

Estuaries Section ExCom Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2021

Time: 8:30-9:30 (eastern)

Attended: John Mohan, Justin Stevens, Konstantine Rountos, Amanda Croteau, Lee Benaka, Abigail Archer, and Geoffrey Smith

Agenda items:

- Estuaries section website update
 - Abigail working to update website
 - Remove Nancy Foster Habitat Award section from the website since our section is no longer collaborating with NOAA on this award (NOAA awarding independently)
 - Remove Notes from the Field section, not actively used/updated
 - ExCom members need to submit new photos to Abigail
 - Add meeting minutes
 - Remove officer emails from the website to reduce phishing scams
 - Other updates?
 - Do we want a different format (scrolling v. static)?
 - Do we want a new logo? Continue using the eel? Adapt/incorporate new AFS logo? Completely new design?
 - How do we generate new content from members to feature? NE Chapter trying a google form for members to submit content that they've already generated that the chapter can feature. If this method works, we may try something similar.
- Winter newsletter - featuring student travel award winners and president's message
 - Goal: distribute Winter newsletter in Jan 2022
 - Content
 - President's message (John)
 - Summary of the sponsored symposium from Baltimore (John)
 - Student award winner article. We will request them all, but feature 1/newsletter
 - How do we generate new content from members to feature?
 - Contact past presidents. Have them submit a how have things changed perspective (with the section, with estuarine science, etc.). Lee will contact
 - Contact past student award members for updates on where are they now
- AFS student subunit engagement plans
 - Need to contact MFS to see if they want their section incorporated into the presentation or if we should start testing it as is with only Estuaries content (Abigail will contact MFS)
 - Develop a google list of student subunits that we can present to (John). Include subunit name, presenter, date of meeting, whether presentation will be virtual or in-person. After presentation, update with number of students who attended.

- Develop a simple survey for the evaluation of the presentation (Amanda).
 - Should we also include a reward for survey participation? Raffle for a gift card or membership?
- Membership
 - Need to reach out to AFS about membership dues. Still need a check from 2020. (Konstantine will reach out to Dan Cassidy)
 - Membership numbers seem to run on average 200-300.
 - Fish Habitat section has 900 members. Their section includes freshwater, but how do we differentiate ourselves on the salty side?
 - How do we increase membership/interest in our section?
 - AFS membership thoughts
 - It would be nice to have an easier way to give an AFS or section membership to someone from your AFS account
 - Wildlife society had a membership campaign that allowed you to give someone a free membership for a year. A type of gateway membership that would introduce new members to the society.
- ExCom meetings will happen quarterly. Next meeting tentatively slated for February.