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**AGENDA – CASS call August 31, 2017, 2:30 – 3:30pm ET**

1. Introductions and approval of agenda

Attendees: Drue Winters, AFS; Gillian Davies, SWS; Adrienne Sponberg, ASLO; Jeremy Tiemann, FMCS; Susan Park, CERF; Alison Sherwood, PSA; Jessie Trushenski, AFS; Michael Twiss, IAGLR; Colden Baxter, SFS; Randy Fuller, SFS; Steve McMurray, FMCS; Dianne Lauritsen, NALMS; Shelly Arnott, ASLO; Quentin Stubbs, SWS.

The agenda was approved without objection.

1. Approval of July notes

There were no corrections to the notes and were approved without objection.

1. Outreach to potential new members (ASIH and others)

Jeremy Tiemann proposed adding American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) to Tom Bigford. It is an aquatic science society and some of their members overlap with AFS. They do ecology and systematic work. They have a conservation committee that is being resurrected. They have a lot of conservation minded members. Jessie supports making overtures.

Task: Jeremy to reach out and Drue to follow up.

4. WOTUS

a. Extension of Comment Period to September 27, 2017-Provided information on the 30-day extension of the comment period.

b. Status of comment letter and timeline for finalization-Comments being incorporated now. We’ll have a draft for review for the whole group by mid-to late next week. Final approval within a week. Limit comments to factual issues or deal breaker issues. President Trump released an exec order in February. Some CASS groups and 3 outside groups signed a letter, ESA helped with a press release that led to significant media coverage. Gillian suggests we ask ESA, AIBS, and Society for Ecological Restoration to sign. There were no objections The advantages of doing so would be 200,000 members signing-on and could help with media release to get good coverage. This puts aquatic issues on the radar of larger groups and increases awareness. Letter would go out with logos on the top rather than CASS letterhead. Dianne Lauritsen expressed concern with the length of the letter, but Gillian explained that EPA/Corps will have to respond to each comment and there is a benefit to having individual comment. A. Sherwood supports.

Task: Gillian to circulate a final draft by Sept. 7 and coordinate with other organizations for signature.

Task: Put background on web so that member groups can get more information.

c. Step 2 Rule replacement -stakeholder involvement opportunity: https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2017-18214.pdf

EPA to hold teleconference on Nov. 7 for scientists and written recommendations due before Nov. 28. Dec. 23 in person meeting for small entities in DC to give recommendations for the new rule. Written comments will be formulated from CASS and as many people on the call and in-person meeting as possible. Colden Baxter wants us to identify ourselves as members of CASS and respective organizations on these calls/in meetings.

Task: Dianne can reach out to AWWA to encourage them to call-in

Task: SFS has a committee that will be putting together talking points on Step 2. Colden Baxter will share those with the group.

1. Proposed letter to President Trump on science funding, science appointments, climate

Gillian approvs and suggested we make the connection with Texas. Dianne suggested using the Canadian experience and cutbacks as an example. Highlight the weaked Clean Water rule that will exacerbate bad consequences. Susan suggested potential hooks with Harvey, repeal of executive order around climate change. Michael from IAGLR likes the Canadian example.

Task: Drue to take the lead on drafting. Will circulate a draft after we finalize WOTUS letter.

1. HELP for Wildlife Act-Great Lakes amendment-just FYI
2. Update on CASS Fellow and next steps

Background-our ideal was to fund a post-grad for a year-long fellowship in DC like a Knauss fellowship. The objective was a bit of policy capacity to CASS members and the ability to give a young person some policy experience. Stipend is around the order of $40-45k and the rest of the $65,000 is towards benefits, travel, professional development.

Quentin Stubbs provided information on his fellowship. In that program, a fellow worked in a congressional office for half a year and a committee or at another institution the rest of the year. Quentin’s idea was discussed as a possibility but that wasn’t the direction that the group had originally contemplated.

Task: Susan will send an email to the group to give a status update on the CASS fellow idea.

8. CASS events and activities and public affairs

a.    CASS promotional materials-banners and brochures

CERF is Nov. 9 and CASS will have a booth . If we could get some materials that are more reflective of what CASS is all about, they would welcome that. CASS also has a booth at SACNAS in October.

Jessie says the old materials were for SACNAS last year. Drue to propose to AFS communications team to help us revise the materials. Dianne Lauritsen to assist.

What do we want to see CASS become? Diversity and outreach, aquatic science career promotion, policy, professional development. IAGLR is hosting a continuing education for journal article reviewers. This is a good example of web content.

Task: Post on CASS website the animal welfare guidance documents developed by ASIH and ASF.

1. Website

Add more for it to be a resource for individual members as well as the public. Sharing educational materials, job posting board. NALMS recently updated recent educational brochure-Your Lake and You.

1. Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) 2022 MOU
   1. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zDbHmIJw2lskAvIQGT3EY1nqOS6iy0s_4iOtq_HCpag/edit>
   2. No updates at this time. Last correspondence was mid-July.

Drue to do doodle poll for 2nd week of September