**Colorado/Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**

**Summer Executive Committee Meeting**

**August 25, 2023**

 **Call meeting to order**

**Ashley Ficke called the meeting to order at 1:32pm and thanked everyone for attending.**

**Review of agenda**

**No other items were added to the agenda.**

**Advancement of Officers. Officers were advanced following the election at the 2023 annual**

**meeting as follows:**

**Past-president - Ashley Ficke**

**President - Steve Gale**

**Vice-president - Estevan Vigil**

**Secretary/Treasurer - Beth Bear**

 **2023 Business Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Ashley made a motion to approve, seconded by Stev. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**Update on FY24 Budget**

**FY 24 budget goes from August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024. Budget drafted and sent to Budget Review**

**committee made up of CO and WY members. Budget will come out in next issue of The Angler**

**newsletter.**

**First order of business will be paying Whova for contract for 2024 meeting.**

**Secretary-Treasurer Report**

 **Stev: Checking balance: $32,876.43- after travel reimbursements.**

**Will be some expenses (~$100) coming in still for travel. Overall outlook looks good. Cost of Ft**

**Collins meeting was less than expected. Cost was $38, 500 and revenue (mostly from raffle and**

**donations) was $44,180.**

**Updates Regarding 2025 Meeting**

**Joint meeting with Western Division. Been working with WDAFS to find venue. Eric Fetherman,**

**Stev, and Steve will do site visits on August 28 to Embassy Suites in Loveland, Omni Interlocken,**

**and Westin in Westminster. Sent RFI to multiple properties and narrowed down to these three.**

**Once hotel selected, will be working with Parent Society on negotiating a contract.**

**Will look to form Arrangements Committee for 2025 soon after hotel is selected.**

**Have information from Idaho with special committees needed to host a Western Division meeting.**

**Update on 2024 Meeting**

**Feb 27-29, 2024 at UW Conference Center at Hilton. Need to get Arrangements Committee lined**

**out for the meeting. General theme is going to be “Connections”-connect how our work relates to**

**each other and more focus on how our chapter members connect to each other. Reached out to**

**DEI Committee for ideas on how to connect members before and at the meeting.**

**DEI request for Laramie meeting**

**The Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee would like to show “Picture a Scientist” film at the meeting. Could use meeting budget-should be about $350 for film. The Program Committee can look at when at meeting for the showing. Also had idea for Women in Fisheries social/networking event at the meeting. Could fund if done before Welcome Social or at other time before already planned**

**activity.**

**Arrangement Committee- No Report- see above regarding annual meetings**

**Committee Chair Reports**

**Chapter Archivist (Lori Martin)**

**The Chapter’s Archive Committee (Committee) continues to file and organize the records of the**

**Chapter as outlined in the Chapter’s Procedural Manual. This includes sorting through and filing**

**AFS materials donated to the Chapter from members. Historically, more recent Annual Meeting**

**Proceedings were provided to the library at Colorado Mesa University (CMU), as the libraries at**

**the University of Wyoming (UW) and Colorado State University (CSU) already retain these**

**Proceedings. With the addition of Western Colorado University as a new student sub-unit of the**

**Chapter, the Committee will begin providing this university’s library with these historic**

**Proceedings, also.**

**The Committee is continuing efforts to provide digital files of the Proceedings from the virtual**

**2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings, as well as the hybrid virtual-in person 2023 Annual Meeting to**

**the libraries at the University of Wyoming, Colorado State University, and Colorado Mesa**

**University. As noted above, the Committee will pursue this same process with the library at**

**Western Colorado University.**

**At the 2023 Annual Meeting, the Committee was approached by a Chapter member interested in**

**Committee activities. A suggestion was made to add a new “Chapter History” tidbit to each**

**edition of The Angler. The Committee is working with the newsletter editors to see if they can**

**accommodate this request.**

**The Committee would also like to work with the ExCom to further investigate maintaining the**

**Chapter’s records into the future, in addition to determining a virtual location that relevant and**

**appropriate Chapter records and information can be provided to Chapter members.**

**The Committee appreciates the 2023-2024 ExCom’s continued efforts to provide the Committee**

**with relevant materials throughout the year that should be maintained within the Chapter’s**

**archives. Please keep this in mind, particularly in relation to the upcoming 2024 Annual Meeting.**

**Continuing Education (Dan Kowalski and Brian Hodge)**

**Discussed options for the 2025 meeting to keep in mind.**

**2024 ideas-Electrofishing training or certification and a modeling course.**

**Environmental Policy (Steve Gale)**

**New Chair will be Stev Estevan. Supported RAWA senate bill. Letters sent to WY and CO**

**Senators. Sent letter of support for BLM Proposed Conservation Rule.**

**Membership (Wes Gordon and Tom Fresques)**

**Not much happening this time of year but expect it to pick up prior to the 2024 annual meeting. Need to work on updating the listserv. Parent Society wanted listerv updated with current Parent Society membership list. Chapter does not want to exclude those that have not paid dues; want to add new members but not remove anyone. Looking for new ideas at meeting to increase dues paying members.**

**Newsletter (Kendall Bakich)**

**Working on the August edition of The Angler. Will add in Business Meeting minutes and get the issue out.**

**Nominating (Ashley Ficke)**

**Ashley is working on nominations for new Excom members.**

**Program (John Walrath, Annika Walters, and John Woodling) Working on getting another person**

**for the Program Committee. Been fielding questions on upcoming meeting already-would be good to have those details in early December and disseminated. For 2024 Meeting, Steve wondered about looking at whether talks could tie together with subject matter instead of being more siloed. Discussed whether you could group talks not by subject matter but something else (i.e., favorite color, home state, etc.).**

**Aquaculture (Cody Tyler and Greg Lehr) Trying to get a good understanding of what people**

**are looking for to increase aquaculture participation in AFS. Wants to make sure it is a**

**worthwhile experience for culturist at meeting. Planning to get survey out to gauge what interests**

**are and what they’d need to participate in AFS, what ideas they have for presentations at**

**upcoming meeting. Also look at what Continuing Education options might be.**

**Audio-Visual (Alex Townsend)- No report**

**Inclusion and Diversity (Mark Smith, Carrie Tucker, Anna Lavoie, Ashleigh Pilkerton, and Liz**

**Krone)- Requested to be a standing committee. Ashley will send language to our constitutional**

**consultant for DEI to be added to the bylaws as a standing committee. The Chapter will then need**

**to vote on the bylaw change.**

**Endowment Funding (Eric Gardunio?)- No report. Stev will reach out to Eric to see if he will**

**continue to chair Endowment Funding Committee.**

**Fundraising (Paul Gerrity and Matt Kondratieff)- No report**

**Gifts (Shai Kamin)- No report. Shai will be the new Chair of the Committee.**

**Mentoring (Chance Kirkeeng)- No report**

**Paper/Poster Judging (Tyler Swarr) Carrie Tucker will be on the committee replacing Eric**

**Fetherman. Trying to find enough judges-did not have enough at 2023 meeting to award all**

**categories. Discussed possible ideas for increasing participation in paper judging.**

**Raffle (Nick Scribner, Clay Kampf, Russ Japuntich, Chris Craft)- No report**

**Registration (Beth Bear) Steve requested that we increase font on name tags at meeting per Dirk**

**Miller request.**

**Student Liaison (Tawni Riepe)- School starting and a few subunits will have new subunit**

**presidents.**

**Awards (Travis Neebling)- No report**

**Website (Joe Skorupski)- No report**

**Student Subunit Reports**

**Colorado State University- Riley- meetings will start next week. Going to focus on activities, lab**

**tours, etc. instead of just presentations. Focusing on Fall activities at the moment. Been sorting**

**out non-profit status over the summer. Looking at early October for Kid’s Derby.**

**Excom noted that we could keep track of documents and deadlines for subunits to assist with taxes**

**and maintaining tax exempt/non-profit status.**

**Colorado Mesa University- No report**

**University of Wyoming- No report**

**Western Colorado University- No report. Only 2 members currently so Tawni will plan to visit and**

**see how Chapter can help recruit new members**

**Unfinished Business**

**Travel Grants- Will leave amount at $2,000 for this next year.**

**Logo- Logo contest winner-will now be Chapter’s logo. Do we need to hire someone to make**

**modifications to the logo or can someone do it? Stev will reach out to Noel Browning who created**

**logo to see if he can modify it. May need to have eye on fish touched up and lettering at the**

**bottom. Brian Hodge does know a graphic designer that may be able to help.**

**DEI standing committee request- see above**

**Unfilled Committee chairs- all Committee Chair positions have been filled.**

**Chapter accounting- Currently tracked with shared Google Spreadsheet. Has been discussion**

**about switching to software program (i.e. Quicken). Some receipts still need to be scanned and**

**saved to the shared drive. Check stub stapled to receipt. Required to keep 7 years of receipts.**

**How to manage emails/shared drive. Could create emails for each office that could be passed down**

**as positions change. Could also do shared calendar. Beth will look into emails and calendar.**

**Logo requirements for student sub-units- Starting January 1, 2024 all subunits need to have**

**Parent Chapter logo (AFS wording) incorporated into their logo. Brand guidelines also need to be**

**Followed. Steve will look into subunit logos and draft email to subunit presidents offering help.**

**New Business- none**

 **Adjourn-meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm**