

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting – Seattle, Washington
AFS Estuaries Section Business Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2011

7:32 President Lee Benaka began the meeting.

Agenda Item: Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award Update

Lee read Tom Bigford's remarks regarding the award. Award nominations are open until the end of September. The award will no longer be presented during the Estuaries Section meeting, it will be presented during a separate event in Washington DC which will include a lecture.

Agenda Item: Old Business

Lee read and directed members to the President's report.

There will be an election this Fall, and he will be recruiting nominees for President Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary for 2 Year terms. Lee will be in contact through email and voting will be conducted via email.

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance \$2,079.71

Ending Balance \$1633.75

The Section's main expenses have been student travel awards, refreshments for the annual meeting, and plaques for award winners. Our main income is from dues and reimbursements from our partners.

Carolyn Griswold asked if Washington DC be a permanent venue for the Nancy Foster Award? Lee replied that Tom Bigford and his colleagues have been rethinking the presentation of the award. The Estuaries Section will still be involved and usually provides reviewers for the award. The Award Committee is trying to focus awards on Marine Habitat work. Past nomination packets have been for people who are involved in freshwater habitat work.

Agenda Item: President's Remarks

The Section awarded 3 students with travel awards of \$500. The Section has sponsored symposiums but does not often organize symposiums. Lee suggested some topics for symposia and asked for suggestions.

Symposium Ideas:

-Lee suggested American Reinvestment and Recovery Act projects focused on fish habitat restoration. We could approach the Bioengineering Section about co-sponsoring.

-John Boreman suggested the impact of climate change, specifically the effects of sea level rise on the state of estuaries. NGOs have raised questions about whether estuaries will be lost. John will contact Lee Benaka with ideas.

-Roger Rulifson suggested the effects of hurricanes (nutrient loads, remediation), and specifically fish kills resulting from hurricane Irene.

Lee solicited ideas for involving more people in the Estuaries Section.

John Hoenig asked why there are so few members at the meeting? Desmond Kahn thought perhaps because there are fewer West Coast members.

Abigail suggested making sure that Estuaries meeting does not conflict with student social.

John Hoenig commented that in the past he felt that there was value in Sections because they gave his students travel money.

Desmond suggested that if there was a Symposium focused on Puget Sound this year, or whatever area the meeting is held at, that it would attract more members.

Larry Miller commented that on the West Coast Chapter and Division meetings are more well attended than on the East Coast. We could look for opportunities to work with them directly.

Desmond Kahn and John Hoenig proposed that for the next meeting we should actively reach out to members of the local Division to collaborate

7:56 Adjourned.