



# Water Quality Section Business Meeting

8/22/22 4:30–6:00 pm local time

Spokane, WA and Virtual

Location: Spokane Convention Center room 202AB

Call-in information:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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Meeting ID: 299 132 424 328

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Or call in (audio only)

+1 509-931-1514,,334515473# <tel:+15099311514,,334515473#> United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: 334 515 473#

## AGENDA

### 1. Introductions and call for a quorum

Attendees:

Joe Ebersole – In person, WQS member, EPA researcher

Barbara Knuth – In person, WQS member, Prof. Cornell: risk communication

Michael Lagua – In person, NFWF Data Scientist

Jenna Hanks – In person, Development Manager, AFS

Jeff Kopaska – In person, WQS member, Fish Biometrician

Brian Murphy – In person, AFS Past-President

Henrietta (Yetta) Jager – Virtual, WQS Member and Past-President, ORNL

Mike Bonoff – WQS member, Limnologist: hydropower, 401 compliance

Gregg Lomnicky – Virtual, WQS member and Secretary/Treasurer, Aquatic Ecologist

Paul Kusnierz – In person, WQS member and President, Fisheries Biologist

John Meldrim – Virtual, WQS member, started the section, Sec/Treasurer for 30 years

Bill Hagar – In person, WQS member, Prof. U Mass Boston: acid rain

Bob Hughes – In person, WQS member

Doug Shepherd –

A quorum was not achieved because 10 WQS members were present.

### 2. Brian Murphy spoke (this was an in-meeting addition)

Brian Murphy – short update of what's going on at AFS, also Jenna Hanks new staff member



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- Hutton program, high school students work for 8 weeks paired with a mentor. Looking to bring them to VPI for a week interacting with researchers, symposium. Montana State University in Bozeman, MT this year. Encouraged sections to contribute.
- Procedures manual, Leanne has updated some of it this year. Paul mentioned that the WQS is working on a manual that will be placed on the section website when completed.

### 3. Budget Update

Gregg Lomnicky – One expense for the year to reimburse Margaret Murphy for her poster. Income of \$1,022 in dues, total assets \$29,563 this year, decreased some due to the stock market decline.

### 4. Diversity and inclusion

Paul: There is a lot going on within AFS. The section hasn't actively participated in efforts. What involvement do we want to have? Membership has been declining for us and other sections.

Gregg: ~195 student members

Jeff: Eroded trust in government since the Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation. Gen X's are individualistic and competitive. We've done a poor job of banding together and doing important things together. Focus on Gen-Z and Millennials as they are more interested in accomplishing things locally.

Brian Murphy: Need to plan for relevance to the members. Hutton program reaches out to diverse groups. Struggling with membership and diversity is a perennial problem. Student travel award to help/improve membership. Habitat section, Tech section, and Fisheries Information Sections have travel awards.

Yetta: Environmental justice from a water quality perspective (there were lots of heads shaking "yes" in the room).

Someone: Interested in hypoxia, broader spectrum of people engaged  
Plenary speaker, Dr. Moore would be good. He is from the Grand Rapids area.  
Next meeting: Grand Rapids

### 5. Section activities/involvement

Paul: Stated that he would like to see folks contribute new ideas.

Bob: Mentioned the Student Poster Award



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General discussion: This award includes a free student membership. The WQS has many students. Might be work announcing the poster contest before the meeting. Ask the Education section to include information about the poster award in their newsletter.

Bob: Contact Dru Winters and let her know that we want to comments on applicable policy.

Jeff: WOTUS issue will be a big topic and we should be involved.

Returning to the issue of student involvement...

Barbara: Environmental Justice would be of interest to the student members

Bob: Students not aware of section or International section

Barbara: Business meetings are not that attractive (should we call it something different?), but a symposium, reminders of the section

Tweeting during the symposium.

General discussion: Should we call it something other than a “Business” meeting?, Could there be Tweeting during future symposia?, Student won a Habitat Section travel award. Also, some other sections have them (e.g., Fisheries Information and Technologies Section). What are criteria for travel award? Would this be easier than doing the poster award? What are the stipulations for the winner – go to the business meeting, bring a friend?

## 6. 2023 symposium

Paul: 2023 Symposium – Jonathan Leiman is pursuing a Symposium with Association of Clean Water Administrators, modeling conference in September to collaborate with. Not sure if this one could include “Environmental justice from a water quality perspective” or if there would need to be two different symposia. Will talk to Jonathan.

## 7. Communication officer and next president-elect election is next spring – call for nominees

Paul: Next spring – nominees for President-elect and Communication Officer. We will be putting notices in the newsletters and encourage folks to participate.

Bob Hughes: Announced that Yetta is now an AFS fellow

## 8. Interest in developing a water rights paper in Fisheries

Paul: Looking to see if there is interest in folks writing a paper that could be of use to fisheries professionals on this topic. Looking for folks that are knowledgeable on the topic to contribute.

Jeff: Tom Annear (retired from Wyoming) and Andrew Rypel (UC Davis)



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### 9. Other discussion

Paul: Brought up some of Jonathan Leiman's (President-Elect) concerns that were shared prior to the meeting. These largely paralleled the previous discussion and issues that have plagued AFS and the sections for years (membership, participation, bringing value to members).

John Meldrim: Suggested looking at marine water quality for a symposium (Eg. O2 related to Oysters).

Yetta: What can we do for retired folks?

Yetta: Does the Resource Policy Committee exist anymore? Does the AFS have a position on something like America's wildlife act.

John: Keep us informed of what is going on. Also provided some history of the section.

Jenna: Ira Adelman/Tom Bigford fund was established by Ira Adelman to support policy efforts. Support in-person policy briefings on the science. Support Drew with a policy fellow.

### 10. Close