or some components, such as attachments, stripped from the document.
 - i. Murphy stated that new Strategic Plan is short, succinct and has goals that can be tractable. We should use the Strategic Plan to develop unit goals in their work

- plans. Plan can also contribute to continuity of work across leadership cycles. Reporting format should allow for tracking of accomplishments.
- ii. Trushenski – In order to use metrics, we need to be consistent in definition such as activities completed, in progress or planned all being mixed together.
 - iii. Franzin – Can we do this online? Response was that this should be feasible. Possible to get some ideas from FITS on how to proceed with making this an online process.
 - iv. Brey – Need better descriptors for each of the fields in the report.
 - v. Bowker – Need to identify who will compile all of the data.
 - vi. Sexauer – Found that the actual completion of the report was surprisingly easy. When she sent to the chapters, she found no negative response. Only problem was that the reporting was uneven.
 - vii. Coughlan – Appreciates the data structure and would like to be able to develop trends and see patterns in the data.
 - viii. Fuller – Strongly suggests that we put this online to assist in data analysis
 - ix. Bowker – Use Google analytics to assess web page use for each unit page.
 - x. Murphy – Will need to create a “central spreadsheet” to support analysis of the information.
 - xi. Riecke – SD charged officer to visit all SD chapters and collect information on meeting attendance, papers, poster, budget, etc. These data may be useful to better describe the entirety of AFS activities.
 - xii. Hughes – Suggested that once a year may be sufficient.
 - xiii. Murphy – Agrees that once a year may be acceptable but the units need to have a plan of work and track accomplishments throughout the year.
 - xiv. Ferry – Stated that the reports include a wealth of material that could be used for tweets, Facebook posting etc.
 - xv. Archer – Likes the twice a year to keep things fresh and not rely upon the end of year report where memory could fail and result in incomplete reports.
 - xvi. Bowker – Emphasized the need for plan of work for each unit. These should be compiled in one place for people to examine.
 - xvii. Parrish – How do we make this web presence happen? Suggestion was to hire somebody to create a web-based reporting tool. Thom Litts – outsource the coding process in order to make this possible.
 - xviii. Wildman – Need to be able to attach files and photographs to report.
 - xix. Litts – Suggested use of a Dropbox account to enable transfer of files across cycles of unit leaders.
 - xx. Fuller – Supports the need to develop information continuity for all AFS units.
 - xxi. Charge – ***AFS staff to work with FITS, Margaret Murphy and others to develop RFP or other specifications document to transfer reporting to web tool. Goal is to have this completed by July 1 for reporting in the Portland meeting. Also need to develop a better instructional document to ensure data consistency in reporting.***
- b. FAO meeting – Austen reported on the FAO Rome meeting. Paukert added to the discussion.
 - c. Riecke – FITS support for data management in states, data standardization, etc. Discussion about the potential role of FITS in developing software tools. Riecke mentioned the landscape approach and the need to develop better national data standards. Noted the work in Kansas by Gabelhouse, etc. on data development such as PSD/RSD and relative

- weight in the developing management recommendations. Streams are an important system for data management needs.
- i. Litts – Reviewed the history of data management and the three national Fish summits. A great deal of work has taken place on this issue, including a workshop in Quebec City. It is slow and there is hope that this can continue to be addressed.
 - ii. Hughes – In past experience, he has found that obtaining data from states is extremely difficult and this needs to be addressed by AFS.
- d. Portland Meeting – Bowker – received 111 symposia proposals and will combine some of them. Will be testing out “podcasting” for selected sessions. Beverly Pike corrected us that “webcast” is the proper terminology. Southern Division has done webcasts for several years. SD also developed a new meeting app with over 420 people downloading the app.
12. Adjournment – by acclaim!