Estuaries Section ExCom Meeting

February 8, 2023, 11:00-12:00 (eastern)

Members present: John Mohan, Justin Stevens, Catherine Johnston, Amanda Croteau

Motion to approve minutes by Justin; Second by Catherine; Minutes approved

* + Motion: Justin, Second, Catherine

Treasurer’s Report submitted by Konstantine Rountos

* Our current balance is $3,933.52
* Our checks to AFS for 1) Student memberships and 2) Donation to LACFC have cleared.
* Our 2022 Form 990-N tax form has been submitted and accepted by the IRS

Website update

* Mike Curtis has been actively updating the website; Abigail can now step back from the website

SNEC and GB meeting updates from Justin; Lee Justin and Abigail attended

* Great meeting with four concurrent sessions, busy and well attended meeting; Good venue; Good mix of students and professionals; Good key note speakers and interesting mix of talks
* Governing Board highlights: revision of policy for selecting presidents (procedural timeline for selection); Considering selling real estate that AFS owns, shift away from no physical assets; financial overview - dues and revenues from annual meetings don’t always cover costs, what keeps AFS stable are periodic influxes of money from other sources; breakout session with discussion about membership and membership benefits for strategic plan; Snake River Dam Removal policy

Spring elections and ExCom positions

* Solicit for nominations: President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer
* Open announcement in newsletter, email announcement; Close nominations a few weeks before election opens
  + Rough timeline: open elections for mid-June, close in Mid-July, official transition at annual meeting
* Reminders for renewals to be distributed to 2022 members using and old membership list (August); include loss of estuaries communication and a reminder that elections are upcoming and only active members can run for positions and vote

Newsletter

* Aim for March for Spring newsletter
* Content for Spring newsletter:
  + Final 3 student award winners (1 virtual, 2 in-person)
  + Announce elections
  + Promote Latin American Fisheries Conference and annual meeting at Grand Rapids
  + Announce travel awards for annual meeting
    - Timeline for travel awards: submit by early June, announce winners mid-June so they have time to meet early registration deadlines
* Have mid-summer newsletter that’s a preview to annual meeting

Monsters planning for Grand Rapids MI

* Lee working on theme for Monsters related to inclusion and involvement in fisheries with broad geographic scope
* Fee associated with participation will help cover costs

Student travel awards for Grand Rapids

* Submit by early June, announce mid-June, so they have time to meet early registration deadlines
* How many can we support - MS and PhD in-person, virtual? Cost approximately 1300; preference for retaining in-person awards if cost is too high for all three

Estuaries sponsored symposia for Grand Rapids

* Deadline for submission has passed
* If proposals are extended, propose an Estuaries Section sponsored symposia “Anthropogenic Impacts on Estuaries”, which is an update to a sponsored session from years ago (suggested by Konstantine)

Student engagement with Estuaries Section

* Discussion of a possible mentorship program. During the first year, ExCom members would nominate students who get AFS and Estuaries Section membership, and participate in estuaries section meetings, and other mentoring meetings; If feedback is positive, we could call for nominations from the section for the following cohorts; Another avenue to increase student involvement with section and AFS
* UNE is restarting a student subunit and John will be the advisor