



Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

**Winter Member Meeting - MINUTES**

1:30 pm, February 21st, 2020

Columbus, Ohio

**1) Call to Order**

- a) A quorum was established (> 8 OCAFS members).
- b) Meeting called to order at 1:30PM.
- c) Twenty-seven members and guests in attendance.

**2) Welcome by Suzanne Gray, OH AFS President**

- a) No gavel rap – Past-past-president Chris Mayer has it?
- b) This Winter Meeting is intended to be low-key due to significant member contributions to two large meetings recently/in the future (2019 Midwest conference, 2020 National AFS)

**3) Officer Reports**

- a) President (Suzanne Gray)
  - i) President's Plan of Work, items accomplished and items that remain to be completed
- b) President Elect (Bryan Kinter)
  - i) Attended Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Springfield, IL
  - ii) Message from Scott Bonar, AFS President:
    - (1) Asked all AFS members to talk to 10 people about the threat of climate change as it relates to fish and fisher
- c) Past President (Janice Kerns [not in attendance])
  - i) No report, but submitted Treasurer Report – see below
- d) Secretary/Treasurer (Janice Kerns, *acting* [not in attendance])
  - i) Calendar Year 2019 Finance Summary:
    - (1) Initial balance: \$2,895.84
    - (2) Current balance: \$2,582.81
      - (a) exclusive of just over \$400 held for the Buckeye Student Subunit
    - (3) Income is mainly from member dues and totaled ~\$650. This amount includes direct dues payments (\$10/member) and a rebate from AFS for Society members (how this is calculated is unclear).
  - ii) Discussion about membership tracking
    - (1) A point of comment was made that the Ohio Chapter likely should not be considered a "large chapter" if there are only about 60–65 members. This issue should likely be investigated.
    - (2) A question was asked about how student members are counted in the total number of members. Student members do not contribute income (dues are complimentary). It is unclear if student members count toward the total number of members.
    - (3) It was noted that the chapter seeks to maintain a balance of \$2,000–\$3,000 (this was agreed to at a meeting at the Cleveland Aquarium a couple years ago).
    - (4) Need for a good system to track members. Many facets of running an efficient chapter are limited by our ability to track members; some of these items include: annual

renewals; having an up-to-date roster for communication; and understanding who OCAFS members are, their needs, and their expectations. Curt Wagner suggested that the AFS registration system be used for all members whether Society members, Affiliate members (chapter members only), or student members. This service, if provided by the Society, would greatly assist individual chapters while also providing a resource for AFS to communicate with members at all levels

- (5) President Gray continued discussion of the expenses of the chapter. Most expenses are associated with annual awards, including the Milt Austin Awards at State Science Day and scholarships to attend Eugene Braig's fish sampling workshop held each September at Stone Laboratory. Note: this year there were no Midwest Travel Award winners as there were no applicants; the winner of this award is the OCAFS representative to the NCD's Duffy Award. Combining the OCAFS Midwest Travel Award and the NCD Duffy Award can provide \$400 for a student to travel to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. Also, there was only one paid registration provided for a student to attend the fish sampling workshop. In past years, two of these awards were given.
  - (6) Curt Wagner explained that most income to the chapter in the recent past (last 8–10 years) has come from winter meetings. When those meetings are held jointly with other states (i.e., WV, PA, and IN) they have tended to make money. This was especially true for the WV and PA meetings which were held in spaces that were free.
- e) Student Subunit Representatives
- i) UT Rockets (Zach Amidon)
    - (1) This past spring, all graduate students but Zach successfully defended and graduated. During 2019, the UT Rockets subunit hosted the Quiz Bowl at the 2019 Midwest, conducted a spring cleanup event with Partners for Clean Streams, helped at State Science Day, and participated in the Lake Sturgeon rehabilitation release including sponsoring a sturgeon. The subunit "re-launched" during fall with several incoming new graduate students. In the fall, the subunit investigated the process to receive funds from the university but found the process to be rather restrictive, not meeting the cost of time invested with the benefit in the amount of funds available.
  - ii) OSU (Cory Bacher [not present])
    - (1) The subunit seeks to have a Passport to Fishing event at Chadwick Pond in March or early April before school is over for the year. Members are still attempting to organize. President Gray indicated that the subunit is also considering another professional-student networking event.
  - iii) BGSU
    - (1) No members were present. President Gray has worked closely with members of the unit to make the subunit "official". Jeff Miner has agreed to serve as faculty advisor and the bylaws have been formalized.
  - iv) Note: President Gray has copies of the bylaws for all three subunits
- 4) Standing Committee Reports**
- a) Ohio Fisheries Leadership / Webmaster (Nick Radabaugh)
    - i) Midwest Student Travel Award; a reminder has been set for 2020 to ensure that adequate time is available for submission of applications, review, and transferring the award
  - b) Education/Continuing Education (Eugene Braig [not present for this part of meeting])

- i) President Gray provided one update for Eugene: the fish sampling workshop will be held again this year and Eugene requests funding again for up to two students to have their registrations paid.
- c) Value of Membership (Kristi Arend [not present])
  - i) President Gray indicated that nominees were confirmed for election this year (see below).
- d) Meetings and Events (Curt Wagner)
  - i) CW suggests that the next “regular” OCAFS winter meeting be held in early 2022. Planning usually occurs in the late summer or early fall of the previous year and Curt feels that the planning will be too tight after the AFS 2020 conference. Joe Conroy suggested a tri-state meeting with either WV and KY or MI and IN; Joe has had initial discussions with representatives from all four states and there is interest there
- e) Social Media Coordinator (vacant)
  - i) OCAFS seeks someone to fill this role.

#### **5) AFS and North Central Division Updates (Joe Conroy)**

- a) JC provided a brief overview of the different levels of the Society including Society, Division, Chapters, and Student Subunits.
- b) Update from the AFS office (see attached Power Point presentation). Items highlighted included
  - i) the upcoming 150th Conference in Columbus
  - ii) the 2020 Call for AFS Awards
  - iii) the various opportunities to serve AFS, the importance of doing so, and what you get out of it
  - iv) a call to join AFS, especially this year with reduced registration at AFS 2020.
  - v) Joe also highlighted a new NCD Student Travel Award to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference which is part of the new arrangement where the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) now oversees the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. This is a long story but suffice it to say that there should be a new program to fund student awards starting for this coming Midwest which will be in St. Paul, Minnesota.

#### **6) North Central Division Technical Committee Reports**

- a) No reports provided; note Walleye Technical Committee item in New Business

#### **7) Old Business**

- a) Tracking student membership
  - i) As discussed above, this is a necessary item. Further, we need to track regular members, too. More effective approach to maintain membership list and communication. See discussion above.
- b) AFS 2020 updates (Curt Wagner, co-chair for the local planning committee of AFS 2020)
  - i) The conference is in addition to the year-long celebration that was occurring.
  - ii) CW requested assistance in identifying a Volunteer Coordinator
  - iii) CW requested assistance with running the Skinner Memorial Fund silent auction/raffle. The Skinner Memorial Fund provides undergraduate and graduate student travel awards for attendance at the AFS annual conference. 60% of the proceeds from the silent auction/raffle go to the fund and this makes it one of the largest (if not the largest) source of funds for the Skinner Memorial Fund. Some portion of the remaining proceeds return to the host chapter. Curt thought that Ohio student subunits could collaborate to staff the silent auction/raffle; should the student subunits participate in this, Curt suggested that the

proceeds that would come to the local organizers could go to the student subunits. Mike Durkalec is leading the silent auction/raffle.

- iv) Suzanne Gray requested assistance and volunteers for the Spawning Run, including marking the route and staffing various areas around the course (e.g., start, finish, water stations).
- v) 150th anniversary displays discussion
  - (1) Although the chapter is very busy planning and participating in the conference execution, several people sought some kind of presence in the 150th Anniversary Displays. Mike Durkalec knows a Cleveland doctor who has done a historical investigation of Thodatus Garlick, one of the first (the first?) fish culturalist who actually did his work in the Cleveland area. If the Mike's contact could assemble a self-explanatory, self-advancing slide presentation, this could be an interesting contribution to the Ohio Chapter history exhibit. Tory Gabriel suggested the Stone Lab Flickr account which has 1,000s (10,000s?) of pictures. Certainly these could tell a story.
- vi) Outside events
  - (1) There will be a river cleanup and science of the river demonstration. This was conceptualized as an electrofishing demonstration. Brian Zimmerman volunteered to help with this and also suggested contacting State Scenic Rivers coordinator in central Ohio.

## **8) New Business**

- i) New Leadership
  - (1) Bryan Kinter assumed the OCAFS presidency
  - (2) President-Elect, by affirmative vote - Dr. Kristen Fussell from the Ohio Sea Grant College Program.
  - (3) Secretary/Treasurer, by affirmative vote - Zak Slagle, Fisheries Biologist at the Sandusky Fisheries Research Unit, Division of Wildlife, ODNR.
  - (4) Unfortunately, neither Kristen or Zak could make the meeting.
- ii) NCD Walleye Technical Committee request
  - (1) Matt Faust forwarded a request for Chapters to consider donating up to \$1,000 to offset page charges in a special issue of North American Journal of Fisheries Management which will publish proceedings of a Walleye Symposium to be held at the 2021 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in St. Paul, MN. Curt Wagner commented regarding a prior precedence of donating \$200 to the proceedings of an international Muskellunge symposium held several years ago. Joe Conroy suggested that this request be tabled until next year because we do not have to deal with it now and our finances are likely tighter now than they will be next year. Discussion stopped and the consideration of this item was tabled.
- iii) Officer Recruitment.
  - (1) OCAFS needs a Chair of the Value of Membership committee as soon as possible. We are always looking for the next OCAFS President. We are considering appointment of a Social Media Coordinator (see Action Items, below).
- iv) Strategic Plan expires after AFS 2020. There was no discussion of this item.

## **9) Wrap up**

- a) Meeting adjourned ~3:00 PM

## **10) Action Items**

- a) Joe Conroy, who is attending the Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting as President-Elect of the North Central Division (NCD) of AFS, will get the **opinions of AFS Executive Director Doug Austen RE: tracking affiliate members.**
  - i) Follow-up from JC: "at yesterday's [2/24/20] AFS Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting, a special committee to study the Affiliate Member status was created. It sounds like the NCD representative will likely be Jeff Kopaska. One of the charges of this committee dealt with the database and creating tools to facilitate tracking of Affiliate Members, seemingly similar to what we discussed during our meeting several times. I had a subsequent discussion with Doug Austen about whether the AFS database could be used to track Affiliate Members and students, in addition to asking about the reporting tools available. The answers were not really a clear "Yes" or a clear "No". I suggest that we at minimum discuss the issue with Jeff. Further, if we really want to get this right, I suggest that we get an OCAFS member onto the committee."
- b) OCAFS **needs a new chair** of the Value of Membership committee because Kristi has left her employment in Ohio.
- c) OCAFS **needs a Social Media Coordinator**
  - i) Either have a social media presence facilitated by Nick Radabaugh in his webmaster role as Chair of the Ohio Fisheries Leadership Committee or have someone else serve in this capacity.
- d) **Bryan Kinter will contact Mike Durkalec** to determine how to best approach a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display
- e) **Bryan Kinter will email Kristi Arend letting** her know about Brian Zimmerman's interest and contacts for the Scenic Rivers program.

*Minutes submitted by Zak Slagle, Secretary/Treasurer OCAFS, April 2020.*

<b>OCAFS Budget Summary (2/19-1/20)</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<i>Beginning Account Balance</i>	\$2895.84
Chapter Dues	\$648.62
Amazon Smile Account	\$5.00
2019 Meeting Expense	\$0.00
2020 Meeting Expense	-\$150.00
Awards	-\$625.00
Operating Expenses	-\$161.65
AFS "Fisheries Strong" Video Production	-\$30.00
<b>OSU Student Subunit Funds</b>	<b>\$419.00</b>
<i>Ending Account Balance</i>	\$3,001.81
<b>OCAFS Available Funds</b>	<b>\$2,582.81</b>

**Notes:**

- **Chapter dues** include money receive from AFS, online payments through PayPal and associated fees.
- **Meeting expenses** include the balance between venue rental cost, meals, and registration. For 2020 the outstanding balance is due to the venue rental; registration costs have yet to be accounted for.
- **Awards** include:
  - 6 Milt Austin Awards (\$25-\$150)
  - 1 Stone Lab Fish Sampling Workshop Student Support (\$250)
- **Operating Expenses** include new logo creation and table runner. The new logo creation was paid to Genevieve Ivec in the form of an AFS membership.
- **AFS "Fisheries Strong" Video Production** includes a total of \$29,790 coming through the OCAFS account. The \$30 charge represents an unexpected wire transfer fee cost. Sponsors of the video included:
  - Great Lakes Fishery Commission
  - Polish Fisherman's Club

- Lake Erie Charter Boat Association
  - Michigan DNR
  - Ohio Sea Grant
  - Ohio DNR
- **OSU Student Subunit Funds** represent money raised in Silent Auction at the 2019 Midwest Meeting.
- **OCAFS Available Funds** represents closing balance in Huntington account minus the OSU Student Subunit Funds