



MINUTES: 2013 WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Memorial Student Center, Room BE-5—Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
4:00 pm–5:15 pm, 20 February 2013

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Joe Conroy (JC) called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM and determined the presence of a quorum. 36 OCAFS members were present.
2. Welcome by President Joe Conroy – JC welcomed everyone to Huntington and noted the advantage of having a sizeable chunk of the membership at a business meeting and thank those for attending.
3. Officer Reports
 - a. President: Joe Conroy – Deferred
 - b. President-Elect: Tony Sindt – Deferred
 - c. Past President: Curt Wagner – Curt Wagner (CW) thanked Chapter for the chance to serve as Officer over past few years.
 - d. Secretary/Treasurer: John Navarro – CW for John Navarro, deferred until later discussion. CW taking notes and compiling minutes for this meeting today.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Ohio Fisheries Leadership: Kevin Kayle – JC reported that Kevin Kayle will be stepping down as Committee Chair. One of main responsibilities was organizing and updating our web and social media presence. Need for new server/host for web.
 - b. Education/Continuing Education: Eugene Braig – Eugene (EB) had no report.
 - c. Value of Membership: Chris Aman – Chris (CA) had no report.
 - d. Buckeye Student Subunit: Justin Woods – Justin (JW) reported that subunit is in a re-building phase and working at bringing in a suite of speakers and getting trained on and executing a Passport-to-Fishing event. Officer change expected in March 2013. JC thanked subunit.
 - e. North Central Division Technical Committee Representative Reports
 - i. Centrarchid: Vacant
 - ii. Esocid: Curt Wagner – CW reported an upcoming muskellunge and northern pike symposium at the 2013 AFS Annual Meeting in Little Rock, AK. CW will likely attend and present on current Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) muskellunge research project and to represent OCAFS's ETC presence.
 - iii. Ictalurid: Ethan Simmons – No report.
 - iv. Rivers and Streams: Vacant
 - v. Salmonid: Kevin Kayle – No report.
 - vi. Walleye: Vacant
5. Old Business
 - a. President's 2012–2013 Initiatives: Joe Conroy – JC discussed his 3 Presidency's goals
 - i. 2013 Joint Meeting of the Ohio & West Virginia Chapters of AFS – JC provided overview assessment of current meeting. Noted it took about 4 dedicated members (per state chapter) to cover bases yet not overwhelm the planning process with too many hands in the works & having local reps (Dr. Kovach @ Marshall Univ.) at venue was key and should be a consideration in future. Scott Hale (SH) mentioned his appreciation from DOW perspective for OCAFS planning and executing meeting. JC reciprocally thanked DOW for support of

employees to travel, attend, and participate. Overall assessment was positive of conference.

- ii. **Economic sustainability** – JC distributed 3-yr income/expense ledger for viewing/discussion (see Attachment 1 to minutes). Strat Plan defines priorities and out spending does/should reflect our priorities – we just need to fine tune our expenditure/revenue decision-making. Over 3-yr period, we have drained account by about \$1400. Currently not on a sustainable trajectory if expenditure and revenues remain constant rate. Lots of spending currently director towards student awards/scholarships. JC opened up floor for discussion. Revenue mainly membership dues. Events (workshops/conferences/raffles) not consistent or predictable stream of income. SH asked about possibly raising membership costs. 100 members = \$1000 to spend. \$10 has been membership fee for long time – right at mean/mode of most AFS state chapters. Deb Walters (DW) mentioned that OFWMA raffle, in the past, was a solid boost of revenue.
- TANGENT TO OFWMA DISCUSSION:** JC mentioned about moving away from OFWMA and recently not seeing return back to us from \$ we were putting in to OFWMA. Tony Sindt (TS) noted that today was 4X number of business meeting than last year's OCAFS business meeting at OFWMA. JC said most members renew via parent society renewal period, not OFWMA registration as of late. JC said that OFWMA contacted him about our intended future with OFWMA – we need to make decisions soon. SH asked if we should make decision today since large body of membership. JC said might be best to meet with OFWMA first to see their intentions. TS counted with thought that at least gaging membership feeling today would be beneficial to moving forward. Bryan Kinter (BK) asked what our vision was for future annual meetings moving forward. JC said he likes format of multi-state joint meetings every other year with smaller Ohio meeting on the alternating years – following WVAFS model. Need to do this smartly to meet membership's needs. EB warned about added Officer work to do an annual meeting independent of OFWMA, where process already in place. JC acknowledged it is work but also manageable. CW countered that event OFWMA on "auto-pilot" still requires lots of time so difference in work load shouldn't structure our decision in regards to OFWMA. SH asked about possibility of alternate "in state" years being ones where we may team up with OH Chapter of The Wildlife Society. JC agreed and mentioned other groups such as Ohio Lake Management Society, Native Fish Society – idea to bring in broader membership to Chapter. Perry Orndorff (PH) noted that OFWMA only came to TWS and OCAFS in past years because their coffers were running low; prior to that, they were able to solicit sizeable sponsors. PH speculated that is OFWMA doesn't change from expensive venue and OCAFS and TWS pull out; they're going to be in rough shape to continue. Mike Wilkerson (MW) said that, due to cost, OFWMA had to eliminate concurrent sessions and this even further decreased the relevancy to fisheries and suspects this won't change – adding to justification for moving away from OFWMA as the main OCAFS event. **JC asked for show of hands from those who want to part from OFWMA.** Show of hands "opinion poll" was nearly unanimous in favor of parting from OFWMA to do our own conference/meeting more in the fashion of what is taking place today at Marshall. TS said further disc as to what future meetings will look like will occur further into this agenda.
- BACK TO BUDGET DISCUSSION:** TS noted we need to use this ledger not just to see where our money goes but also go through it with microscope and pull our spending into alignment with income. BK asked if we could raise membership

dues to \$15 annually. JC responded that we could but there are two sides to this. BK agreed but said if all of our expenses are indeed where we want to put money at, we'd need more money. Kevin Page (KP) asked if our ledger income was a projected income based on number of members or actual \$ in. JC confirmed that the revenue on the ledger was actual money paid in – not extrapolated from our membership roster number. KP followed by saying he only thinks to renew when a meeting (OFWMA, Workshop, WV/OH Conference, etc.) comes up and wondered if we could do a letter/email at end of year, just as parent society does, saying that your dues are up for renewal for the upcoming calendar year and explain the methods available for renewal. JC said this comes back to membership tracking and we're not there yet but we could get there with not much more effort and it is a good idea. EB said that \$20 per year in grand scheme of things likely isn't a big deal – just make sure we still keep students free. SH noted ability to build in dues to various meeting registration fees. Brett Feger (BF) said that IL AFS Chapter uses Constant Contact for membership management and communications. Phil Hillman (PH) urged critical thinking and not just raising membership fees on a whim today. Mike Sovic (MS) noted that parent society has individual check boxes as part of their registration process to contribute funds to specific sections or funds, etc...asked if OCAFS has even considered that – donate to specific student award funds or the like that you are individually passionate about. JC responded that Ohio Academy of Science does/had tried that approach and you end up with lots of little pots of money and no real power of focused money. EB asked about endowment funds. JC mentioned hard to get up and running and accounting gets funky. CA noted the monthly service charges on the ledger and inquired. JC said needs investigated – the timing of their inception either signifies that the checking account changed fees/policies or we dropped below a certain balance threshold. TS asked if we were at a point to get overall membership direction as to whether we should look at expense reduction or look at revenue options. Overall group didn't respond one way or other. CA inquired about current balance and how the WV/OH AFS Conference was going to affect balance. JC said \$4300 and MS clarified currently at \$4100 and service fees still ongoing. JC thought this current conference would be revenue neutral or possibly in the black slightly. Going back to TS inquiry, CW said he thought we should leave this discussion with some action point, be it a membership direction vote, an ad hoc committee, etc. – a framework – to move forward so we aren't at same point of discussion at next membership business meeting. JC would like to proceed with this plan: (a) discussion with OFWMA, (b) Governing Board discusses expenditures/revenues, and (c) then at summer OCAFS Membership Business Meeting the Governing Board would report back out with future direction for discussion and/or needed motions/votes – doesn't see need for ad hoc committee. Membership agreed with head nods. CW noted membership input is important so if you have a strong feeling, please contact someone on Governing Board. JC or MS will keep ledger going and updated.

- iii. **Membership tracking** – JC said we are getting closer to a database that will facilitate efficient membership tracking and communication; otherwise was covered in prevision discussion.
- b. **North Central Division update** (from Gary Whelan), NCD Briefing Book: Joe Conroy – JC provided PDF document of NCD vision at meeting. See attached documents of NCD document and NCD briefing book that houses OCAFS updated to NCD – follows our strat plan formant.

- c. Fisheries Science Partnership Award: Joe Conroy – JC responded that no one applied for this award this year. Consequently, the \$ allocated for the OAS registrations and award as well as our match to the NCD Joan Duffy Travel Award won't be spent this year.

6. New Business

- a. Past-President Recognition and Installation of President: Joe Conroy – JC congratulated TS on his movement from President-Elect to President. JC handed off official duties and control of the meeting to TS at this point.
- b. Recruitment: Tony Sindt
 - i. President-Elect – Chris Winslow (CW2) was voted by membership as new President-Elect. CW2 introduced himself: Assistant Director of Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab. Graduate degrees from Bowling Green State University with Dr. Jeff Miner's lab. TS handed CW2 binder with strategic plan and bylaws/procedures. JC noted that he and CW2 are both from North Ridgeville – dangerous!
 - ii. Secretary/Treasurer – Mike Sovic (MS) was voted by membership as new Secretary/Treasurer. MS introduced himself: Post-doc at Ohio State University. Undergrad at Marshall University. Graduate work at Ohio State. Works on population genetics.
 - iii. Ohio Fisheries Leadership Committee Chair – TS appointed Nick Radabaugh (NR) as new Ohio Fisheries Leadership Committee Chair.
 - iv. NCD Tech Committee Representatives
 - (a) Centrarchid – Steve Tyszko, Fisheries Biologist at DOW Inland Fisheries Research Unit voted as new Centrarchid Tech Comm Rep.
 - (b) Rivers and Streams – Tony Sindt, Fisheries Biologist at DOW Inland Fisheries Research Unit voted as new Rivers & Streams Tech Comm Rep.
 - (c) Walleye – Patrick Kocovsky, USGS Research Fishery Biologist voted as new Walleye Tech Comm Rep.
- c. Requests for Support: Tony Sindt
 - i. 2013 Equal Opportunities Section Student Travel Award – TS received an email from the AFS Equal Opportunities Section requesting any donation for their student travel award. Divisions usually support at \$500 level and other units in the \$100-250 range. Travel is to national AFS meeting. Ruth Briland (RB) suggested we may want to use the money we are saving by not supporting a Fisheries Science Partnership Award winner this year to put towards this award request. NR suggested that this request be put on a complete list for when the Governing Board looks at all expenditures relevant to financial solvency and then rank this among all the other possible expenditures and decide under that framework rather than just voting a yes or no right now. JC noted that likely students who are supported by this have a higher likelihood of becoming fisheries professionals than some students who receive some of the other OCAFS standard awards. EB asked if there is a time frame we need to decide by. TS didn't see or know of any deadline. EB agreed he liked RB's suggestion for this year specifically. ***EB made motion to use the unspent money that would have gone to our Midwest (Fisheries Science Partnership Award) award be instead allocated to the Equal Opportunities Section Student Travel Award.*** RB seconded. PH asked for clarification that the motion was just for this year only and EB confirmed. CW asked if we should hear the discussion of the second request before we decide on putting the full amount that we should have spent in the Fisheries Science Partnership Award to the Equal Opp. Award.

TS allowed. TS said that NCD contacted OCAFS asking support for the publication of the third Black Bass Symposium book that is going to be compiled and published following a recent symposium session. Book will focus on biodiversity of black basses and our logo would go in book. EB asked what we would have spent with the Fisheries Science Partnership Award. JC said \$60 x 3 to support OAS registrations and \$200 for the Midwest to match the NCD Joan Duffy Travel Award = for a total allocation of \$380. JC suggested we solely use the \$200 for our contribution to the Equal Opportunities Travel Award. CW asked EB for clarification if his motion was for the complete \$380 or some lesser amount. EB said he intended the \$200 for our Duffy match but said that it could be up for discussion. JC clarified the motion for \$200 for this year (2013) only. TS wondered if there were other awards out there more relevant to Ohio students than this Equal Opp. Award. EB said possibly but Ohio student so far seemed hesitant to even apply for travel awards. Vote occurred on EB's motion. Motion to provide a one-time \$200 donation in 2013 to the Equal Opportunities Section Travel Award was passed unanimously.

- ii. **Black Bass Symposium publication** – PO, CA, and EB all voiced thoughts of tabling the Black Bass Symposium Request until later due to our financial situation, possible lack of application to Ohio, and the Equal Opportunities Section Award being much more in line with our intended purpose of the Fisheries Science Partnership / Joan Duffy Award. ***PO made a motion to table the Black Bass Symposium publication donation request at this time.*** CA seconded. No discussion. Vote on motion to table passed unanimously.
- d. **President's 2013–2014 Initiatives: Tony Sindt** – TS added that continuation of financial solvency is part of his agenda/initiatives.
 - i. **Website update/revision** – Unexpected lack of access to our current web host coincided with growing need to revamp the website anyway. Need to do something now. NR is Chair of committee that will oversee this. JC thought best to let committee do its work – need to recruit folks to that committee. Basically a committee of 1 right now. NR felt necessary to inform membership that he “has no web design skills but is enthusiastic.” MS said they were looking at private sector web hosting companies via some work they are doing at OSU and thinks there are affordable and user-friendly options out there. Brian Zimmerman (BZ) mentioned that he has a friend that does web hosting and development as side business that BZ uses for his private enterprise. BZ could point our committee that his contact for information also. JC said hosting may be available via NCD or parent AFS. TS asked if membership thinks \$100-200 range a year is acceptable to spend on website. CA said it is essential to have a web presence so we need to do what it takes to have one and followed up asking if we are currently spending anything on our web design or hosting. MS added to that asking what did happen to the current OSU web domain. JC said they restricted access for people off of campus. (Editor's Note: although it wasn't answered in the meeting, OCAFS currently doesn't spend anything on our web design or hosting). JC said it makes more sense if an AFS entity was web domain host over OSU anyway. CW said it is worth a membership canvas to see if anyone has the skill to build/maintain a website. NR said if there are user-friendly options out there that he is willing to learn. ***NR said his committee will do some research and talk to members, put together a list of options and costs, and present this to the Governing Board. NR was directed to make this statement a motion.*** CW seconded. A member (I can't tell who from my notes) pointed out that cost options (ability to pay membership dues online, etc.)

will depend on what look/functionality we want out of the website. EB suggested it is too early for a motion that this discussion is simply the committee will do what it is supposed to do. CA volunteered to be on committee. BZ and MS also volunteered to be on this committee. Robert's Rules now exploded as group thought arrived at the consensus that there really isn't an actionable motion on the floor, simply a discussion of the Ohio Fisheries Leadership Committee will do their task (website) as laid out in the strategic plan with a goal of having something to report at the Spring Governing Board meeting.

- ii. **2014 Annual Meeting (40th anniversary)** – TS agreed that this current meeting is great and recognized that there were earlier group consensus to move forward with this style of meeting. Vision of every-other-year being a larger joint meeting with other state(s) AFS Chapter(s) and the alternative year being an Ohio only smaller meeting format. Although TS felt this model shouldn't be so rigid as to be limiting should other opportunities arise. TS sought suggestions/ideas for next year's meeting as our model would have it be "stand alone" and it would be OCAFS's 40th anniversary year. SH asked if we should wait until after OFWMA – OCAFS officers meeting and JC responded that OCAFS, earlier in the meeting, was pretty clear they wanted to part with OFWMA and do own stand-alone meeting and that we should be in the clear to move forward with planning. JC said having continuity and institutional experience in the meeting planning process will help with future work load and smoothness in future planning. **JC moved that Past-President serves to broadly organize the annual meeting and serves as logistics chair of a meeting planning committee with President serving as program chair of said annual meeting with intent to put on 2014 meeting during winter season.** Dave Culver (DC) seconded the motion. TS asked for discussion. CW said he envisions the alternate-year in-state meeting to be a smaller, one-day event for fear of employers getting burned out each year with travel requests and that a bigger meeting only every 24 months might allow for build-up of excitement, interest, and coffers such that participation remains high for those bigger-year meetings. Fear of interest and financial support burn-out if every single year's meeting is big/overnight. CW admitted this may be a pessimistic or limiting viewpoint, however. SH followed up by saying, from the DOW perspective, that from the Chief down, there was support and the Chief suggested if we do this again next year, maybe it could be in Ohio – implying expectation for continued support of DOW employees yet not necessarily always out-of-state; under current administration, there is support for DOW employees participating in something like this each year – obviously subject to change due to ever-changing political arena. TS countered CW viewpoint by pointing out that part of being successful is having workshops and socials and not just a one-day event. EB said partnering with other in-state organizations such as TWS, Ohio Lake Management Association, etc. would provide for bigger draw too. Various members added that having more than a one-day bolsters interest and attendance and also that going from two-nights to one-night in-state will greatly help with manageable travel costs for agency folks and others as well. CW2 thought staying small with off-year meetings would help on work load management for OCAFS officers. TS counted that keeping at least two-day, one-night keeps up momentum generated at this current conference (rather than "letting people down" on off years) and allows for the fun aspects of a meeting that draws folks in too. TS also noted that momentum also gives motivation for organizers to make meetings as good as they can be rather than just a job that needs done as a placeholder. JC clarified the intent of the motion

was the stated intent to move forward to put on a meeting. Vote ensued. Motion passed unanimously. CW pointed out that these new Officer rules need to be added to the OCAFS Procedures document during next revision phase. Volunteers will be sought by JC and TS as planning process continues for next year.

- e. Other – JC noted that Midwest Biodiversity Institute had summer jobs available. See him for more details.
7. Adjourn – DC made motion to adjourn. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM. TS pounded the gavel.

Attachments:

- OCAFS Meeting Roster scan – CPW can provide Tony prior to sending to membership if deemed useful/necessary.
 - BriefingBook_OCAFS_Meeting_2012-2013_Wi.pdf
-