

**American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section Business Meeting
East Lansing, Michigan; April 2, 2017**

FHS President Dave Groman convened the meeting at ~ 10:15 am EDT.

Doug Munson reviewed minutes from the 2016 Section business meeting. Munson reported that two (2) labs had complete applications for the Tier 1 accreditation program, & he anticipated at least three (3) more applications this year.

Linda Rhodes reported that the Section's total bank assets (as of March 22, 2017) are \$98,777. In calendar year 2016, total income was \$6,004 & total expenditures were \$12,751. Most of the expenditures (~\$7,894) was advance costs for ISAAH-8, & most of the total operating expenses (total of \$427) was for transferring paper records between the former & current secretaries of the Professional Standards committee. In 2017 (up through March 22), total income was \$811 & total expenditures was \$7,342. Although these total amounts include the Tier 1 accreditation program, the accounting for that program is maintained separately to ensure it is self-supporting.

Mid-Year Governing Board Meeting (Mystic, CT; March 1, 2017): Dave Groman attended the meeting as the Section's President, & compiled a summary of topics from the meeting that would have direct impact on the Section (see attachment). Two possible changes in the next year are the transfer of the Section's website to management by AFS & the possibility of archiving Section records to AFS servers. Groman noted that the European Association of Fish Pathologist's (EAFP) website is a good model. It is anticipated that the Listserv will migrate to AFS servers, & that membership rolls will be directly accessible (instead of the current monthly spreadsheet sent to the Section President). There will be more information, including training, as AFS completes development & testing. The governing board was concerned about the impact of the current Federal executive branch on fisheries & fisheries-dependent habitat, & it planned to develop an impact statement that can be shared with fisheries organizations & companies.

Goede Fish Health Index: Ron & Lisa Goede, who developed the Index, had contacted Jim Winton about updating the Index for an on-line presence. Winton reviewed the history of the Index, pointing out that ~1,000 people had been trained in the 1990's on DOS-based software. Winton presented results a survey to establish the use of the Index. Briefly, among the 23 respondents representing a wide range of agencies (State, Tribal, Federal), > 60% continue to use the Index in whole or in part. Furthermore, 85% would like an electronic format, a supplemental

photo archive, & supportive training. There was discussion about whether the Technical Standards committee could incorporate the Index into the Blue Book as downloadable software & the high cost of scanning photos. Vicky Blazer noted that USGS has an abundance of data & images to contribute. Groman moved that the executive communicate with the Technical Standards committee about incorporating the Index into the Blue Book. Motion was seconded by Munson, & pass unanimously.

Committee reports: A summary of committee activities is attached to the minutes. Groman reviewed the Executive Committee's discussion about renaming & expanding the International Meeting Oversight committee to a broader meeting committee that could develop protocols & guidelines for planning meetings. Currently members of this meeting are Jerri Bartholomew, Andy Kane, & Groman. Tom Loch, the Section's liaison to the AVMA, encouraged members to inform him about issues to take the AVMA meetings, as there are multiple overlapping interests of both the Section & the AVMA.

Emily Cornwall announced that the number of student travel award applications was higher this year (n = 11) than in previous years, resulting in 5 awards. She felt this also elevated the number of students presentations at this meeting (n = 17).

Hossam Abdelhamed presented results from last month's election. There were three (3) candidates for Vice President, one (1) for the Professional Standards committee, two (2) for the Technical Standards committee, & one (1) for the Nominating & Balloting committee. Initial notice of election was sent out by email on March 15, & reminders were sent on March 20, 24, & 27. There were a total of 166 responses, & the results were: Vice President - Ben LaFrentz; Professional Standards - Mark Lawrence; Technical Standards - Mohamed Faisal; Nominating & Balloting - Derek Gibbs.

ISAAH-8: Groman & Esteban Soto have been working on many details for the meeting. An initial website has been set up for the meeting (<https://isaah2018.com>). A couple of sponsorships have already been submitted, & there is hope to gain more international support from other professional fish health societies (e.g., EAFP, Asian Fisheries Society). Registration for ISAAH-8 should begin in January 2018.

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.

The meeting adjourned at ~ 11:45 am EDT.

Minutes by Linda Rhodes.

Attachments:

AFS 2017 Mid-year Governing Board Meeting Summary

2016 AFS FHS Committee Reports

AFS Mid-year Governing Board Meeting
(Mystic Connecticut – March 1, 2017)

Listed below are key points identified from this meeting which may impact the efficient functioning of the Fish Health Section:

- 1 The will be a publications workshop in Reno Nevada this coming spring, 25 people from the AFS community are invited, not sure if editors or associate editors of the JAAH were invited, but will find out. The goal is to streamline the publication process and discuss vehicles for getting AFS info out to the membership and general population quickly and efficiently.
- 2 Publications editor discuss impact factors and performance of journal, JAAH and NAJA were identified as having the lowest impact factors. Some discuss as to the usefulness or not of combining these to journals into one. Food for thought.
- 3 Discussions on putting government (state, federal and provincial) “grey literature” (eg internal reports) into a searchable data base. All present were in favor of this.
- 4 Regarding AFS website, it will shortly be updated with a full data entry section for Units and Sections. This will be password protected, with limited access to likely heads and secretary treasurers. This will be a dropdown menu data collection portal where we will be asked to summarize once per year all our activities which fall under the AFS Strategies. No more randomly written summary reports to AFS but rather a targeted data collection portal. Some discuss on expanding this in time to allow for archiving all of our data.

Also this portal will have all the details on members of the AFS, with contact info so we will no longer get a monthly spreadsheet but will be able to utilize this membership list to do mass emailing etc.
- 5 Currently there is a small \$ bonus system in place to recruitment by Units and Sections for new members, not utilized very much. We could examine this option.
- 6 A long discussion was undertaken on how to increase diversity of the general AFS membership.
- 7 Due to the new US anti-environmental administration, an extended discussion and debate ensued on how best to develop policies, disseminate our concerns and link with likeminded organization to get the word out to the general public in the US about these actions. This is a work in progress and is taking a fast track, so keep abreast of this on the AFS website, as member input is needed.
- 8 AFS will likely begin to develop webinars on Media Training for Units and Sections.

- 9 Discussion about Student Travel funds and support to the national AFS meeting was discussed and well as general fund raising to various programs (eg Hutton Student Mentor Program). I suggested to the board that if a Unit or Section was to provide student travel funds and AFS should consider matching these funds to allow us to get more students to annual meetings.
- 10 AFS has a dedicated web support and conference support person (s) who primarily coordinates the Annual Meetings. But, these folk are available to assist with consulting on Unit and Section meetings. Also the AFS now has a generic webpage which we can utilize for meetings. Although the parent society did not offer to run Unit and Section meetings they are able to assist folk in setting these up.
- 11 I present a 3 slide PowerPoint on the 2018 ISA AH and we had some discussion on how AFS headquarters could assist folk in fund raising for these types of Unit meetings.
- 12 AFS now offers a standardized website which can be use by all units and sections, if we want to move our FHS website over to this format they will assist in training and maintenance of this.

Respectfully submitted,

David Groman, FHS President
(April 2nd, 2017)

2016 – 2017
Fish Health Section – AFS Committee Summaries & Reports

Compiled for FHS Executive Committee Meeting April 2, 2017
Michigan State University Kellogg Center
East Lansing, Michigan. USA

2016 FHS Exec Meeting Summary:

1. By-laws amendment for officer succession. A system was proposed by Groman to have President & Vice President positions replace the current 4 positions. This was presented at both the Excomm & Business meetings, but not any further by the Excomm.
2. Modify the Snieszko award criteria into 2 tracks, service & research. Whether the criteria have been modified might emerge in the committee reports.
3. Use of non-veterinarians for veterinary tasks. As liaison to the AVMA, Loch may have an update.
4. Section membership & publishing JAAH abstracts in Spanish.
5. Tier 1 Fish Health QA/QC program. Munson will have an update, including labs already with ISO17025 certification? I have received payments from 5 institutions (state labs in Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming; USFWS in New Mexico).
6. Student/early professionals involvement in the Section. Maybe an update from Long?
7. Credit cards for payment to the Section. This needs better discussion with Marcino to establish a recordkeeping pathway. The current method is unidirectional with low risk of error.

JAAH – No Summary

Standing Committees

2016 FHS Archives Committee Summary Report:

The biographies for recent S.F. Snieszko Distinguished Service Award winners have been added to the AFS-FHS website. The biographical information is now updated through 2016.

Diane has received several boxes of materials for archiving from Drew Mitchell. She is working on first categorizing and then sending these materials to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish SD. Drew has supplied materials such as old reprints, including of papers written on fish health issues before 1900, as well as a dissection microscope that was originally owned by US fish health pioneer H.S. Davis.

A suggestion has been made that programs/abstract books from previous FHS- AFS annual meetings be posted on the Section website. The committee will look into obtaining these materials from past meetings via announcements in the FHS listserv and by contacting former Section members.

Diane Elliott, Rocco Cipriano, Gary Wedemeyer

2016 FHS Awards Committee Summary:

This year the Awards Committee received one (1) nomination for the Snieszko Distinguished Service Award. Voting from members of the ExCom and previous award recipients showed strong support for the nominee.

We also received 11 applications for the Snieszko Student Travel Award, including 5 applications from PhD students, 5 applications from Masters students, and 1 application from a veterinary student.

Thanks to the additional funding for student travel awards authorized by the ExCom, we were able to fund 5 students (2 PhD, 2 Masters, and 1 Veterinary) to attend the annual meeting.

Thanks, Emily Cornwell

2016 FHS Continuing Education Committee Report:

Details of 2016 CE offerings were added to the list of previous AFS-FHS continuing education classes (from 1994) available on the AFS-FHS website.

Our Provider status (valid for two years) was due to expire January, 2017. Renewal is online and payment must occur concurrently by credit card. This year we coordinated with our FHS treasurer Linda Rhodes and used the Section's Visa card to pay the \$250 fee. Status can be renewed any time prior to expiration but the processing date automatically becomes the new expiry date. We contacted Jess Klein (RACE) and requested that the dates align (and our term not is shortened); renewed status expires 1/16/19.

In September 2016, Chris Wilson approached the CEC regarding holding a QA/QC CE session for labs interested in obtaining accreditation. Discussion with organizers of both the Eastern Fish Health Workshop and Western Fish Disease Workshop resulted in the same CE workshop scheduled to be held in conjunction with both meetings in 2017 – the EFHW in April (Michigan) and the WFDW in June (Washington). The AAVSB RACE approved 8.0 credit hours of Continuing Education for the full day class “Quality Management System Training” RACE Program # 546-28948. Topics to be covered will include: document writing and control, record keeping, training, equipment, corrective action, root cause analysis and internal audits. This training will be valuable for all aquatic animal health laboratories, and especially those who are participating in the QA/QC recognition program of the AFS-FHS. The instructor will be Kelly Burkhart, microbiologist and quality management trainer with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

FHS 2017 Election Results:

Dear Colleagues,

The AFS FHS Nominating and Balloting Committee have completed this year's elections and the new members are below.

Vice President:	Benjamin R. LaFrentz
Professional Standards Committee:	Mark Lawrence
Technical Standards Committee:	Mohamed Faisal
Nominating and Balloting Committee:	G. Derek Gibbs

Congratulations! to the newly elected members. If you are not elected this year, please consider being a nominee for the next year. Thank you for your participation.

Regards, Attila Chair, Nominating and Balloting Committee

2016 Professional Standards Committee Summary:

Since the last annual meeting in Jackson Hole, the Professional Standards Committee has considered and acted on the following applications:

AAHI Certification:

Applied: 3 candidates
Accepted/Passed: 2 of 3 candidates Scheduled to take the test: 1 of 3 candidates

AAHI Recertification:

Applied: 4 candidates
Accepted/Passed: All 4 candidates
Denied/Deferred: none

FP Certification:

Applied: 1 candidate
Accepted/Passed: none
Denied/Deferred: 1 candidate

FP Recertification:

Applied: 1 candidate
Accepted: 1 candidate
Denied/Deferred: none

We also provided advice to people considering certification or recertification.

Sincerely,
Gary D. Marty - Chair, FHS/AFS Professional Standards Committee

2016 FHS Policy Committee Info:

Email-1:

Wasn't sure if you wanted to hear from me (i.e. Policy/Position Development Committee), since we communicated in January 2017.

As I mentioned previously the Policy Posse has had no new issues or policies to review. You mentioned previously that you possibly wanted us to review the funding of training Fish Health Professionals by FHS.

I didn't receive any more information, so I'm assuming this issue was resolved by the Exec.

Email-2:

Yes please send along the pertinent background information regarding the funding issue for FH professionals, and the policy committee (currently Luciano and I) can review it. The committee has not been active for some time, when I first joined the committee I contacted the current president, Paul Hershberger, and asked if I needed to perform any specific duties. Apparently we're only active if a politically volatile fish health issue arises that requires a position statement or if an in-house AFS FH policy needs some review.

In regards to the committee position vacancy whomever the nominating chair (Attila) nominates is fine with me.

Thanks, Evi

2016 FHS Technical Standards Committee Update:

- 1) In 2016 a Blue Book update was completed, which included updates and new chapters including:
 - 2.2.2 Erythrocytic Inclusion Body Syndrome (EIBS)
 - 2.2.6. Viral Erythrocytic Necrosis (VEN)
 - 2.2.14. Viral Encephalopathy and Retinopathy (VER; marine nodavirus)
 - 2.A.1. Methods for Mycoplasma Testing in Cell Culture
 - 6.1. Diseases of Crustaceans Introduction

- 2) A 2017 update is on schedule for the end of August 2017. New chapters and updates will include:
 - Epizootic epitheliotropic disease (EED) (New)
 - Heterosporis (New)
 - Microsporidiosis in laboratory fish (New)
 - Fish Disease Caused by Streptococcus (New to replace older chapter)
 - Salmonid ceratomyxosis (Update)

- 3) An error in the listed PCR primers and PCR amplicon size was corrected in Section 2.5.4. *Tetracapsula bryosalmonae* (proliferative kidney disease) of the Blue Book.
- 4) The committee will be working on preparing “Author Guidelines” for authors preparing new chapters or updates for the Blue Book.
- 5) Discussion occurred regarding new updates suggested for Section 2 (USFWS/AFS-FHS Standard Procedures for Aquatic Animal Health Inspections) of the Blue Book. Communication included the Technical Standards Committee and Ryan Katona (Inspection Committee co-chair). Two updates have been identified, including a PCR screening method for *Myxobolus cerebralis* and a PCR screening method for viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus from tissue.

Jan Lovy (Chair), Nick Phelps (past Chair), Sascha Hallett, Cova Arias

Ad-Hoc Committees

2016 FHS Inspection Committee Update summary :

- 1) Conference Call September 2016
 - a. Discussed making updates on VHSV (qPCR), ISAV, and Myxobolus cerebralis (qPCR) in Section 2.
 - b. Could not agree on how to make these updates happen. For example would VHSV real time PCR be added as a screening tool or a confirmatory tool? Came to a conclusion that a letter should be drafted and sent off to the Executive Committee asking for guidance.
- 2) Letter was submitted December 2016
 - a. Ryan Katona (Co-Chair), and Jan Lavoy (Co-Chair) put together a letter with input from the Technical Standards Committee, and the Inspection Committee
 - b. Letter was submitted to Dave Groman, and circulated amongst the Executive Committee

2016 FHS International Meetings Committee:

Since the last FHS Executive meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming the follow key steps have been taken to get the ISAAH 2018 off the ground:

- 1 - Agreement Signed between FHS and PEI BioAlliance on designation of responsibilities for setting up and running the meeting;
- 2 - Contract signed between FHS and Delta Hotel and Convention Center which will be the conference venue;
- 3 - Down payment of \$ 10,000 Canadian made to Delta Hotel and Conference Center (second payment of \$10,000 Canadian due September 2017);
- 4 - Meeting held in PEI with local co-hosts, primarily fish health and aquaculture companies who will assist with meeting;

- 5 - Sponsorship letter sent out to potential sponsors, 2 of which have already committed and one of which has transferred \$ 2500 CAD to the conference account at the PEI BioAlliance;
- 6 - Funds transferred from FHS to PEI BioAlliance conference account to cover startup cost of advertising and website design and implementation;
- 7 - Graphics and Website development underway (will show example at General FHS Meeting), with launch to occur 18 months prior to meeting sometime in April 2017;
- 8 - ISAAH website URL assigned (<https://isaah2018.com/>)
- 9 - Promotional Video updated to reflect conference logo

FHS Section Communications Committee 2016-2017 Annual Report:

The Section Communications Committee is comprised of two members that assist FHS communication to section members and non-member fish health professionals. Current forms of communication include the website, listserv, and the poster. The current members are Ben LaFrentz (Listserv Editor, Chair) and Andy Goodwin (Website Editor).

2016-2017 Highlights:

1. The listserv continues to post announcements for the FHS, fish health related meetings/workshops, job announcements, resources, fish health in the news, industry news and urgent FHS news.
 - a. The listserv continues to be sent approximately bimonthly to monthly and highlights section news before introducing other meetings and opportunities.
 - b. I maintain a list of individuals (mainly committee chairs) that are periodically contacted to request information for updates; all other information is supplied by members or others in the field.
 - c. Dave Groman and/or the parent society provides me monthly FHS membership roster, and I add new members to the list serve member roster to ensure all new paid members receive this benefit.

2016 FHS Student and Early Career Involvement Committee:

The Student and Early Career Involvement Committee have continued efforts to increase membership and participation in the Section.

1. We will be holding a workshop for student and early career members at the FHS and EFHW meetings entitled 'Embark on Successful Career in Fish Health' with the following speakers.

Publishing piscatorial papers: Dos and don'ts

Jeffrey C. Wolf, Experimental Pathology Laboratories, Journal of Aquatic Animal Health Editor

Research funding: Where to find it and how to get it

James R. Winton, USGS Western Fisheries Research Center

Successful navigation of the graduate school journey Ron Thune, Professor, Louisiana State University

There will also be a panel Q+A session. We would like to thank the FHS EXCOM and the FHS meeting organizers for their assistance in developing and scheduling this workshop. We'd also like to thank Jeff Wolf, Ron Thune, and Jim Winton for participating.

2. We have posted information about upcoming events/opportunities for students. Since the blog was started in 2012, there have been 32,932 page views. The LinkedIn group is still active (https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8129129&trk=anet_ug_hm)

Recruitment and Retention - No submission

FHS 2016 QA Committee Summary:

The QA/QC committee has had an active year, with in-person meetings in Jackson, WY at the Western Fish Disease Workshop, a work retreat in Utah in September, and numerous conference calls. The Tier 1 (pre-qualification) process was finalized and 3 laboratories (CO, ID and WY) successfully applied in 2016. We expect a number of additional labs to apply by the deadline in March 2017.

The current challenge is to work out the details for the Tier 2 (recognition). Key components will hopefully include audits, training of employees, site visits and proficiency testing. The committee is exploring ways to partner with other organizations, such as NAHLN, or private lab services to accomplish this. The goal is to have Tier 2 process up and running in 2018.

A QA/QC training session will occur at the FHS meeting in April and again at the Western Fish Disease workshop in June. Presentations have been made at AVMA, WAFWA, and the Rocky Plains/PNFHPC meetings, and this initiative has been very well received.

Chris Wilson