*Notes from March 16, 2017, Call*

Participants: CERF – Susan Park; ASLO – Adrienne Sponberg and Shelly Arnott ; PSA – Tim Nelson; SWS – Gillian Davies and Kim Ponzio; AFS - Jesse Trushenski and Tom Bigford. Randy Fuller and Doug Austen could not participate.

1. Request any changes to the proposed agenda
   1. Add discussion about letters to defend proposed budget cuts (Sea Grant, environmental justice, climate, science generally, etc.)
   2. Add discussion about JASM 2022
2. Approve notes from February call (circulated by Randy on March 15)
   1. Notes approved without further changes
3. Clarify role of AFS to lead calls, produce agenda, and take notes
   1. Confirmed that AFS will lead as per prior agreement

4.     FMCS joining the CASS group

a.        Finish discussion about inviting FMCS using existing process and MOU (shared by Randy on March 15).

Action: Propose revisions to reflect discussions about inviting new members to CASS, sharing booths at CASS-member meetings and elsewhere, and schedule for updating and resigning the MOU. All agreed now is an appropriate time to re-sign with FMCS joining and several society officers changing.

Task: Tom to revise MOU for CASS review and agreement at April call.

b. Discuss draft invitation letter shared by Randy on March 15

Action: Agree on letter content – unanimous acceptance of Randy’s draft

Task: Assign person to send letter to FMCS – AFS to send

5.       Continue discussion on Fellow

a.       Update on discussions and possible partnership with Steve Snell – Kim led a discussion about a Fellow/intern/extern based on our call last week. All agreed to proceed cautiously, beginning with a short-term opportunity likely with a partner such as AU or Johns Hopkins, in the DC area. We are establishing a small group (one rep per society) to identify potential tasks, consider how to balance needs of all societies, identify possible sponsors and associated risks, and discuss how to include potential new CASS society members. The small group includes Kim, Susan, and Tom so far; others pending.

Task: SFS, PSA, and ASLO to identify their rep to working group.

Task: Kim reschedule with Steve Snell

Action: Kim to review notes from 2016 discussions about priorities and possible tasks.

6.       MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences).

a. 32nd Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA: March 29 - April 1, 2017

b.        Confirmed SWS plans to have a booth and share with CASS members.

Action: Adrienne to work with Steve Murray (PSA) to get banner to event.

Action: Adrienne to send file of existing CASS pamphlet.

Task: AFS to develop a Google Calendar or add to website

7. Website build out

a. Discuss plans, including Google Calendar or other meeting scheduler

Task: Tom to work within AFS on this and Calendar.

8.       Diversity Joint Venture

a.        Next event is DJV meeting on March 28-30; Doug to attend.

b. Confirmed that focus is on natural resources and participants are federal agencies and private sector partners such as NGOs.

9.       WOTUS

a.        Review process to develop letters to White House, Congress, and EPA. Thanked Gillian and ASLO for its leadership. Gillian summarized coverage by digital and print media plus TV. Included were interviews with a scientist and lawyer who worked on the *amicus* brief. Additional opportunities continue to arise.

Task: Suggest names to Gillian of DC-area wetlands experts who can work with journalists seeking to film a wetland that would be jurisdictional in existing rules but not in the proposed WOTUS rule.

b. We discussed lessons learned. One that applies to our plans to write letters re the proposed budget cuts is whether to write one letter per agency or mandate or one letter addressing all CASS concerns. We decided on the latter, with an opening introduction summarizing our concerns for science budgets related to CASS interests and then separate paragraphs on the proposed cuts in each agency and/or congressional committee’s jurisdiction. We should coordinate our messages with obvious partners such as SGA and NERRA and perhaps consider co-signing with such groups.

10. ESA meeting with Sen. Booker’s staff

a. Intent is to share insights on recovery planning and more as related to Congressional effort to “modernize” the law.

b. Scheduled meeting on March 15 has been postponed till March 29 (3pm); AFS and SFS plan to attend. We will be joined by The Wildlife Society. Other CASS members are welcome to join us.

Task: Tom check with Quentin Stubbs regarding his interests in representing SWS.

11.       Booth exchanges at our conferences (Kim)

a.        See above under agenda item #5 re need to revise the CASS MOU to reflect our intent to share a booth at our respective society meetings and at other events such as SACNAS and MANRRS.

12.       U.S.A. Science and Engineering Festival

a. April 6-8, 2018; space registration deadline for discount pricing was February 15

b.        A double booth was purchased by ASLO and will be shared with other CASS societies.

13.       AIBS Biological and Ecological Science Congressional Visitors Day

a. Quentin Stubbs (SWS) will attend the training session on April 25 and member visits on April 26. No other interest was expressed.

Task: Tom to confirm that Quentin is on the CASS mailing list for group emails.

14. DC Presence

a. SWS rep identified on February call (Quentin Stubbs); others?

15. JASM 2022

a. A CASS work group met recently; Michelle Baker shared notes. CASS needs to identify a lead society for key actions related to the meeting – contract signatures, payments, meeting management coordination, and more. We need to create an MOU and establish procedures to revise based on CASS membership changes and more. Plans now are to share a draft MOU by later this spring and identify a site by December.

Task: Create quarterly process for JASM work group to update CASS during its monthly calls. With Michelle’s recent report, we’ll start this at our June call.

Task: Work Group to provide a summary of JASM 2014 as background.

16. SWS update

a. As done for the amicus briefing on WOTUS, SWS has prepared a review of science related to wetlands and climate. A manuscript has been submitted to The Wetlands Journal for peer review. The paper will cover carbon, policy implications, strategic responses, and more.

b. We agreed with SWS that a letter transmitting the report to key leaders would be in our best interest. It is anticipated that this opportunity will be in a few months depending on publication.

Notes prepared by Tom Bigford (AFS)