

WSCFFI Board of Directors Meeting

**March 20, 2019**

**5:00 pm Zoom Meeting**

- 1. Call to order:** Bill Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
  
- 2. Roll Call:** Present: Bill Wheeler, Robert Gerlach, Steve Jones, Larry Hartman, John Roskopf, Mike Clancy, Larry Gibbs, Jim Maus, Carl Johnson, Sam Matalone, and Chet Allison
  
- 3. Review of Minutes and Approval:** A **Motion** was made to approve the minutes as edited, seconded and approved unanimously.
  
- 4. FFI Update: Len Zickler** - not present. Jim Maus provided an update on the national search committee effort to find a new executive director. They have developed a list of six top candidates based on our selection criteria. In early March they were able to interview all six of the candidates via telecom and Jim thought they would all make excellent leaders for the organization. The list has been reduced to four and the committee will go to Denver in April to meet in person with each candidate to determine which should be the new executive officer. Jim said he was impressed with the quality of candidates that applied for the job. All were “rock stars” in the non-profit world and especially in the conservation area. They all had extensive track records and experience raising money, great management experience and they were all enthusiastic about this opportunity. They still plan to be able to introduce the new director at the Bozeman meeting in July.
  
- 5. Officer Reports**
  - a. VP West - Robert Gerlach:** Nothing new to report.
  
  - b. VP East - Chet Allison:** Chet said that he promoted the Ellensburg show when he was at the Albany and Lewiston shows as well as with the Spokane Fly Fishers and Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in Spokane.
  
  - c. Treasurer - John Roskopf:** John reported that we have a little over \$43,000 in the bank. This a flexible number at the moment as there are some pending transactions including a deposit from RegOnline (about \$4200). Jim Maus added that the RegOnline transfers occur once per

month a little bit after the end of the month. John said that the fees are running about 8.5% so we may want to look more closely at this before the next fair.

**d. Secretary - Jim Athearn:** Not present.

**e. VP Membership:** Larry Gibbs reported that we had 781 active members in December and gained 11 more in January but that was offset by a loss of 21 for a net loss of 10. In February we had 6 new members and two inactive to bring our total going into March at 775. Carl added that they sold 18 memberships at the Lynnwood show that probably haven't been tallied yet - some were renewals (3 or 4) but very few of the new signups were at the show discount rate thanks to Larry's donation of flies that went to those who signed up for a full membership rather than the discounted ones (4). The March membership report isn't out but Larry has heard the we have money in the bank at National for the recent signups.

Larry said he has received an invite from Tom Logan to join the FFI membership committee but hasn't made a commitment yet. Mike Clancy pointed out that we give the kids at the Academy a membership and probably only a small percentage will renew so that will add to our fluctuating numbers.

**f. VPs Conservation - Jack Whitney:** Jack was not present so Steve Jones reported that the bill on suction dredging has passed the House and is moving on to the Senate where it is in the Energy and Environment Committee. There will be a committee vote next week and he expects it to move on to the Rules Committee and then on to the House floor probably some time during 3 to 17 April. There is a group lobbying against this so there will probably be a request for people to write more support letters to help get a favorable vote. This is the first time in about 7 years where we have a good possibility of getting something passed so that we can remove suction dredging from critical fish habitat areas. The difference between this and previous efforts is that this bill only concerns protecting critical habitat for ESA-listed species and gene bank rivers.

**g. VP Communications - Steve Jones:** The newsletter went out to 1030 people which included all the fly tyers we have invited to Ellensburg as well as all the vendors we have invited and the people who attended last year. Larry Gibbs said that he hasn't received a newsletter and Jim Maus suggested that Steve check the list of people who have opted out via a link at the bottom of the newsletter in case that is what happened to Larry and possibly others.

Steve just received about 90 seconds of high quality video from Rhonda of people fishing give him good material to develop facebook and instagram ads for the fair. Steve will also be able to use portions of Bill's casting video.

A few of the Media Plans items are a little behind - a photo winner for February is due. Sam will send Steve some other info. Steve said there has been a lot of traffic on instagram with about 6 nice posts every day. Facebook activity has also picked up - 1900 visitors to the facebook page between February 20 and March 19 with 370 of those engaging in some sort of activity/communication.

**h. VP Education - Larry Hartman:** Larry has taken on the fly fishing film tour responsibility to see about venues, mechanics, etc. to determine if that is something that we might take on. He asked for any input people have for a frame of reference plus any experience they have had. Larry asked if there could be a screen running at the Fair so that people could walk through our web site and learn more about all that we have to offer on it. Larry H has a screen and iPad and Larry G will identify a site where we can set something up.

## **5. Old Business**

**a. Rod raffles - Larry Gibbs:** Larry G said we have 57 rod tickets left and 35 rod/reel combo tickets.

### **b. Lynnwood Show:**

**1. Any follow-up?** Carl said that he thought Saturday was a great day because of the crowd, the interest we had and the tickets we sold . He saw more people wandering around to the seminars rather than upstairs with the vendors. Sunday was pretty dead similar to other years.

**c. Award Nominations -** No discussion.

**d. 1000 Stewards - pay back to councils for stewards -** No discussion.

### **e. Website board members update**

**1.** Larry Gibbs has updated his information.

**2.** John Roskopf needs to send a photo of himself and a synopsis to Sam.

**f. Fair - Bill Wheeler:**

**1. RegOnline now online - have you registered?** Bill gave a special thanks to Jim Maus for his good work setting up the RegOnline.

**2. Tyers:** Carl said there are about 40 signed up so far.

**3. Schedule:** This is in RegOnline.

**4. Casting:** Robert said that, according to Mike Clancy, they have 14 kids coming so he will need some additional casting instructors. Mike said the 14 kids are from the Easton School District. They will be there from 9:00 am until 11:30 and then have lunch. Mike is planning to have Mike Kosloski do a match the hatch class from 9:00 to 10:00 and then a tying class from 10:00 to 11:30. He does not know yet if they will be able to stay after lunch for a casting session. There was some discussion about casting instructors if the kids are able to stay and Robert thought it could all be worked out.

**5. Author Booth?** - David Paul Williams hadn't done anything yet but Larry has come up with another author so we will have a booth. Larry added that Will Godfrey is also an author so there can be three. Larry suggested that we could just have the author booth on Saturday and not Friday since there will probably be more people there then and it will focus the time spent in the booth.

**6. Seminar Schedule** Bill will send the seminar schedule to Carl.

**7. Donations:** Let Kuni know but he will be out of town until the 21<sup>st</sup>. Bill will follow up with him after he returns. Carl has the fly plate donation from the Clark/Skamania Club. Robert received a Fat Cat float tube donation that is nearly new and has some accessories.

**8. Volunteers needed:** Need specific days and activities. Bill asked everyone to think about what they need for volunteers and to consider Steve's idea for going on the internet to recruit.

- Catering
- Casting
- Raffles etc.
- Door "Guards"

- **RV Parking**
- **Someone for PA system**
- **Coffee**

**9. Vendors:** Larry reported that we have about 25 vendors interested and 15 have turned in their paperwork. We need about 6 more to fill our 31 spaces. If we get more that are interested, he will move some non-profits to tables to open up booth spaces. He asked if there would be a tying instruction booth this year and Carl said both Jerry McBride and Jim Athearn will be out of town and not able to put it on this year. Hitchcraft won't be there this year because of a prior commitment so Larry invited University Auto Center to put a new Dodge pickup in the static display area. TFO will be there as well as Red's - they are offering a 6-person lunch plus a clay pigeon shooting outing for the auction. Also Maxon Outfitters called and they want to attend so Larry will give them a double-size booth. If he gets Thera Flies, he will give them a double booth so that they can set up a fly tying table.

**10. Youth with Mike Clancy -** No discussion

**11. Boost Facebook Posts:** No discussion.

**12. Brochure: Carl** No discussion.

**13. Posters - Carl and Bill:** No discussion.

**g. Next Year?** Bill reviewed ongoing discussions about moving the event to the west side and having it at a different time. There are a lot of considerations for the venue and we haven't begun to look for that so he believes that we should take a year off to work up the right venue and date and address any concerns about the finances. Mike asked if there had been consideration about contacting school districts as potential venues as is done in Lewiston. Carl pointed out that we would have to have a Saturday/Sunday event to work with the school schedules. Several considerations were discussed about the amount of time and effort that will be needed to change venues and the likelihood that it can't be done for 2020. Steve said he has talked to the Chehalis County Event Center and, although they are affordable, it takes a lot of time to arrange things. Costs can be negotiated but a lot of it is building-specific and date-specific so, if we pick a busy time, it may cost more than we want to spend. It was generally agreed that we need to settle on a venue first and then set a time - one that we can keep year-to-year so people can count on it. It needs to be earlier in the year to attract more people. A winter venue would require space for indoor casting. Robert asked about merging Oregon and Washington and there was no

interest. A **motion** was made to not have a fair in 2020 so that we can decide on a new venue and a new date, seconded and passed unanimously. Finally, Larry suggested that we could join some of the many events that are already set up in 2020, including various clubs. We could have a booth, add raffles and earn a little money.

**h. Donation to signs for Rocky Ford done** Bill reported that the signs will be going up soon and some clubs on the east side (Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, Dryside Fly Fishers) will be installing them.

**i. Letter to legislators re: Suction Dredging** See paragraph 5. f. for this discussion.

j. Set up Facilitated Meeting for Goals and Objectives 2019 - who had the contact information for inexpensive state facilitator

k. Establish Executive Committee

l. Suggestion for Board Vacancies

m. Board Meeting Format - written comments if you can't attend.

## **6. New Business**

**a. Gilbert Biles** - Does anyone know how to get a hold of him? Bill found him in Arizona and he will be coming off the Board in Ellensburg.

**b. University of Washington School of Fisheries 100 Anniversary** - Steve put a story about this in the newsletter. He has been communicating with people at the school and they are very eager to promote their event in April (16-18). Bill said that they are asking everyone for money and wondered if we want to donate to this. They will use the money to support students on research trips with faculty. The money will be matched up to \$100,000. Jim M described the letter we received from the University inviting people to participate in their 3-day celebration plus they are asking for money (attached below). He recommended that the Council make a donation. A **motion** was made to provide a \$500 donation, seconded and passed unanimously. Jim will follow up to facilitate getting the money to the university.

**Adjourn: 6:00 pm**

**Attachment:**

**Letter regarding University of Washington 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (see paragraph 6. b.):**

Dear

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Fisheries program at the University of Washington. To celebrate this illustrious anniversary, I am proposing that all the fly-fishing clubs in the state step up and recognize the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS).

Specifically, what I am proposing is that all our clubs make contributions to the UW SAFS Centennial Boots in the Mud Fund for Students. This fund, which currently has a dollar-for-dollar match for gifts up to \$100,000 total, is intended to provide SAFS students with flexible support to get them out into the field to conduct research alongside the program's world-renowned faculty.

Along with your support, you are all more than welcome to come to campus for the Centennial festivities, which include a three-day symposium and celebration this April. See attached for more on that. Further, if there were enough interest, we could also gather again sometime in the summer or fall and tour the School, meet some of the faculty and students, as well as members of other fly clubs.

I have included a list of fly-fishing clubs in the state of Washington that have received this letter. If you have contact information for those clubs without an address, please let me know.

My contact at the University of Washington is Gerald Cournoyer, Associate Director for Advancement. His direct line is (206) 221-0562 and his email is [gcourn@uw.edu](mailto:gcourn@uw.edu). Please feel free to contact him with any questions you might have about supporting and/or attending this historic occasion.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Wearne

[MWearne@columbiabank.com](mailto:MWearne@columbiabank.com), (253) 305-1562  
Member, Washington Fly Fishing Club