



AGENDA: 2013 SPRING GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OHIO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

9:00 AM–12:00 PM, 16 JULY 2013

**LOCATION: DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, DISTRICT 1 CONFERENCE ROOM
1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215**

9:00 Call to order and determination of Quorum

Presence of quorum determined; in attendance were Tony Sindt (TS), Chris Winslow (CW), Nick Radabaugh (NR), Chris Aman (CA), Mike Sovic (MS), Jake Marina (JM), and Eugene Braig (EB)

Topics for Discussion

1. Finances

a. Treasury update (Sovic)

MS reported an increase in the account balance since the last meeting. This was due mostly to a profit of ~\$1000 from the joint meeting with WV in February. Expenditures since the last meeting included \$325 in state science day awards and \$200 contributed to the Equal Opportunities Section (still outstanding as of 6/30). Balance as of the end of June was approximately \$5000.

b. Financial stability - expenditures vs. income

Prior to 2010, OCAFS was maintaining an account balance in the range of \$7000, with a gradual decline since that time. Membership dues are the major source of revenue for the Chapter, generating roughly \$600-\$800 per year. TS reported there have been a number of individuals who have expressed interest in renewing/joining, but have not followed through. He noted that it might be helpful to identify ways to make joining/renewing easier. MS suggested creating an option to join/renew online with a credit card. EB noted that this type of system is already available for those who are also parent society members, but thought an option to pay electronically would facilitate our ability to recruit affiliate members.

CW has assembled a list of contacts for the purpose of recruiting for Stone Lab, and asked if others present had similar lists of contacts who might be interested in joining OCAFS. He offered to start collecting and assembling a list that will allow us to both recruit members and announce various opportunities offered by the Chapter. EB noted that it would be best to have a better method in place for joining first before making recruiting efforts. Further discussion regarding payment methods was held for the scheduled discussion regarding the OCAFS webpage (below).

JM asked if there were any other sources of revenue other than member dues. NR cited the profit from the joint meeting this year and noted the plan to continue these joint meetings in the future. TS said the profit was more than expected this year, largely because the venue was free, and that we shouldn't expect this level of profit from meetings in the future. Goal is not to profit from these meetings, but to keep registration costs low to maximize attendance. CW asked about the rebate that comes from the parent society each year. No one present was sure how the amount is determined, and MS said he would check into it.

In terms of recurring expenses, awards for state science day (\$325), meeting costs (~\$250-\$400), and recent support for scholarships for the fish sampling techniques class (~\$400) were identified as typical expenses each year. MS noted that the monthly service charge that was being assessed had been taken care of.

Consensus was that we're not currently in trouble with our balance and that hopefully we can increase membership to ensure sustainability into the future. Raising membership dues does not seem necessary at this point, but may be an option down the road if necessary.

2. Membership



a. Membership roster
See financial stability notes above

b. Tracking members and renewal payments

EB brought up the fact that tracking full vs. affiliate members is important since affiliate members do not have voting privileges. Many of the governing board members were unaware of this rule. TS read the bylaws and confirmed that indeed affiliate members do not have voting rights and said that he would attempt to keep track of membership type. However, this is challenging since we can only confirm if OCAFS members are also parent society members if they pay for both memberships through the parent society. The governing board will keep this in mind when developing online renewal options on the new OCAFS website.

3. Resolution process

We currently don't have a formal procedure for approving resolutions. EB asked whether approval of resolutions should be the purview of the governing board, or whether resolutions should be voted on by the full membership, noting that in some cases, it may be important to pass resolutions in a short time frame (i.e. – if they address time sensitive issues). Because there was some uncertainty among the board members regarding what procedures have already been established for proposing and passing resolutions, EB offered to find any language in the current by-laws that references resolutions and pass it along to the governing board for their consideration before further discussion.

4. Random emails and requests

- a. Invasive Species Act endorsement
- b. CAFO email
- c. Need a process for handling similar requests

TS reported that as president he gets a lot of random e-mails, some of which seem more relevant to OCAFS than others. He asked whether we need a more formal process for filtering which of these e-mails gets forwarded on to the governing board and/or full membership for possible consideration/action, noting a trade-off between making sure relevant items are considered and avoiding overwhelming everyone with too many e-mails. After discussion, the board felt it was appropriate going forward for the president to continue to be the initial filter, and that he or she could seek input from other board members on the relevance of specific items as they deem necessary.

Many of the emails are requests for support from OCAFS for certain policy issues. EB felt that making decisions regarding whether OCAFS signs on in support of an issue was the purview of the governing board. MS noted that once the website is functional, it might be good to post these items and ask for comments/discussion from the full membership that can be considered by the governing board before a vote. EB is going to check to see if there is language in the current by-laws in reference to how to handle making decisions regarding signing support letters.

Two specific e-mails TS received recently were discussed. The first request was to support stronger CAFO regulations. After discussion, the board decided to table this request, citing a lack of information/expertise, lack of support from other professional societies, and a relatively old date on the request. The second request was for support of proposed legislation related to prevention of invasive species (companion bills S. 1153 and H.R. 996, Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act). After discussion, EB motioned that the president sign on in support of these bills on behalf of OCAFS. The motion was seconded by NR. CW noted that other professional societies including the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission have already signed on in support of this, and the board voted to support this proposed legislation. TS will send a letter of support on behalf of the Chapter.

5. OCAFS Webpage (Radabaugh)

NR checked in to website hosting options and identified 2 possibilities. 1.) The parent society will host chapter websites, and 2.) Commercial web design software and web hosting companies are available – he suggested a combination of Wordpress and Dreamhost. After discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each, a decision was made to move forward with option number 2. The board felt that the costs associated with this approach are justified mainly because it will allow current and future members to design and maintain the website without a knowledge of HTML language. EB noted that a lot of basic Wordpress sites tend to look more like blogs, and he felt it would be important to ensure that we have a professional-looking site. The rest of the board agreed and decided that if necessary, it may be worth a one-time fee associated with certain commercial website templates. CW suggested that NR and the rest of the website committee look into various commercial options in addition to Wordpress and Dreamhost and report back to the board by e-mail with specific costs.

6. Annual meeting

- a. OH-WV AFS recap
- b. OFWMA
- c. Next Annual Meeting

TS reported that the joint meeting in February was very successful. The plan going forward is to continue to have this type of joint meeting every other year, with smaller stand-alone meetings in the off years. EB noted that we're only about 6 months away from the next annual meeting, and that we need to start planning soon. TS noted that we should be mindful of other meetings happening around the time of ours when choosing a date (i.e. – OFWMA, DOW research review, etc). A decision was made at the previous meeting that the past president will be in charge of planning and logistics of the meeting, and current president coordinates the program. Discussion focused around the format of the meeting (one day

versus two day), and the venue. The board decided to plan for a one-day meeting with the possibility of workshops and a social the evening before. Possible venues that were proposed included the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park or the Student Union at OSU. JM is going to check on availability of the student union, and the possibility of the OSU Fish and Wildlife Society Student Subunit sponsoring the meeting in order to reduce or possibly eliminate venue costs if we use an OSU facility. EB suggested formalizing roles and responsibilities of the fisheries student subunit, including their involvement in planning the annual meeting.

7. Summer meeting

Discussion of activities that may be associated with this year's summer meeting included a fishing outing (possibly along a DNR water trail), kayaking trip, or invited speaker. Joe Conroy will lead the planning of this.

8. Additional Business

EB announced that the annual workshop titled Fish Sampling Techniques of Ohio's State Agencies would happen again this year on Sept 14-15. OCAFS has historically provided funds for scholarships for attendees. TS said that he thinks these are valuable scholarships, but that last year's pool of applicants was relatively weak. CA motioned to offer two scholarships this year in the amount of \$192 each (the cost of attending the workshop), contingent on an amended announcement that reserves the right to not award the scholarships if no applicants demonstrate sufficient merit. NR seconded the motion, and the board voted to offer these awards. EB is going to send the previous announcement to the governing board for discussion on ways to revise it.

Jake Marina was introduced as the new president of the OCAFS student subunit at OSU.

Adjourn

EB made motion to adjourn. Vote to adjourn passed at 12:15.