

American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section Business Meeting Jackson Hole, Wyoming; June 8, 2016

President Doug Munson convened the meeting at ~5:00 pm MDT.

Munson noted that the Section's Executive Committee met the previous day (06/07/16) and the minutes from the 2015 meeting were accepted.

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD): The US Food & Drug Administration developed regulations that require all antimicrobials added to feed move from over-the-counter to veterinarian prescriptions. Munson noted that the VFD could move fish health professionals to a role of a nurse practitioner. There was a question about whether this ruling diminishes the value of AFS Fish Health Section certifications.

Section membership: Dave Groman would like to improve membership, and will actively pursue Canadians. There are plans to talk with AFS editors about including abstracts for the JAAH both English and Spanish. This should help with recruitment in South America.

Section awards: Groman noted that the Awards committee will review the criteria for the Snieszko award. John Hawke will assemble a committee to explore a review.

Fish Health Lab QA/QC Program: Munson explained the purpose of the program. So far, two State laboratories have been approved at the Tier 1 level. It is likely 8-9 laboratories will apply over the next year.

John Hawke noted that labs with ISO17025 and other similar certifications should receive automatic certification in this program. Jim Bowker asked if the SOPs would be available online. But Janet Warg did raise the concern about releasing the SOPs during accreditation, and that they must be marked as uncontrolled documents.

2017 AFS Fish Health Section meeting: Mohammed Faisal indicated that the Eastern and Western fish disease workshops be held in tandem, instead of having a joint meeting. The meetings will be held in the Great Lakes region at Michigan State University, and will be relatively long. It will begin on Saturday and continue through the entire week. The meeting will also include participation by the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee.

Treasury item: It was voted and approved to accept credit cards for payments to the Section. PayPal will be the preferred mechanism.

Students and Young Professionals: Amy Long would like to see more involvement by

students and young professional, including better engagement with the Executive Committee. She would like to organize socials to increase membership retention, requesting more support and acknowledgement for this sector of the membership. Other tools include maintaining a blog, student profiles, and mentor profiles. Contact Long if you would like to be profiled.

Long noted that one problem with students is turnover. Jim Bowker noted that the parent AFS society has a list of student members, but wondered about their accuracy. Because the Sections have travel grants available, it is important to let students know about these grants.

Continuing Education: Munson pointed out there will be more need for lab QA/QC training courses through continuing education.

2017 Western Fish Disease Workshop: Bruce Stewart announced that it will be held in June 2017 and will be jointly hosted by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. It will be held on the Washington Coast or in Olympia. Information will be distributed through the Section's listserve.

By-laws modification: Dave Groman suggested that Vice-President serve for one year as a training period, then two years of the President's term. He plans to draft an amendment for a membership vote.

Other business: Jesse Trushenski noted that AFS is having difficulty recruiting members. The AFS contract with Taylor and Francis publishers will expire soon, and Trushenski is on the committee to review bids. She will try to include translation services. Among the different Sections of AFS, there is a sense of separation from the parent AFS society. One service that the parent AFS society that it can offer to the Sections is website services.

The meeting adjourned at ~ 5:30 pm MDT.

Notes taken by Doug Munson.
Minutes written from notes by Linda Rhodes.