

American Fisheries Society

Fish Health Section

2024 Business Meeting

July 31, 2024
 12:35 PM – 1:30 PM
 (CDT)
 Boise, Idaho/Virtual

Meeting called by:	Wade Cavender	Type of meeting:	Annual Business Meeting
Note taker:	Sascha Hallett	Attendees:	FHS Members
Presenters:	Wade Cavender, Tim Bruce, Ben LaFrentz, Megan Shavaliier, Sascha Hallett, Nicholas Phelps		

Minutes

Agenda item: Review of Minutes from 2023 Meeting **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

Discussion:

The 2023 Annual Business Meeting minutes were made available to members prior to the 2024 meeting. Hearing no objections to approving the minutes, the minutes were approved.

Agenda item: FHS Financial Report for 2023 **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

Discussion:

Wade gave an overview of the financial report for 2023; the Section is in good financial standing with \$139,454.12 in the combined accounts (see report).

Agenda item: 2024 Election Results **Presenter:** Tim Bruce

Discussion:

Tim provided the results of the election – two nominees for each position and 87 participants:

Vice President: Nicholas Phelps

Secretary-Treasurer: tie between Danielle Van Vliet and Taylor Heckman

Professional Standards Committee: Eva Marie Quijano Cardé

Policy/Position Development Committee: Courtney Harrison

Nominating and Balloting Committee: Nisha Shrestha

There was a discussion related to the tie for the Secretary-Treasurer position – Sascha will inquire with the Parent society to determine the best course of action.

Agenda item: Policy/Position Development Committee Report **Presenter:** Sascha Hallett

Discussion:

- Discussion regarding welfare
 - Dave Groman recommended that the Committee inquire with the Parent society on any policy they may have regarding animal welfare. Jayde Ferguson identified it as AFS Policy Statement #30 (found at <https://fisheries.org/policy-media/policy-statements/>).
 - Dave also recommended sharing the factsheet with universities who conduct research; Esteban Soto and Tom Loch commended the committee for their work and expressed that others in the aquatic community are in support of the factsheet
- Discussion regarding items raised during recent AqVMC meeting (Esteban Soto)
 - Esteban Soto invited the Section membership to review language and provide feedback on two AVMA policies related to aquatic animal welfare
 - The Excom will discuss during their next meeting
 - Esteban also highlighted a commercial by William Shatner that portrays aquaculture negatively and is damaging businesses

Agenda item: Archives Committee Report **Presenter:** Wade Cavender (on behalf of Matt Stinson)

Discussion:

Committee has been working on one main project in response to a request from membership to access historical documents (e.g. meeting abstracts, agendas). The committee has been reaching out to members to acquire documents associated with prior WFDW, Annual FHS, ISAAH meetings and creating a digitized collection.

Agenda item: Awards Committee Report **Presenter:** Ben LaFrentz

Discussion:

- Snieszko Student Travel Awards
 - Nine presented this year to 8 graduate students and 1 post doctorate at \$1000 each
 - Ben brought up the possibility of awardees to join a committee
 - Sascha Hallett, Nicholas Phelps, and Jesse Trushenski met to discuss ideas to better involve students in the FHS; suggested encouraging student awardees to identify a committee to learn more about and join (Student Recruitment Committee easy starting point)
 - Several members suggested that post docs, vet school trainees, and early-stage fish health professionals should be eligible for the Snieszko Student Travel Award as they do not have many opportunities for this type of support (Matt Griffin, Esteban Soto, Bart Gorgoglione)
 - Ben informed all that the Section did honor one this year
 - Tom Loch recommended that post docs not be funded at the expense of students
 - The Awards Committee will consider all suggestions and work on defining eligibility for future awards

Agenda item: Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee Report **Presenter:** Nicholas Phelps

Discussion:

Nick acknowledged the hard work of Matt Griffin and Megan Shavaliar. The focus of the committee has been on the Summer Seminar Series. It is now in the fourth year: attendance and the number of presentations has increased – 116 students and young professionals and 18 keynotes (see report for more details). Regular attendees have increased ~30%. Presentations are recorded and accessible online. Sponsorship this year has supported four awards of \$1000 each (for students and young professionals). Several Section members commended the committee on their hard work and the change in the format to be laboratory focused.

Suggested changes for the next year included extending the invitation to State Fish Health labs for a different perspective on how research and fish health is conducted in those facilities, to advertise beyond the US, and for a student to join the committee.

Agenda item: Professional Standards Committee Report **Presenter:** Megan Shavaliar

Discussion:

The report contains a table of new inspectors. The aim of the committee this year was to improve/simplify the application process (a paper route will remain an option). They are exploring an online payment option and are working to solidify a deadline for application submission and the review process. They plan to update the test study guides. The online list also needs updating with the certification date. Dave Groman suggested using the AFS main website to share information, like deadline dates.

Agenda item: QA/QC Committee Report **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

Discussion:

The committee approved several new applications (see report for more details).

Agenda item: Next Meeting **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

Discussion:

The schedule for the WFDW and FHS annual meetings will be revisited by Sascha Hallett and Jesse Trushenski (as incoming President and President Elect). The next ISAAH will be in 2026. The next annual meeting will be held in Bozeman, Montana and be joined with AADAP and the Western Fish Disease Workshop annual meetings.

Agenda item: Adjourn **Presenter:** Wade Cavender

Discussion:

Meeting was adjourned by the 2023-2024 AFS-FHS President, Wade Cavender.

Submitted,
/s/ Carolyn Richards (formatter) on behalf of Sascha Hallett (note taker)
Fish Health Section Secretary-Treasurer