

No. 5	Executive Director's Report	Doug Austen
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Executive Director's Report

TO: AFS President John Boreman; AFS Governing Board
FROM: AFS Incoming Executive Director, Doug Austen
DATE: September 3, 2013

Action item: 1.

Approve a draft 2014 budget. (please see attachments).

The budget submitted for your consideration should be considered as a place-holder that will be reviewed and revised by AFS staff in the coming months. The figures in this 2014 draft budget, in general, reflect the patterns from 2013 and a suggested budget by outgoing Executive Director Rassam, but with the following changes:

- ◆ We have reduced projected revenues from the 2014 Quebec meeting from \$90,000 to \$50,000 and Trade Show revenues from \$70,000 to \$50,000
- ◆ An initial assessment of AFS staff salaries suggests that they are substantially below current market rates. This will be further explored through a full compensation review. In order to address anticipated needs, I have maintained funding for appropriate adjustments and filling of key positions but also suggest that this may need to be further adjusted.
- ◆ AFS staff travel was increased to an amount approximating past levels.
- ◆ The budget includes \$25,000 for support of the Western Division meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico.
- ◆ The grants and contracts revenues are not specified but we anticipate that they will be at least equal to past years, if not greater.

1. Upgrade of AFS member database and transitioning to a new vendor

The current ability of members to access their membership information, renew their membership and process other tasks has been severely hampered by an antiquated information system. The transition to a new vendor and database upgrade of iMIS will be completed by the end of September 2013. iMIS is described as an Engagement Management System (EMS) that will provide an enhanced suite of features that will

dramatically modernize the AFS membership management system. In early October, AFS staff will be contacting all members via email to access iMIS through our web site, update their information, and, we hope, renew their membership. For more information on iMIS please visit the AFS booth in the trade show, check out the AFS web site (www.fisheries.org) after the end of September, or contact Eva Przygodski at eprzygod@fisheries.org or (301) 897-8616 x203

2. Annual Meeting site selection:

- ◆ The annual meeting is in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 2013
- ◆ Quebec City, Quebec, in 2014
- ◆ Portland, Oregon, in 2015
- ◆ Kansas City, Missouri, in 2016.
- ◆ We also received for Time and Place Committee (and Governing Board) consideration, a bid from Tampa, Florida (Florida Chapter) for 2017. It is an excellent bid and I recommend it highly.

3. Fisheries:

A chief science editor, Jeff Schaeffer, has been selected and has already been performing his duties. An important discussion of the *Fisheries* editorial leaders and editors will be taking place at the *Fisheries* editorial breakfast to discuss the mission and direction of the publication and options for refinement of the mission. The backlog of submitted articles for *Fisheries* has been reduced.

5. Other business:

- ◆ Plans for re-configuring the headquarters complex to address the sale of adjacent property for development of housing and to move all AFS operations to the Glascock building continue to take shape. The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is anticipating settlement on the transaction in the July-August 2014 period. As a result of this transaction, AFS will clear \$450,000 and will acquire partial ownership of the Glascock premises as part of a condominium arrangement where AFS has a defined fee-simple interest in the facility. Other members of the Condominium association include The Wildlife Society, the Maryland-DC office of The Nature Conservancy, and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The Society of American Foresters will maintain their headquarters in the adjacent Pinchot Building and associated carriage house. The remaining approximate 10 acres of land associated with the complex is owned by the Foresters with the exception of the land under the

- Glascock building and adjacent sidewalks which are owned by the four condominium members. The complex remains as part of a special zoning exemption provided by Montgomery County, MD, for the office buildings.
- ◆ The 2012 audit has been delayed this year for various reasons. A draft is now included in this report as an appendix. It is expected that there will be no major change to the numbers in the final report.
 - ◆ The reserves and the financial health of the organization are in an excellent state. 2012 saw the biggest increase in the reserves in AFS history (more than \$700,000).
 - ◆ Our investments portfolio is doing well, reaching nearly \$3 million. See also the attached July 2013 investment report from our investment manager.

6. Upcoming Activities:

- ◆ The AFS Officers will be gathering at the AFS headquarters October 29-31 to meet staff and work with the Executive Director on work plans and associated tasks. In conjunction with this visit, AFS is coordinating a fisheries leadership dialogue that we anticipate will be attended by a select group of fisheries and aquatic resource leaders from key entities in the D.C. area. Assistance with this event is being provided by the Potomac Chapter. The intent of this event is three-fold: to create new dialogue and build relationships among AFS Officers, the AFS Executive Director, and the key D.C.-based fisheries leaders, to explore new roles and collaborative opportunities and re-engage in past roles for AFS to better fulfill its mission with these key partners and, third, to identify key fisheries issues where AFS can add value to the dialogue and utilize its unique membership expertise to advance fisheries issues.
- ◆ AFS Executive Director Austen is working with a extensive network of partners to coordinate development of the first National Large Landscape Conservation workshop or conference. This is being developed by a broad array of partners including numerous federal agencies, states through AFWA, NGO's, the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and several foundations. We will be seeking enhanced engagement from the fisheries community to develop sessions or symposia and further incorporate fisheries and aquatics interests in this event. It is tentatively scheduled for summer 2014 in Chicago.

Acknowledgement:

Thanks to outgoing Executive Director Gus Rassam for providing initial content for this report.